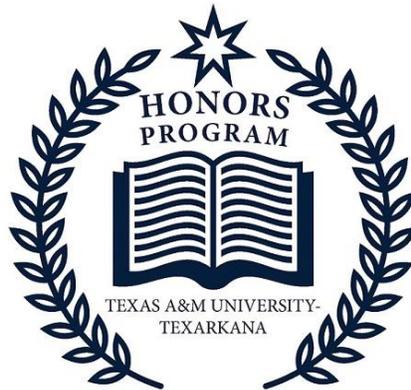


TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA

University Honors Program



Student Handbook

Revised
2020

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Texas A&M University-Texarkana Honors Program is to provide a community of exemplary scholars an enhanced and supportive learning environment responsible to the educational needs of both traditional and nontraditional students who are moved to pursue their education beyond typical course requirements. Honors students will have the opportunity to engage in interdisciplinary activities including Honors colloquia and seminars, increased opportunities for undergraduate research/creative activity, leadership opportunities, and participate in the Honors Society and extracurricular activities.

Definition of Honors education:

Honors education is characterized by in-class and extracurricular activities that are measurably broader, deeper, or more complex than comparable learning experiences typically found at institutions of higher education. Honors experiences include a distinctive learner-directed environment and philosophy, provide opportunities that are appropriately tailored to fit the institution's culture and mission, and frequently occur within a close community of students and faculty (National Collegiate Honors Council, <http://nchchonors.org/faculty-directors/definition-of-honors-education/>)

Admission Process:

Freshmen Students:

3.4 High School GPA or 22 or higher ACT score
Application to program
(Presidential Scholars are automatically admitted to the program)

Transfer Students:

Overall grade point average of 3.25 or above
Application to program

Current Students:

Overall grade point average of 3.25 or above
Application to program

Honors Scholarships:

There are a limited number of Honors scholarships available for transfer students, which are awarded by the Honors Program. All scholarship recipients must remain members in good standing of the Honors program to maintain the scholarship(s).

How the Honors Program works:

The University Honors Program is designed to work with every major at A&M-Texarkana. In addition to the curricular expectations outlined below, Honors students must participate in at least one Honors colloquium, activity or event each semester.

Freshmen Year:

Freshmen students are required to take the Honors Program section of IS 1100 in their first semester. Students will also take the Honors-section of Huma 1301. These courses should count towards the core requirements and will ideally be done during the student's first year. Students may also complete one additional Honors academic opportunity with the advisement of the Honors Director.

Sophomore Year:

Students must complete at least one Honors academic opportunity over the academic year.

Students must complete at least two co-curricular opportunities each semester.

Junior Year:

Students must complete at least one Honors academic opportunity over the academic year.

Students must complete at least two co-curricular opportunities each semester.

Senior Year:

Students will either continue to work towards meeting the Honors program academic and co-curricular opportunity, and they will have the opportunity to complete an Honors program capstone experience or thesis.

Honors Curriculum:

Academic Opportunities

As the Honors program gives you the flexibility to shape your experience, it is up to you which of these opportunities to pursue. Most students do a combination of courses and projects to reach the points needed, but the path is up to you! (A minimum GPA of 3.25 is required to remain in good standing in the Honors program)

- Successfully completing (A grade of C or better) an Honors-designated section of a course- 2 points each
 - (Note- FTIC are required to take the Honors section of IS 1100)
- Successfully completing (A grade of C or better) a course with an HONR prefix- 4 points each
 - HONR 345- Advanced Academic Argument
 - HONR 497- Special Topics (often team taught by faculty in different academic disciplines)
- Successfully completing a supervised Honors project- 4 points each
 - Working with a faculty mentor (or mentors) to complete an Honors project is at the heart of the individualized Honors experience. For each Honors project you successfully complete, you will earn four points.
 - Projects also earns points towards the Research badge
- Successfully completing an Honors Thesis- 8 points
 - An Honors thesis is often the most ambitious project a student can embark upon; each discipline envisions a thesis differently, so for more information, please contact the Honors Program Director.
 - Projects also earns points towards the Research badge

Honors Projects/Add-On Credit

Honors projects allow a high degree of flexibility in the program as students are able to tailor the requirements of the program toward their interests. The specific design of an honors contract project is created by the student and the instructor. The student and instructor develop the project and inform the Director of the Honors Program. To receive project credit for the course project, the supervising faculty must submit a completed assessment form to the Honors program office.

Co-curricular Opportunities

As with the academic requirements, the co-curricular path is yours to forge. You can focus on honing your research and presentation skills if you wish, or to give back to the campus through tutoring and stewardship, or a combination of all of them- the choice is yours!

