



CARROLL  
UNIVERSITY



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HONORS PROGRAM

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## HONORS HANDBOOK

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## **WHAT IS Honors?**

### **A (Brief) Definition of Honors Education**

(Adapted from the National Collegiate Honors Council: [nchchonors.org](http://nchchonors.org))

Honors education is a general term that covers a wide variety of courses, teaching styles and educational objectives that collectively deliver a distinctive learning environment for selected students. In this exclusive environment, students receive the opportunity to be immersed in measurably broader, deeper and more complex learning-centered and learner-directed experiences than are available elsewhere at their own - or any other institution.

A first-year writing seminar, for example, is very likely the same across sections in other universities. Yet, the honors version of the same introductory course may be very different from another equally distinguished honors course, even if they have similar titles or subject matter. This is so because honors programs and honors courses may attempt to fulfill diverse goals, utilize different teaching approaches and employ a variety of ways to master subject matter, competencies and skills.

Ultimately, the central goals of honors education are academic enrichment and personal growth. The particular ways in which these are achieved are then defined by the specific institutional context, the faculty teaching in the program and the needs of the particular students. In general, at the core of honors programs is the conviction that superior students profit from collaboration with similarly gifted peers and with faculty, small courses, seminars style or one-on-one instruction, original integrative research projects, internships, foreign study and campus or community service.

Honors education, therefore, is an invaluable opportunity for any inquisitive student who is driven by great ideas, longing for creative expression and ready to take on career-shaping challenges.

### **Honors at Carroll**

Carroll University's honors program provides an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to cultivate their academic, social, professional and personal development as part of a learning community at the intersection of all Carroll programs. As members of this exclusive program, students build an understanding and a disposition across the institution's general education curriculum and co-curriculum as they cultivate an integrative approach to learning, drawing from their individual fields of study and grow their leadership potential.

Upon completion of the program, students will be able to connect relevant experiences and academic knowledge, adapt and apply literacies and skills to new situations. Ultimately, they will demonstrate a developing sense of self as lifelong learners, successful professionals and global citizens as they engage with critical and systemic real-world problems.

# CARROLL UNIVERSITY'S Honors PROGRAM

## Mission Statement

The Honors Program at Carroll University encourages motivated and talented students to pursue a breadth and depth of knowledge within an enriched curriculum and a thoughtful focus on cultural competency. The program creates an environment designed to challenge students' perspectives and foster intellectual development.

## Benefits

As members of Carroll University's Honors Program, students receive two types of benefits. There are benefits that are not manifestly visible. These are the hallmark of the honors experience, setting it apart from that of all other Carroll students: taking exclusive honors classes with honors faculty; benefiting from living and learning as part of the honors student community; engaging in dynamic and innovative learning environments that facilitate integrative and deep learning.

There are then benefits that are visible to all, even those who are not part of the honors Program. These benefits contribute to enriching, supporting and personalizing the exclusive experience of our Honors students.

1. Upon completion of the Honors Program, students will:
  - a. Graduate with honors, which is indicated on the student's official transcript and is recognized at graduation.
  - b. Wear distinctive items (an exclusive Honors medallion and golden tassel) during the graduation ceremony.
2. Access to early registration for all courses (honors and otherwise) beginning in the fall semester of the first year in the program.
3. Exclusive access to academic and advising support at the Honors Center Office, Advising Office and Office of Global Education.
4. First-year honors students will reside for their first academic year in the Honors Halls of Residence at Charles House.
5. All first-year honors students will be matched to Honors Peer Mentors for the duration of their first academic year.
6. All honors students will have access to the student lounge in Charles House.
7. Honors students have exclusive application access to:
  - a. Serve on the honors Council.
  - b. Work as:
    - i. Honors CCS100H OM (Orientation Mentor).
    - ii. Honors Halls of Residence RA (Residence Assistant).
    - iii. Honors Peer Mentor.
8. The Honors Program underwrites graduate school application fees for all honors students for up to \$100.
9. Honors students have exclusive access to Carroll Honors Program merchandise.

## **Admission to the Honors Program**

Carroll University Honors Program is an exclusive program: only a limited number of students are invited to join every year. The program keeps two separate rolling admissions during the academic year:

- For prospective students: every confirmed student is automatically invited to apply; in addition, admission counselors recommend talented students to the program who demonstrated extraordinary leadership potential.
- For current first-year students: faculty and staff who teach first-year courses and work closely with first-year students nominate outstanding students who are then invited to apply.

