



First-Year Honors Program

New Student Orientation
Summer 2025

Welcome to the Honors Program!

- Honors is a wonderful way to personalize your Iowa State education.
- Congratulations on joining the Iowa State Honors family!



Who's Who in Honors

- Laurie Smith Law
- Dr. Stephen Gilbert
- Emily Wilcox
- Erin Todey
- Kelli Fitzpatrick
- Nina VanDerZanden
- Suzanne Wirth
- Undergraduate Assistants Alex, Ella, and Molly



Who are Honors students?



FHP is a community of 450 first-year students from every college at Iowa State

What is the First-Year Honors Program (FHP)?

- Community of 450 First-Year students
- Goals and objectives:
 - ☐ Academic
 - ☐ Social
 - ☐ Personal
- Designed to assist in your transition to ISU
- Separate from University Honors Program
- Has a \$50 program fee each semester students are enrolled in Honors



FHP at a glance:


- 3 linked courses in the fall semester
 - Honors 1210
 - English 2500H
 - Library 1600
- First-Year Mentor Program in the spring semester



Honors 1210

- 12-13 students per class
- 1 credit seminar class, meets twice a week, pass/fail basis
- Led by 2 upper division Honors students
- Each section has its own theme; the course consists of discussions, tours, lectures, service learning, and student success components
- Common Reading Program: get *Designing Your Life* from your local library or bookstore



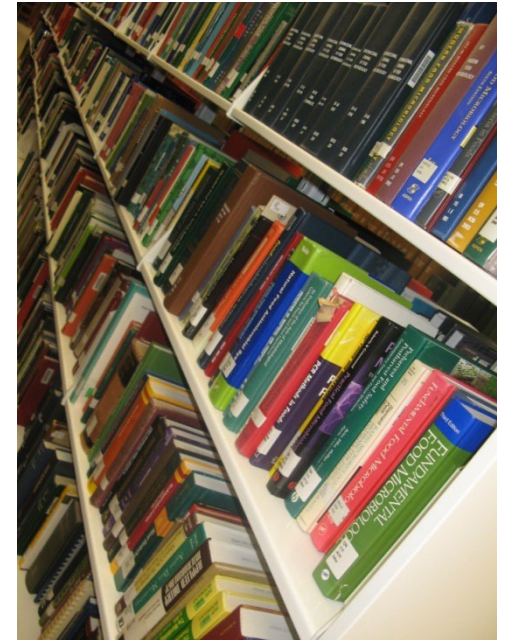


English 2500H

- WOVE curriculum: written, oral, visual, and electronic composition
- Humanities based, critical thinking
- Common English 2500H credit questions:
 - Have AP credit? Your AP credit will only cover English 1500 (or in some cases will cover a literature elective), so it cannot be used for English 2500H
 - If you have college-level credit for English 1500/2500, please tell Suzanne – you also must enroll in a different Honors course or seminar for the fall semester
 - You CANNOT test out of English 2500H

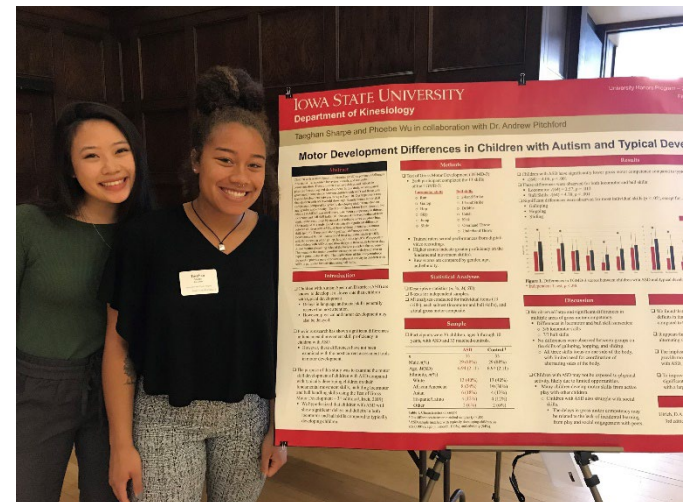
Library 1600

- Introduction to Parks Library's resources
- Required for all first-year students
- 1 credit, graded pass/fail
- Paired with the Honors 1210 seminar
 - You must register for LIB 1600, Section 1
 - If you are bringing in credit, please let Honors know



First-Year Mentor Program

- Spring semester research opportunity
- Partnership with a faculty member
- Variety of interests and subjects from fashion design to nanoparticles
- Explore your major or something else you're interested in
- Work in a team or on an individual project



Honors Courses

- Often limited to 25 students
- Hands-on, in-depth classroom environment
- Chance to enhance your education
- Check your folder; consider contracting!



