

# University Honors Program Student Handbook



## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	4
Overview of Honors .....	4
Requirements At-A-Glance.....	4
Fulfilling Your Honors Requirements: The Advisory Program of Study (POS) .....	5
Planning an Honors Advisory Program of Study (POS) .....	5
Good Standing .....	5
Fulfilling Your Honors Requirements: Honors Courses.....	7
Select an Honors Section for a Regular Class .....	7
Contract an Honors Component within a Regular Class .....	7
Complete a Graduate Course .....	8
Fulfilling Your Honors Requirements: Honors Seminars .....	9
Fulfilling Your Honors Requirements: Honors Capstone Project.....	10
Honors Project Intent and Proposal.....	10
Honors Project Course Registration .....	10
Honors Project Grants.....	10
Honors Poster Presentation and Honors Convocation .....	11
Finding a Project Advisor for Your Honors Capstone Project.....	11
The Honors Pathways: The College Pathway and the Innovation Pathway .....	12
The College Pathway: The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Honors Program .....	13
The College Pathway: The College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Honors Program .....	14
The College Pathway: The Ivy College of Business Honors Program.....	15
The College Pathway: The College of Health & Human Sciences Honors Program .....	17
The College Pathway: The College of Engineering Honors Program.....	18
The College Pathway: The College of Design Honors Program.....	21
The Innovation Pathway .....	22
Common Honors Timeline: Innovation Pathway .....	23
Common Honors Timeline: College Pathway.....	24
Opportunities for Honors Involvement .....	25

Honors Salons.....	25
Honors Student Board (HSB) .....	25
First-Year Honors Program (FHP) Leaders .....	25
Undergraduate Assistants (UAs) .....	26
Honors Ambassadors .....	26
Grant Funding.....	27
First-Year Honors Mentor Program Grant .....	27
Dr. Robert M. Melampy Grant.....	27
University Honors Program Grants .....	27
Stewart Research Award .....	27
Elizabeth C. Beck Honors Student Enrichment Grant .....	27
Funding for the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) .....	27
Lodging Assistance.....	27
Registration Assistance.....	28
Honors and Awards.....	29
Outstanding First-Year Honors Program Members .....	29
Outstanding University Honors Program Member.....	29
Freeman Memorial Scholarship.....	29
Outstanding Honors Student Board Member .....	29
W. Robert Parks Honors Commendations.....	29
Teaching and Mentor Awards.....	29
Lynn and Carol Glass Scholarship.....	30

## Introduction

### Overview of Honors

The Iowa State University Honors Program cultivates a community of curious, driven learners through interdisciplinary collaboration, innovative projects, and professional development, equipping them to address the world's most pressing questions as life-long learners.

Iowa State University sponsors both the First-Year Honors Program (FHP) and the University Honors Program (UHP). FHP provides an introduction to Honors education at Iowa State University for eligible first-year students. UHP, to which any qualified undergraduate may apply, emphasizes the development of an enriched, individualized program of study that meets each member's needs, interests, and abilities.

The UHP aims to provide you with:

- An intellectually stimulating environment with peers who are motivated, hardworking, and innovative.
- Ways for you to make the most of your college experience by achieving a degree of breadth and depth in intellectual endeavors beyond your major courses not always available to undergraduates.
- Opportunities for interaction with faculty through courses and seminars, undergraduate research experiences, and mentoring.

### Requirements At-A-Glance

This is a condensed version of the requirements of each college's Honors Program which all have the following requirements in common:

1. Maintain a cumulative grade point average of **3.50 or higher**.
2. Take **two honors courses (minimum of 5 credits total)**.
3. Take **two honors seminars**.
4. **Submit an advisory program of study (POS)** to your college's Honors Committee when you have five semesters remaining before graduation (typically in the spring of your sophomore year).
5. Complete an **honors project**; the **project proposal** is due one semester before the project (September 21/February 21). Register for 1-4 credits of HON 4900A/B the semester you complete your project.
6. Present at the **Honors Poster Session**.

## **Fulfilling Your Honors Requirements: The Advisory Program of Study (POS)**

A major way for you to make the most of your honors college experience is by crafting an individualized advisory program of study (POS). That is, as an honors student you define your educational and career goals and develop a set of courses and out-of-class experiences (for example, study abroad and/or leadership engagement) that help you achieve those goals. The advisory POS documents the depth and breadth of your studies in addition to fulfillment of university, college, and major requirements.

