

Virginia Union University Honors Program



Student Handbook

2015-2016

Table of Contents

Contents

Overview of the Honors Program	3
The Mission	3
Goals	3
Admission Requirements.....	4
The Honors Program Curriculum.....	5
Honors Recognition.....	6
Honors Indicated on Degree.....	6
Honors Graduation Regalia	6
Preferential Housing.....	6
Program Activities.....	6
Honors Week.....	6
Enrichment.....	6

Overview of the Honors Program

The Mission

The Virginia Union University Honors Program is a comprehensive program providing Advanced learning opportunities for students of superior intellectual ability, high motivation and broad academic interests. It emphasizes leadership development as well as social outreach and seeks to enhance its participant's intellectual ability, social consciousness, spiritual development, cultural and global awareness, and preparation for advanced academic studies and career development.

Goals

- ✓ To provide opportunities for participants to engage in challenging academic experiences, stimulating discussions, critical thinking, free inquiry, and investigation;
- ✓ To support and build strong leadership skills by encouraging and promoting active student involvement in the local, national, and international community;
- ✓ To enhance and build communication and research skills by providing opportunities for scholarly publications and presentations;
- ✓ To provide opportunities for participants to receive recognition for superior academic achievement;
- ✓ To provide opportunities for local, national, as well as international studies and experiences;
- ✓ To maintain a supportive and encouraging academic environment conducive to rigorous research, effective teaching, and meaningful community service.

Admission Requirements

Entering and current freshmen who are interested in the Honors Program are academically talented students who enjoy learning. The proposed requirements for students entering the Honors Program are as follows:

1. A minimum 3.25 overall G.P.A.
2. A maximum of 17 completed semester hours. (This is not to include any Dual Enrolled or Concurrent Enrolled credits)
3. Completed application for Virginia Union Honors Program.
4. A successful interview.
5. All incoming Presidential Scholars will be invited to join the Virginia Union Honors Program

Requirements for Good Standing

- ✓ Completion of minimum number of credit hours per semester (12)
- ✓ Maintain minimum GPA (3.25)
- ✓ Successful completion of required Honors Courses
- ✓ Participation in Honda Campus All Stars

Criteria for Honors Student Graduation Recognition and Diploma Designation

- ✓ Completion of total Honors Curriculum
- ✓ Completion and presentation of Senior research project/Honors Senior Research Symposium
- ✓ Graduation GPA (minimum 3.25)
- ✓ A minimum of 3.25 maintained each individual semester enrolled in the program

The Honors Program Curriculum

The Honors Program curriculum consists of a cadre of courses that provide a more challenging academic experience than regular curriculum courses. Students typically enter as freshmen and remain throughout their senior year. At commencement, students who have completed the Honors Program curriculum and requirements will wear special honors regalia.

In the Honors Program, students fulfill part of the university's general education curriculum by undertaking a series of special Honors sections of general education courses. These courses provide an enriched background to studies in the students' major field. Each of the Honors sections requires more depth and critical thinking than might typically be required in a lower-division course, as well as a high level of understanding of the course content. Additionally, students participate in Honors Seminar courses designed to provide further enrichment. These courses include guest speakers and specialized topics.

Honors Recognition

Honors Indicated on Degree and Transcript

When Honors students declare a major and file a degree plan, it is the student's responsibility to inform the advisor that his/her degree plan must be designated as Honors. This will affect the student's graduation requirements in regard to the Honors research component and the privilege of graduating with the diploma and transcript designated as HONORS.

Honors Graduation Regalia

Students who successfully complete the Honors Program will be given Honors Program customized regalia to wear at the Commencement Ceremony.

Preferential Housing

Participants in the Honors Program will have access preferential housing as it is available

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Program Activities

Honors Week

The VUU Honors Program will host a series of events that showcases the Honors Program all it has to offer.

Enrichment Workshops

Each semester the VUU Honors Program students will engage in enrichment workshops to enhance and cultivate their academic and social experience at Virginia Union University.