

# Honors College

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Location: Library 156, 903-468-3001

Dean: Dr. Erin Webster Garrett

Honors College Web Site (<https://www.etamu.edu/honors-college/>)

The Honors College (<https://www.tamuc.edu/honors-college/>) at East Texas A&M University offers high achieving, motivated students an interdisciplinary liberal arts experience within the context of a large regional research institution. Honors College students benefit from smaller class sizes, faculty mentors, and opportunities to explore enduring questions that transcend the boundaries of any one discipline. The Honors College curriculum emphasizes high-impact experiential learning that connects classroom knowledge to real-world contexts and to students' personal and professional goals. Through bridging the possibilities of technology with the core values of the humanistic tradition, the Honors College develops socially mobile graduates known for building meaningful connections with others, grappling with complex problems to develop innovative solutions, and for making impactful contributions to their civil, professional, and educational communities. The Honors College accepts incoming freshmen as well as current and transfer students. Honors pathways are available for all majors, allowing students to satisfy general education requirements, complete major requirements, and prepare for post-graduation success while earning distinction for their unique contributions to ETAMU. Honors College students are eligible for competitive Honors funding, dedicated Honors housing, and special Honors seminars. They are required to complete a set number of Honors designated courses and co-curricular experiences, as well as a culminating capstone experience where they gain in-depth understanding of challenging material through hands-on learning and real-world application while working alongside faculty experts.

## Admission Requirements

Students may join the Honors College as part of a first-time, first-semester freshmen cohort. See the special requirements outlined below. In addition, pathways are available for returning students and transfer students who have:

- # Been admitted to East Texas A&M University as a full-time student at the time of application
- # An Institutional GPA of a 3.3 GPA (ETAMU GPA requirement waived for incoming recipients of merit-based awards)
- # > 60 credits of coursework remaining before graduation.

## Honors Scholars and First-Year Cohort Learning Community

All admitted students are members of the Honors College Scholars program. First-time full-time freshmen enter the Scholars program as part of a cohort-based learning community. Application to the Scholars program as a first-time, full-time student requires submission of high school transcripts, reflective essays, and optional supplemental documentation. Incoming freshmen Scholars are required to live in Honors housing for their first year, and will engage in on- and off-campus experiential opportunities. Those within the commutable area of 50 miles (one hour drive) may apply for a waiver to the on-campus housing requirement through their myLeo portal.

## Honors College Funding Programs

### Honors Fellowship Program

In addition to the Scholars program, the College offers a limited number of renewable, merit-based Honors College Fellowships to students entering as first-time freshmen, returning students and transfer students:

- # Honors Fellows entering as first-time full-time freshmen receive awards of up to \$2000 per semester, renewable for up to 8 semesters.
- # Honors Fellows entering as sophomores, juniors, or as transfer students receive renewable awards of up to \$1000/semester.

Fellows must be enrolled full-time beginning the first semester awarded and for the duration of the award period, maintain a 3.3 institutional GPA, and be actively working towards their first undergraduate degree at East Texas A&M.

Fellowships are stackable with other financial aid and scholarships.

### Honors Student Transformative Learning Award Program (STLA)

The STLA program provides one-time merit-based funding up to \$1500 to support Honors students as they pursue transformative experiences relevant to their personal and professional goals, such as undergraduate research and creative inquiry, internships and other work-based learning, community engaged projects, study away experiences, and projects of their own design. Selection is based on:

- # Completeness of application
- # Clarity of the proposal
- # Thoroughness and preciseness of the budget justification, and

# Letter of recommendation/support of a faculty, staff, or community mentor who has agreed to supervise the experience

Applications are accepted twice a year through the online portal accessible through the Honors website (<https://www.tamuc.edu/honors-college/>). Honors students in their last semester of study are not eligible to apply.

## Maintaining Active Status and Good Academic Standing

Upon admission, Honors College Scholars are required to make steady progress toward and maintain a 3.3 institutional GPA. Honors College Scholars must achieve a 3.3 GPA by the beginning of their third long semester to continue in the program.