- Student Research:
 - Honors students are always expected to attend the Honors colloquium series and to participate in the discussion. If you would like to lead an Honors Colloquium, please contact the Honors Program Director.
 - Attendance- 1 point
 - Facilitating an Honors colloquium- 2 points (earns Stewardship badge points)
 - Presenting at the Honors program Showcase- 4 points (earns Research badge points)
 - Presenting an Honors Colloquium- 4 points (earns Public Speaking badge points)
 - Presenting at approved academic conferences- 6 points (earns Public Speaking badge points)
- Tutoring and Coaching
 - The Honors Program Workshop Series. These workshops cover a variety of aspects of student success such as studying skills, research habits, and other tricks of the successful student. If you wish to organize a workshop, please contact the Honors Program Director.
 - Attending an Honors workshop- 1 point
 - Leading an Honors workshop- 3 points (earns Teaching badge points)
 - Serving as an official Honors program tutor- 6 points per semester (earns Teaching badge points)
 - Serving as an Honors Program FYE Coach- 6 points per semester (earns Teaching badge points)
- Program Stewardship
 - Honors students also have the opportunity to support and help to build the program through stewardship activities.
 - Serving as an Honors Program Ambassador- 2 points (earns Stewardship badge points)
 - This can include volunteering at Eagle Open House, SOAR, and other recruitment events
 - Multi-modal interaction with social media
 - Serving on the Honors advisory council- 4 points per semester (earns Stewardship badge points)
 - Serving on the Honors Program Teaching Excellence Awards committee- 4 points (earns Stewardship badge points)

Community Engagement

Service to the community is an important aspect of being a member of the Honors Program. Honors students are encouraged to be active participants in the university and broader community. The Honors program will facilitate community engagement opportunities.

Honors Program Advisory Group

The Honors Program Advisory Group serves to advise the Honors Program Director on issues pertaining to the development, maintenance, and enhancement of the Honors Program. Members of the Advisory Group will meet regularly with the Honors Program Director to plan events, recommend changes to the Honors Program, and assist with program events and tasks.

All Honors Program students are eligible for membership in the group, and terms of service run for one academic year; there are no limits to number of terms a student may serve. At the first meeting of the Honors Program Student Union each academic year, the Honors Director will call for nominations of students willing to serve (one may nominate him/herself). The Honors Program Student Union will then vote to affirm or reject each nomination.

Maintaining Active Status in Honors Program

Students maintain active status in the Honors Program by completing required coursework (Huma 1301, and HONR 345), additional contracted/Add-on projects, attending Honors colloquiums and events, and by maintaining the required grade point average of 3.25.

Honors Program Probationary Status

At the end of each semester (Fall and Spring/Summer), each Honors student's status in the Honors program will be evaluated. Students whose GPA has fallen below the threshold of 3.25, has failed to participate in an adequate number of Honors events, or has failed to complete an Honors course or Honors add-on project will be placed on probation. Probationary status lasts for one semester, during which time the Honors student will work with the Honors Director to regain full status in the program. If successful, the student will regain full membership in the Honors program: if not, their membership will be suspended. If you receive a scholarship through the Honors program, that scholarship will be reinstated after successful completion of the probationary period.

Termination of Honors Program Membership

Membership in the Honors Program is rarely terminated and then only with good reason, including:

- A student is accepted for membership and fails to take any Honors classes or participates in any Honors events. After one academic year of enrollment without taking any Honors classes, participation in Honors events, or advising by the Honors director or staff, the student's membership is subject to termination.
- A student is found guilty of, or pleads guilty to, violations of the Student Code of Conduct and Discipline or state or federal law. For example, a student may be terminated for a violation such as academic dishonesty or a legal felony, such as an assault, to which he has pled guilty or has been convicted.
- A student requests in writing to have his or her name removed from Honors Program membership.

Organization Memberships

The A&M-Texarkana Honors Program is a member of the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC), the professional association of undergraduate honors programs and colleges; and the Great Plains Honors Council, the regional association of NCHC.

Membership in the University Honors Program is separate from membership in national and disciplinary honor societies.

Expectations of Honor Students

- Texas A&M University-Texarkana Student Code of Conduct can be found at <http://www.tamut.edu/Campus-Life/Student-Conduct/Code.html>
- Maintain 3.25 overall grade point average
- Complete required coursework and add-on projects successfully
- Attend at least one colloquium each semester

Honors Advising

Honor students are required to meet with an Honors Program advisor each semester, in addition to meeting with their university or major advisor.

Students may contact:

- Dr. Craig Nakashian at 903-223-3136 or craig.nakashian@tamut.edu
- Ms. Lindsey McMillan at 903-334-6632 or LMcMillan@tamut.edu
- University Honors Program email honors@tamut.edu.

Honors Opportunities and Perks

Degree Enhancement: Students emerging from the program have enhanced knowledge and skills, and have an Honors designation that sets them apart.

Badges: Students can demonstrate their own individualized path to an Honors designation through the Honors Program Badges. These badges represent specific forms of achievement and they communicate to others what skills and expertise a student gained in the program. Each badge is unlocked after 12 points (though a student must also graduate from the program to earn a badge). Current badges include:

- Public Speaking
- Research
- Stewardship
- Teaching

If you would like to propose a new badge, please contact the Honors Program Director.

Perks: Honors students receive several “perks” from departments on campus, including:

- Enhanced borrowing privileges at the library
- National tutor certification opportunities
- Priority class registration for Honors students
- Honors Student Showcase, provides an opportunity for students to present original research or projects completed during the semester
- Private luncheons with faculty and administration at A&M-Texarkana

Completion Information

Students must complete all Honors Program course and event requirements, maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.25, be in good standing with the Honors Program, and meet all other degree requirements.

Upon graduation, students who complete the University Honors Program will receive the gold Honors Program seal on their diploma and special designation as an Honors Program graduate on transcripts.

Honors Program graduates will be presented with an Honors medallion at graduation.

Note on Latin Honors

Graduation with Latin Honors (cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude) is based entirely on Grade Point Average and is open to all A&M-Texarkana students with 45 semester hours completed in resident. Latin Honors are separate from successful completion of the University Honors Program.