Applications are then reviewed by the Honors Committee and the most promising applicants are invited for an in-person interview. Currently, the Honors Program admits up to 36 prospective students and 14 current first-year students every year.

## **Requirements and Retentions**

In order to graduate with honors from Carroll University, students need to:

- Students who join in their first year – complete six honor courses (or equivalent)
- Students who transfer in SP of their first year, or join in their second year – complete five honor courses (or equivalent)
- Carroll3 and pre-PT 3-2 students – complete five honor courses (or equivalent)

Details on honors courses and specific academic requirements are offered in the curriculum section below.

To retain honors status, students need to successfully complete every honors course they are enrolled in. The program does not require students to maintain a particular GPA. Nevertheless, there are regular student performance reviews, conducted by honors staff and faculty, to ensure and foster academic integrity and excellence.

## **Re-admission to the Honors Program**

Students may withdraw from the program at any time whilst enrolled at Carroll University. Former Honors Program students who have voluntarily left the program and who wish to re-join will need to re-apply to the program by petitioning the Honors Committee, which will then review the viability and feasibility of the student's request. Each application will need to clearly articulate the details of the student's circumstances and describe their future plans for success.

## **Curriculum - Overview**

Carroll University's Honors Program is designed to foster the development of critical and integrative approaches to problem solving, grounded in cooperative work and collaborative learning, towards the cultivation of leadership traits. To achieve this, it is crucial that each student works closely with their honors peers, faculty and staff to establish and cultivate a thriving Living and Learning Community.

The first-year honors curriculum is tightly structured, and every student is required to take specific courses, on specific days and at specific times.

Honors students who are also in their first year at Carroll must reside in the Honors Halls of Residence at Charles House for the duration of the first academic year. The requirement does not apply to first-year students who have received an institutional residency waiver.

The second-year students in the program have more flexibility and are expected to take one to two honors courses with peers from the same graduation class.

Honors students beyond the first two years have greater freedom and are expected to assume significantly more responsibilities. They will take an active role in shaping the Honors Living and Learning Community, engage in community work and volunteering and take on leadership positions in the Honors Student Council.

### **Note that:**

- Students complete the Honors Program by enrolling in six or five 4-credit Honors courses (see below for details).
- Students may fulfill **only up to one** honors course requirement by completing an Honors Contract or a 0-credit Honors Seminar - or Study Abroad – either of which must be approved by the Honors Committee (see below for details).
- Students who serve on the Honors Council for at least two academic years may request to have their leadership experience count for honors credit, pending completion of a 0-credit Honors Seminar.

## **Students beginning in their first year**

Students who join the Honors Program in the fall semester of their first year must complete six honor courses (or equivalent), totaling 22-24 credits, in order to graduate with honors.

In collaboration with the Honors Center and Academic Advising, students are encouraged to devise a four-year plan that best suits their academic needs and interests, compatibly with the Honors Program's course requirements.

### **Required courses:**

**First year: three courses**

#### **Fall:**

- CCS100H "Cross Cultural Seminar" Honors
- ENG170H "English Seminar" Honors

**Spring:**

- At least one honors distribution course (HON29-)

Second year: two courses

**Fall or Spring:**

- Two Honors distribution courses (HON29 or elective)

Students are expected to complete all six required courses by the end of their fourth year. They may do so by:

- [Contracting](#) a regular course as Honors.
- Taking one of the [honors elective courses](#).
- Participating in the [Pioneer Scholars](#) summer research program.
- Studying abroad with a [CCE](#).

**Transfer Students beginning in the Spring of their first year**

Students who join the Honors Program in the spring semester of their first year must complete five honor courses (or equivalent), totaling 18-20 credits, in order to graduate with Honors.

In collaboration with the Honors Center and Academic Advising, students are encouraged to devise a three-year plan that best suits their academic needs and interests, compatibly with the Honors Program's course requirements.

**Required courses:**

First year: 1 course

**Spring:**

- HON294 "Topics in Philosophy, Ethics and Religious Studies"

Students are expected to complete all 5 required courses by the end of their fourth year. They may do so by:

- [Contracting](#) a regular course as Honors.
- Taking one of the [Honors elective courses](#).
- Participating in the [Pioneer Scholars](#) summer research program.
- Studying abroad with a [CCE](#).

