

UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

Any student who has maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.9 or better will graduate from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor **cum laude** without participation in the University Honors Program. Any student who aspires to graduate **magna cum laude** or **summa cum laude** must participate in the University Honors Program as described here.

Purpose

The purpose of the University Honors Program is to stimulate intellectual curiosity and social awareness, to investigate relevant moral and ethical systems, and to enhance aesthetic awareness. Through an interdisciplinary approach, the University Honors Program also attempts to give students an understanding of the relationships which unite all scholarly disciplines.

Administration

A committee composed of faculty members called the Honors Committee administers the University Honors Program.

Admissions Requirements

A student may enter the University Honors Program at two different points of his or her UMHB academic career.

1. Students may apply for the lower division University Honors Program if they score 27 on the ACT or 1220 on the SAT. Acceptance into the program allows the student to take any of the designated lower division honor courses for credit toward a degree AND for honors credit toward University Honors at graduation.
2. A student may apply for the upper division University Honors Program anytime after completing 60 semester hours (must include a minimum of 12 semester hours at UMHB) and maintaining a GPA of 3.50 or higher.
3. Students may also enter the University Honors Program at the invitation of the Honors Committee.

Admission Procedure

Students who are eligible to participate in the lower division University Honors Program are typically invited to apply during the general admissions process. Others may initiate the application if they meet the admissions requirements.

Students wishing to participate in the upper division University Honors Program will submit the following to the Chair of the Honors Committee for committee approval.

1. A written application for admission
2. A written recommendation by a faculty member
3. A conference with the Honors Committee (if required by the committee)

Program Context

The University Honors Program is administered at two levels: lower division and upper division.

1. A student meeting the requirements and accepted for the University Honors Program as a freshman is eligible for enrollment in lower division honors courses. The student's academic advisor will assist the student in the enrollment process. Participation in the lower division University Honors Program leads toward participation as an upperclassman in the upper division of the University Honors Program.
2. A student meeting the requirements and accepted for the University Honors Program as an upperclassman will participate in departmental honors classes and honors seminar classes. The student must:

- a. complete a minimum of three courses designated as honors course in the department of his/her major. If the student has participated in the lower division University Honors Program as a freshman and/or sophomore, completion of two lower division courses will count for one upper division course (not more than two courses of this requirement may be met by completing lower division honors courses, meaning that at least one of these courses will be an upper division course in the student's major).
- b. Successfully complete HNRS 3110 and HNRS 3120. Both fall and spring seminars must be taken.
- c. Students who aspire to graduate magna cum laude or summa cum laude must undertake a senior research project in his or her major subject or teaching field. The project is carried out under the direction of a faculty member conversant with the topic under investigation. When completed, the research project will be submitted to a committee composed of the members of the University Honors Committee and the supervising faculty member. In addition, the student will present the paper orally to the same committee and other faculty wishing to attend. The student will receive three hours credit in his or her major subject or teaching field for the research project, if he or she enrolls in an Independent Study course or a Research course.

Continuation in Program

Students may withdraw from the program of their own accord at any time; otherwise, continuation is subject to the approval of the University Honors Committee.

Recognition

Any student, who has successfully completed the requirements for three designated honors courses in his or her major subject (or the equivalent), HNRS 3110 and HNRS 3120, and who has maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or higher will graduate from Mary Hardin-Baylor **cum laude**. Any student, who aspires to graduate **magna cum laude** or **summa cum laude** and who has maintained a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.50, must complete a senior research project. Any student meeting these requirements who aspires to graduate **magna cum laude** or **summa cum laude** must complete a senior research project. The level of recognition awarded a student aspiring to graduate **magna cum laude** or **summa cum laude** will be determined by the University Honors Committee, based upon the evaluations of the student's performance in the honors seminar, the quality of the senior research project, the student's final grade point average, and an evaluation of the student by the faculty in his/her major.

HONORS (HNRS) COURSES

I. Lower Division Courses:

CSBS	1311-H	Old Testament Survey
CSBS	1312-H	New Testament Survey
ENGL	2321-H	British Literature to 1785
ENGL	2322-H	British Literature since 1785
HIST	2311-H	American History to 1877
HIST	2312-H	American History since 1877
HNRS	2310	Select Topics in Social Studies*
HNRS	2320	Select Topics in the Fine Arts/Humanities/Renaissance*

*NOTE: Students may take HNRS 2310 for Social Studies credit. Students may take HNRS 2320 for Humanities credit.

II. Upper Division Seminars

HNRS 3110 Fall Semester: Great Books and Ideas

Content of the senior seminar will vary to include (but not limited to) historical perspectives and contemporary social issues, great works of literature, philosophy, and theory of science.

Students will be responsible for guiding the discussion in most meetings. Emphasis will be placed on analysis, interpretation, and application to living and thinking in the world today.

HNRS 3120 Spring Semester: Living Issues

Seminar designed to expose students to some of the major challenges facing humanity as a whole and the student as an individual. One of the primary course objectives is the exploration of the tensions and possibility that exist for Christian faith and values in the society permeated with individualism, materialism, and despair. Deals with moral philosophy in the context of the development of a Christian world view and its application to the students' vocation by considering specific social issues and moral problems from the vantage point of individual ethics and responsibility.