Honors Seminars

- Usually limited to 17 students
- Seminars (still open!) for this fall include:
 - ☐ Current Issues in Native America
 - ☐ Conflicts in the Middle East
 - ☐ Entrepreneurship
 - ☐ Star Trek and A.I. Ethics
 - ☐ Creative Problem Solving
- Students can check the Honors website for a full list of Fall '25 seminars



Other Opportunities and Benefits

- 24-hour access to the Jischke Honors Building
- Next spring, early course registration
- Increased credit limit (21 credits)
- Library privileges
- International experiences: Costa Rica, Germany
- Honors Salons, professional development activities
- Honors Student Board



Honors Housing

***Interested in Honors Housing?
Talk to Suzanne afterwards!*

Honors houses:

- Barton Hall, Anders House
- Friley Hall, LorchRussell House
- Geoffroy Hall, Ebbers House
- Lyon Hall, Harwood House
- Martin Hall, Starbuck House

Honors + WiSE floor = Friley Pennell



A Year in the Life of FHP



August '25

September '25

- Mid-August: formal sorority recruitment, Destination Iowa State, move-in to residence halls
- 24: FHP Kickoff
- 25: Fall Classes begin
- First week: course schedule changes



- 1: Labor Day Holiday
- 4: HSB Ice Cream Social
- 5: Honors course contracts due



October '25

November '25

- 3: FHP Retreat
- Mentor program is introduced to students
- Middle of October: Midterms
- Last day to drop a class
- 25: Homecoming vs. BYU



- Registration for Spring '26 classes
- 24-28: Thanksgiving Break – no classes



December '25

January '26

- 8: Prep Week begins
- 15: Finals Week begins
- 19: Semester ends



- 19: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday/Day of Service
- 20: Spring classes begin
- Mentor program begins
- Deadline to apply for University Honors Program

February '26

- It's snowy and bleak



March 26

- Beginning of March: Midterms
- 16-20: Spring Break
- Registration for Fall '26 classes



April '26

May '26

- The actual busiest month of the year with end-of-year activities and research poster presentations

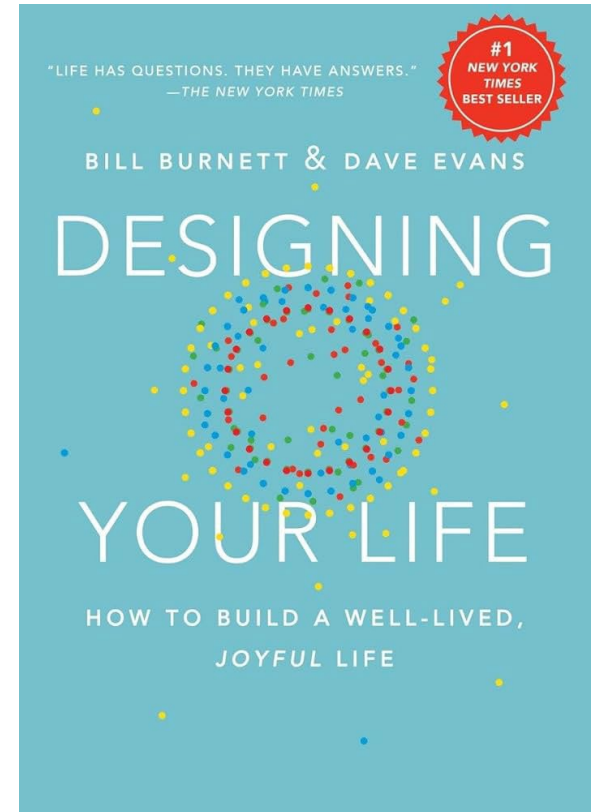


- 4: Prep Week begins
- 11: Finals Week begins
- 15: Families, you can reclaim your student!



Orientation Checklist:

- Register for:
 - ☐ Honors 1210
 - ☐ English 2500H
 - ☐ Library 1600 (Section 1)
- Check your ISU email address regularly
- Read *Designing Your Life*
- Get excited!



***If you make changes to your schedule and cannot get back into one of the FHP courses, contact the Honors Office immediately.*

Haven't submitted these? Today is the day!

- Honors acceptance forms (yellow sheets)
- English 2500 or Library 1600 credit info



SAVE THE DATE!