**Students beginning in their second year**

Students who join the Honors Program in the fall semester of their second year must complete five honor courses (or equivalent), totaling 18-20 credits, in order to graduate with honors.

In collaboration with the Honors Center and Academic Advising, students are encouraged to devise a three-year plan that best suits their academic needs and interests, compatibly with the Honors Program's course requirements.

**Required courses:**

Second year: three courses

**Fall:**

- HON251 "Honors Seminar"

**Spring:**

- HON252 "Honors Seminar II" or any Honors course (HON29- or elective)
- At least one other Honors course (HON29- or elective)

Third year: 2 course

**Fall or Spring:**

- At least one other Honors course (HON29- or elective)

Students may also complete their Honors course requirements by:

- [Contracting](#) a regular course as honors.
- Taking one of the Honors elective courses [honors elective courses](#).
- Participating in the [Pioneer Scholars](#) summer research program.
- Studying abroad with a [CCE](#).

**For Carroll3, 2-3 Year Track and Marine Biology Students**

Students who join the Honors Program and are also enrolled in a 2-3-year undergraduate program at Carroll must join Honors in their first year and will have to complete five honors courses (or equivalent), totaling 14-16 credits, in order to graduate with honors.

**Required courses:**

First year: three courses

**Fall:**

- CCS100H "Cross Cultural Seminar" Honors
- ENG170H "English Seminar" Honors

**Spring:**

- At least one honors distribution course (HON29-)

Second year: two courses

**Fall or Spring:**

- Two Honors distribution courses (HON29 or elective)

Students may also complete their Honors course requirements by:

- [Contracting](#) a regular course as honors.
- Taking one of the [honors elective courses](#).
- Participating in the [Pioneer Scholars](#) summer research program.
- Studying abroad with a [CCE](#).

## **Exceptions**

It is our desire to support all our students in their pursuit of excellence and towards a successful and gratifying completion of their work. To this end, the Honors Committee will consider any student's request for exceptions to the established curriculum outlined in this document. Students who intend to submit a petition will need to articulate in detail the rationale for the exception they are requesting as well as how they intend to cultivate participation in the honors community.

### **Note that:**

- First-year honors students who either receive an institutional dispensation from taking ENG170H or successfully petition to take the non-honors version of the course, will have to attend HON251 "Honors Seminar."
- Students who join the Honors Program in their first year, who are enrolled in a four-year program and who are able to complete all graduation requirements in three years, will only need to complete five Honors courses (out of the official six).

Students with questions regarding exceptions to the Honors Program should contact the Honors Center at [cuhonorscenter@carrollu.edu](mailto:cuhonorscenter@carrollu.edu) for more information and guidance on the process.

## **Honors Contracts**

With approval from the Honors Committee, a student may arrange to take one existing non-honors Carroll course for honors credit. Only students in their second year of the Honors Program may apply, and usually only a single contract is granted to a student over the course of their time at Carroll (see above for exceptions).

**IMPORTANT!** The Honors Committee will consider contracts for the fall semester only if submitted between MARCH 1 and MAY 1. Similarly, the Committee will consider contracts for the Spring Semester only if submitted between OCTOBER 1 and DECEMBER 1.

In collaboration with the faculty teaching the course, the student must articulate how the contracted course will satisfy the Honors Program's learning outcomes, and how the student will ensure active participation in the Honors Learning Community.

Alternatively, a student may also arrange to complete for honors credit: an external research course; an internship; or a period of volunteering work. Any of these activities must be supervised by a Carroll University faculty. The process and expectations are the same as for a course contract. Application forms for a course contract or for external supervised research can be downloaded from the Honors Program page: <https://www.carrollu.edu/academics/honors/program/contracts>.

We encourage students to plan for an honors contract in ample advance of the semester during which they intend to take the course or conduct the research. Doing so will allow for enough time to seek **pre-application** advice from the Honors Center, carefully prepare all necessary material, and, if needed, address the Honors Committee's feedback and resubmit. All questions should be directed to the Honors Center at [cuhonorscenter@carrollu.edu](mailto:cuhonorscenter@carrollu.edu).