Upon admission, Honors College Fellows are required to maintain a minimum 3.3 cumulative GPA.

## Honors Provisional Admittance and Probationary Status

Honors Scholars entering ETAMU with an institutional GPA of less than 3.3 are accorded provisional admittance. As noted above, Honors Scholars must achieve a 3.3 institutional GPA by the beginning of their third long semester.

In cases where a Fellows' cumulative GPA falls to between 3.0 and 3.29, they are assigned Honors probationary status for one semester and are required to complete an Academic Recovery Plan. Fellows must achieve a 3.3 GPA at the end of the semester to retain their Fellowship. If a Fellow does not achieve a 3.3 GPA, they will be accorded provisional status as an Honors Scholar.

A 3.3 GPA is required to graduate with Honors distinction.

## Honors Suspension

An Honors College student's status and financial award (if applicable) may be suspended for the following reasons:

# GPA drops below the 3.0

# Lack of progress to the required 3.3 threshold after the provisional period

In cases where a Fellow has lost their fellowship, the student may re-apply for a fellowship in the next application cycle.

## Requirements for Graduation with Honors Distinction

Honors requirements for graduation are determined based on the number of credits earned at the time of matriculation in the Honors College and the Honors College requirements specific to the student's catalog year. Students must have at least 60 credit hours remaining upon entry to the Honors pathway and must achieve a 3.3 or higher GPA the semester prior to graduation. Students seeking graduation with High Honors and Highest Honors have additional requirements.

The table below contains a sample illustration of required Honors curricula. Actual courses taken may vary.

\*Can be taken in either Fall or Spring semester

First Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
18 < 24 Honors SCH Required		18 < 24 Honors SCH Required	
CID 2301		3 LIBS 300	3
		3	3
Second Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
18 < 24 Honors SCH Required		18 < 24 Honors SCH Required	
Approved Honors Experience		3 Approved Honors Experience	3
		3	3
Third Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
18 < 24 Honors SCH Required		18 < 24 Honors SCH Required	
Approved Honors Experience		3 Approved Honors Experience	3
12 < 18 Honors SCH Required		12 < 18 Honors SCH Required	
LIBS 300		3 Approved Honors Experience	3
		6	6

Fourth Year	Hours	Spring	Hours
<b>Fall</b>			
18 < 24 Honors SCH Required		18 < 24 Honors SCH Required	
LIBS 400 (or approved substitution)		3 Capstone	3
12 < 18 Honors SCH Required		12 < 18 Honors SCH Required	
LIBS 400 (or approved substitution)		3 Capstone	3
<b>Total Hours: 36</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

## Service Requirements

In addition to course requirements, Honors College Scholars and Fellows are also required to give back to the University, local, or county area through a minimum number of service hours depending on the student’s Honors pathway and goals. The procedure for logging service hours is published annually on the Honors website (<http://www.tamuc.edu/honors-college/>).

## Culminating Experience

All pathways to Honors distinction culminate with a capstone experience, which can be fulfilled through:

### Course-Based Experiences

Course based experiences are learning activities that are integrated directly into a specific academic course, allowing students to gain practical experience and apply theoretical knowledge through hands-on projects, research, or simulations within the structured curriculum of that course. These experiences are typically overseen by a faculty mentor to guide the student’s learning. Examples of course-based experiences are research or creative projects (commonly referred to as a thesis), internships, study abroad or study away, and project-based learning, among others. A public display of accumulated knowledge is required to receive credit, which will occur in the senior year.

### Co-Curricular Experiences

Co-curricular experiences occur outside of the traditional classroom to supplement the student’s learning experience. Co-curricular experiences enhance students’ competency in critical thinking, leadership, professionalism, teamwork, and self-development, among others. Examples of co-curricular experiences are participation in Student Government Association, leadership in the Student Honors Council, community-engaged learning, and more. Students can apply for a co-curricular experience to count as their culminating experience. A public display of accumulated knowledge is required.