FHP KICKOFF

Come for the popsicles, stay to meet your Honors section!

**Sunday,
August 24
4 pm**



SAVE THE DATE!

HSB'S ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Join your Honors section and start the year off right with the HSB ice cream social – find out what HSB does and how you can get connected.

**Thursday,
September 4**



hsb

SAVE THE DATE!

FHP RETREAT

Past retreat activities have included bonfires, walking tacos, Olympics-style games, trivia competitions, glow-in-the-dark ultimate frisbee, Honors Idol, cookie decorating, the Honors Amazing Race, swing dancing, childhood regression activities, tons of glow sticks, bingo, Real Life Clue, lots of snacks, lip sync skits, Family Feud, line dancing, charades, and human foosball broom hockey!

**Friday,
October 3**



Connect with us (for a sticker for
your laptop/water bottle)!



Iowa State Honors Program



@iowastatehonors



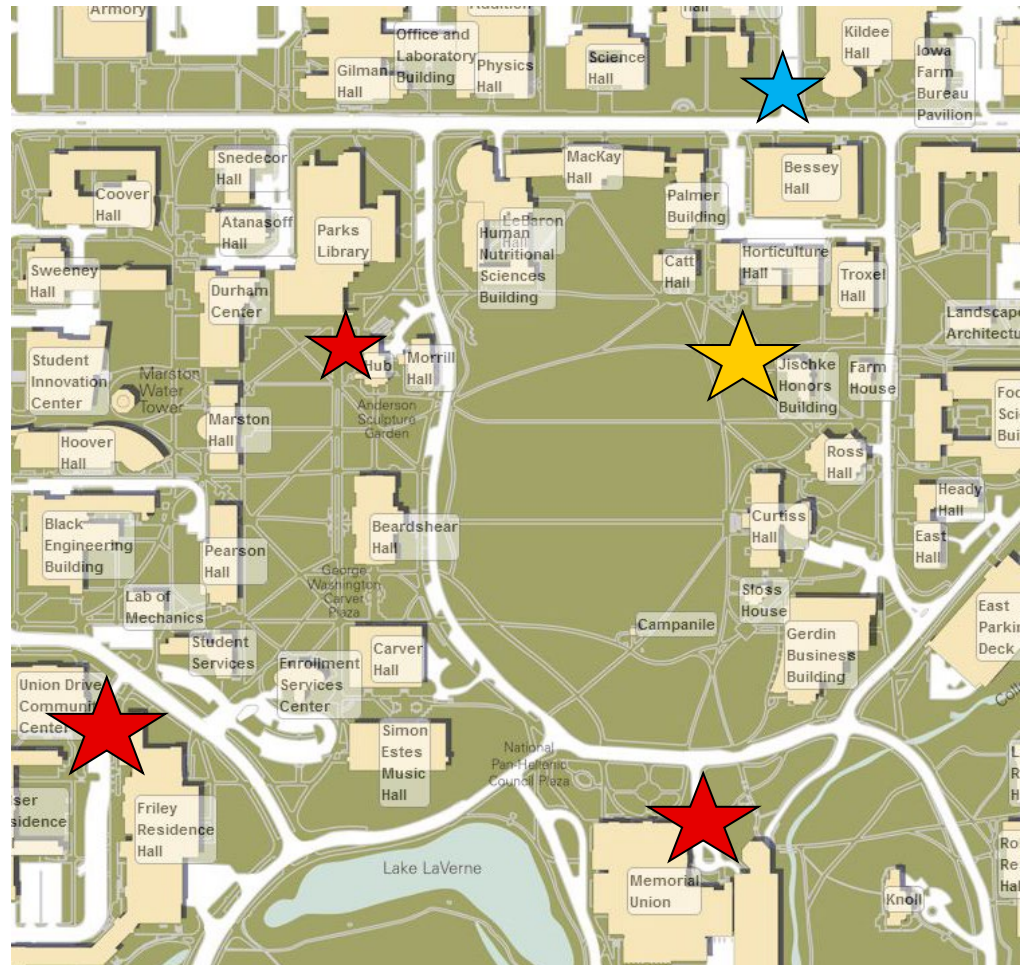
@hsbatisu

Looking for lunch later?



Ask an Honors staff member for recommendations and directions

- ★ Eat at a campus cafe
- ★ Consider a food truck!





Questions?

Emily Wilcox

515-294-4371

eawilcox@iastate.edu