## **Honors Elective Courses**

These are courses that are run within specific departments and that are not directly part of the Honors Program. As such, they often have a discipline-specific focus and learning outcomes. Although these courses may not emphasize integrative analysis and collaborative learning, they can nevertheless be significantly more challenging than their non-honors equivalents.

Note that the list of these courses is fluid as their offering is tightly dependent on each department's course rotations and faculty availability.

Below you will find the honors elective courses currently offered with greater frequency and consistency. The list also informs you as to which courses fulfill particular requirements of the Pioneer Core (for further details on Carroll University's General Education program see: <https://www.carrollu.edu/academics/pioneer-core>

We encourage students who are interested in registering for any of these courses to contact the Honors Center at [cuhonorscenter@carrollu.edu](mailto:cuhonorscenter@carrollu.edu) at least one week prior to registration.

### **Fall**

- CMP1112H "Computational Thinking I"
- PHI206H "Ethics" [S2]
- PSY221H "Life-span Psychology" [S2]

### **Spring**

- CMP114H "Computational Thinking II - Statistical Analysis Emphasis"
- HIS225H "Medieval Europe, China, and the Islamic Crescent" [H2, CCD]
- NSR300H "Critical Inquiry in Nursing Research"
- PSY314H "Learning and Animal Behavior" [S2]

## **Pioneer Scholars Program**

Carroll University's Pioneer Scholars Program provides undergraduate students in all programs and disciplines with the opportunity to engage in an intensive original scholarly/creative project, working under the mentorship of a faculty member during the three summer months. This is a competitive program with a maximum of 10 stipendiary scholarships awarded every year to the entire undergraduate student body. Further details can be found on the Pioneer Scholars Program page: [www.carrollu.edu/academics/honors/pioneer-scholars](http://www.carrollu.edu/academics/honors/pioneer-scholars).

Honors students who are awarded with a Pioneer Scholarship can request to have it count as one of their Honors required course requirements.

## **Semester Abroad**

Honors students who successfully complete a study abroad program can request to have courses taken whilst away count towards their Honors course requirements, with the following restrictions:

- Full Semester study abroad - up to two Honors courses
- Winter Term and Summer Term study abroad - one Honors course

Honors students who intend to study abroad are highly encouraged to discuss their course plan with the Honors Center before departure. Further details can be found on the Carroll University Study Abroad CCE page: [www.carrollu.edu/academics/pioneer-core/cross-cultural-experience/study-abroad](http://www.carrollu.edu/academics/pioneer-core/cross-cultural-experience/study-abroad).

## **Honors COUNCIL**

The Carroll University Honors Council (CUHC) represents the interests of Honors Program students. The CUHC seeks to build a dynamic and professional rapport amongst members and faculty to foster academic excellence, stewardship and integrity. It encourages leadership, individuality and friendship throughout the community. Outside the classroom, the CUHC performs charitable works throughout the Waukesha community and beyond. The Honors Council works with the Honors Center's director and staff, the Honors Committee and Carroll University faculty and staff to shape an ever innovative and challenging honors experience.

All students in the Honors Program are eligible to join the Honors Council. Elections are held each spring for the following academic year. Students interested in serving on the Honors Council should complete an online application.

For more information visit the Honors Council page on the Honors Program page, or contact the Honors Center at [cuhonorscenter@carrollu.edu](mailto:cuhonorscenter@carrollu.edu).

## **NATIONAL COLLEGIATE Honors COUNCIL**

Founded in 1966, the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) provides support to promote and enhance undergraduate Honors education in the U.S.A and around the world. The NCHC currently counts nearly 900 member institutions, and several hundred individual members, impacting over 330,000 honors students. Its members can benefit from access to pedagogical and administrative resources, training opportunities and collaborative events to build and sustain honors programs and their curriculum. Through the NCHC and its members, honors students can also access honors scholarships and exclusive events.

Notably, the NCHC hosts a yearly conference in November, where faculty, staff and students learn about best practices in honors programs and share their own experiences in their programs. Students also have the opportunity to present their research activities at poster or panel presentation sessions. The Honors Center encourages honors students to present their work at the NCHC conference and makes every effort to cover the full cost of travel and attendance for one to two students each year.

For further details see [nchchonors.org](http://nchchonors.org)/or contact the Honors Center at [cuhonorscenter@carrollu.edu](mailto:cuhonorscenter@carrollu.edu).

# CARROLL UNIVERSITY



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## HONORS PROGRAM

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