

Honors & Scholars Program

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Faculty leading Honors-by-Contract, Honors & Scholars Project, and certain Honors courses vary from semester to semester.

Overview

The College of New Jersey Honors Program provides challenging and stimulating opportunities to students who seek to enhance their educational experience at TCNJ. The TCNJ Honors Program is not a departmental program; it is a community of scholars that serves students in all majors in all schools of the college.

Students complete the requirements of the Honors Program by creating an individualized curriculum that includes several course options. Because these courses satisfy College Core, major, or minor requirements, completion of the Honors Program does not require students to take additional courses. Occasionally, Honors courses are team-taught by a pair of faculty members from different disciplines.

TCNJ's Honors Program is built on three Pillars that serve as the basis and scaffold the Honors experience through curricular and co-/extracurricular offerings at the College. Honors students and faculty are expected to be creative and innovative in achieving these goals.

- Depth - challenging study that promotes deep thought and reflection.
- Integrative Ways of Thinking - develop holistic approaches to understanding complexity.
- Purposeful Commitment to the Community - take an active leadership role in the classroom, on campus, and beyond, by applying their knowledge and passion to tackle big questions and issues.

The TCNJ Honors Program is administered by the Honors Program Director and The Honors and Scholars Council (HSC), of which the Director is a member. The HSC works with the Director to assess the Program's curriculum and policies, approve Honors course offerings, and provide recommendations related to the Program's events and awards.

Graduates of TCNJ's Honors Program receive special recognition on their transcripts.

Honors & Scholars Program Curriculum Requirements

1. A student should complete at least five units of Honors study. Transfer students who have successfully completed at least four units of Honors study at a previous institution must complete an additional three units of Honors study at TCNJ.
2. Units may be earned through a combination of Honors courses, study abroad courses, Honors-by-Contract course enhancements, and Honors Projects.
3. An Honors & Scholars Project, upon approval by the Director of Honors, may count toward one of the five units of Honors. More information about the Honors Project can be found at <https://honors.tcnj.edu/honors-project/>.
4. Two of the five units may be earned through Honors-by-Contract study. Honors-by-Contract allows a student to complete a non-Honors course for Honors credit when the student and professor agree to a set of enhancements that raise the course outcomes to the Honors level. More information on Honors-by-Contract can be found at <https://honors.tcnj.edu/honors-by-contract/>.
5. One unit taken during a study-abroad experience (including Winter or Summer terms) may count toward the five required Honors units. The specific course taken for Honors credit must be reviewed and approved in advance by the Director of the Honors & Scholars Program Coordinator.
6. Students need a 3.0 GPA in both their Honors & Scholars courses and their cumulative GPA to graduate as a member of the Honors & Scholars Program.
7. Students who drop below a 3.0 Honors or cumulative GPA are strongly encouraged to meet with the Director of the Honors & Scholars Program to develop a plan for successful completion of the Program requirements.

Admission Guidelines & Criteria:

Any full-time TCNJ undergraduate with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher is eligible to apply for admission to TCNJ's Honors & Scholars Program. First-year students may not apply in their first semester at TCNJ. Transfer students or students with a full semester of college coursework prior to matriculation may apply in their first semester at TCNJ. Applications for admission must be submitted in the Fall or Spring semesters; there is no option to apply during Winter or Summer sessions. Students accepted into the Program begin in the semester following acceptance.

Process:

Students who plan to submit an application for admission at the start of the Fall semester must submit this form no later than 4:00 p.m. on the first Friday of the preceding Spring semester. Students who plan to submit an application for admission at the start of the Spring semester must submit this form no later than 4:00 p.m. on the first Friday, 15th of the preceding Fall semester.

Applicants must complete a Google Form that must contain all of the following items:

- A previous scholarly or creative work created by the student in a course at TCNJ. Examples include an essay, research paper, video, website, sheet music, original photographs or art work, and mathematical work or problem sets.

- A 500-750-word essay that explains how the scholarly or creative work reflects the pillars of the program and the types of experiences the student seeks through the Honors & Scholars Program.
- Letter of Recommendation from a college faculty member who is familiar with the student's work. [Click here](#) for the reference form: faculty should submit this form electronically by 4:00 p.m. on the first Friday of the semester.
- Special instructions for first-semester transfer students

Transfer students applying in their first semester at TCNJ may submit a scholarly or creative work from their previous institution and have as their recommender a faculty member from that institution.

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by the Director of the Honors & Scholars Program, in consultation with 3-4 members of the Honors & Scholars Program faculty. Students will be notified of the result of their application no later than 4:00 p.m. on Oct. 15th (for applications submitted at the start of the Fall semester) or March 15th (for applications submitted at the start of the Spring semester). Students denied admission into the Honors & Scholars Program may reapply; however, a student may apply for admission no more than twice. Students can begin taking Honors & Scholars courses in the semester following their admission to the program and must complete their first and second courses in the program in their first and second years, respectively, in the program.