### Recognition

Honors graduates receive recognition for their academic and service excellence at a reception prior to graduation, and they receive special recognition at the graduation ceremony itself. In addition, the level of honors a student earns (i.e., Honors, High Honors, Highest Honors) is noted on the graduate’s diploma and transcript.

For additional information, visit the Honors Web Page at <https://www.etamu.edu/honors-college/>.

### H C 200 - First Year Experience

Hours: 1

The course helps new students make the adjustment to the demands of the university environment and specifically for the demands of the Regents Scholar program by: 1) building the sense of community within the program; 2) increasing awareness of global issues and events; 3) describing the benefits of completing a program capstone experience.

### H C 300 - Thesis Seminar

Hours: 2

This course is designed to help students understand the Honors Thesis process. What is a good thesis? How does a student choose a thesis advisor? What comprises an Honors Thesis defense? These and other questions will be answered. The final goal of the course is a draft of a student’s thesis proposal.

### H C 301 - Exploring Place

Hours: 2

This interdisciplinary course develops students’ creative problem solving and intercultural competence through the investigation of systemic societal challenges and complex problems such as but not limited to: food insecurity and hunger, sustainable cities and communities, generational poverty, clean water and sanitation, affordable energy, industry and innovation, and economic development. Group presentations and projects require students to apply research to define problems, evaluate strategies, and work as a team to articulate potential approaches or frameworks. Students must complete the course with a grade of “C” or better to fulfill program graduation requirements. Prerequisites: Program approval.

**H C 302 - Applied Leadership**

Hours: 2

An introduction to and overview of the fundamental concepts of leadership, this course focuses on the significance and applicability of leadership theory to everyday action. Through experiential learning opportunities, students will learn to develop common purpose in groups through strategic planning and a focus to collective efficiency and potency for change. Students must complete course with a grade of "C" or better to be eligible for program internship and to fulfill program graduation requirements. Prerequisites: Program approval.

**H C 400 - Honors Colloquium**

Hours: 1

The Honors Colloquium comprises a series of speakers who are asked to present to students on a topic about which they are passionate. The speakers come from different areas of the university and community including faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and civic leaders. The colloquium is designed for upper division students (i.e., students with junior or senior standing) with the goal of presenting students with a wide range of thought and new ideas. Students must complete course with grade of "C" or better to fulfill program capstone requirements.

**H C 401 - Honors Senior Capstone**

Hours: 3

The senior capstone requires students to perform an in-depth examination of issues related to their future career. The course requires students to draw upon a variety of experiences including, but not limited to, leadership training, coursework, co-curricular activities, and program-based learning opportunities to inform this examination. Emphasis will be placed on understanding how skills acquired during these experiences can and will be applied after college. Successful completion of the course will require a public display of mastery. Students must complete course with grade of "C" or better to fulfill program capstone requirements.

**H C 489 - Independent Study**

Hours: 1-4

Independent Study - Hours: One to four Individualized instruction/research at an advanced level in a specialized content area under the direction of a faculty member. Prerequisites Consent of department head. Note May be repeated when the topic varies.

**H C 490 - H Honors Thesis**

Hours: 3

H Honors Thesis.

**H C 491 - Honors Reading**

Hours: 3

Honors Reading

**H C 495 - Honors College Program Internship**

Hours: 3

This course provides an opportunity for selected students to earn Honors credit for an approved work experience in a professional organization. Supervision of the experience is under the guidance of a practicing professional and can be in various fields of study. Terms and conditions of internship must be approved before enrollment. Students must complete course with grade of "C" or better to fulfill program capstone requirements. Prerequisites: Program approval.

**H C 497 - Special Topics**

Hours: 0-4

Special topics Honors course. Course title and content will vary by semester. Repeatable for credit when content differs. Prerequisites: Program approval.