Since the Honors Program emphasizes individuality and flexibility, few programs of study will be identical. Accordingly, you — in consultation with your advisor — may be creative in designing your POS. The Honors committee of your college is responsible for approving your POS. These committees evaluate the POS for depth, breadth, and incorporation of honors requirements. They may allow deviations from requirements when the proposed changes are relevant to your educational plans and meet accepted standards.

### **Planning an Honors Advisory Program of Study (POS)**

You may use a variety of approaches to create an effective POS that meets your educational goals. These might include:

- Enroll in honors courses (HON) or honors sections of non-honors courses (e.g., ENGL 3140H), including courses with standing honors contracts (details below).
- Create an individual honors contract.
- Enroll in a graduate-level course in place of typical electives. This is done in consultation with the instructor of the course and your academic advisor.
- Enroll in honors seminars.
- Develop new minor or set of minors, generally with an interdisciplinary emphasis.
- Engage in an independent study (typically a personalized project with a faculty member) and/or research. Often this independent work forms the basis of your honors project.

### **Good Standing**

To remain in Honors after FHP, you must submit a letter of intent by the announced deadline indicating that you will continue into UHP. In addition, as a UHP member, you must maintain good standing by completing the following:

- Attend your college's Honors orientation session.
- Maintain an ISU GPA of 3.5 or higher.

- Submit an advisory program of study (POS) no later than five semesters before graduation (generally, the spring of sophomore year). For those who join UHP with between 48 and 60 credits remaining until graduation, you should submit the advisory program of study in your first semester of being an honors student (Feb 21 for spring and Sept 21 for fall).
- Show progress toward completing honors coursework.
- Submit an honors project proposal, usually at the end of junior year/beginning of your senior year.
- Complete an honors project and present at the spring or fall Honors Poster Session.

## Fulfilling Your Honors Requirements: Honors Courses

There are several ways that you can complete the honors course requirements.

### Select an Honors Section for a Regular Class

Honors sections are regular ISU classes that are designed and taught specifically for honors students (e.g., PHYS 2410H). Honors sections may be offered exclusively to honors students, and others may have reserved sections for discussion or laboratory work. With class sizes smaller than standard sections, these sections build community and use collaborative groups to encourage you to engage more deeply in the course material.

You register for honors sections using the Workday procedures for a regular class. Note that if you are unable to enroll in the honors section of a course, you may work with the instructor to contract the course as honors (see below).

### Contract an Honors Component within a Regular Class

There are two types of Honors contracts, individual and standing. Both contracts contain an agreement between you and the instructor about additional class-related work that you will complete to add breadth or depth to the course.

**Individual contracts** are one way that you can personalize your academic experience and create relationships with faculty members. **Any course** offered by the university with the permission of the instructor may be converted to an Honors course by completing an individual honors contract. To receive Honors credit, you and the instructor agree in advance on the honors component to be added to the course. Once agreed upon, you should complete the **Online Honors Credit Contract** which can be found on the [Honors website](#). Contract request forms are due no later than the **end of the fourth week of classes for UHP students and the end of the second week of classes for FHP students**. Examples of course contracts are also available on the Honors website.

**Standing contracts** are used for a regular course that has a pre-defined Honors component agreed upon by the course instructor. If you are interested in taking one of these courses for Honors credit you should contact the course instructor and complete the **Online Honors Credit Contract** by the **end of the class's fourth week for UHP students and the end of the second week of classes for FHP students**.

The honors courses with standing contracts will be updated on the honors website at the beginning of each semester: <https://www.honors.iastate.edu/course-contracts>

When a regular course is taken for honors credit, the Registrar's Office is notified, and the "H" designation is added to the course number on your permanent record; this takes approximately two weeks to appear once grades are posted. This indicates that you had a special experience in the course and took some initiative in developing an individualized program.

## **Complete a Graduate Course**

5000-level graduate courses are open to qualified undergraduates with at least a junior-level classification. In most cases, a completed graduate course taken for a grade is automatically accepted as an honors course. You register for 5000-level courses using the Workday procedures for a regular class.

## **Wrapping Up**

How do you decide which courses to take as honors? How do you decide which course to contract? Consider these questions:

- What are your academic interests? What subjects/topics are you interested in and/or have questions about?
- How might any of these topics be related to your post-graduation goals and/or personal goals?
- Which classes sound most exciting?
- Which professors might you want to work more closely with?
- What semesters might make the most sense to complete an honors course? Are there any semesters to avoid?

Because the honors curriculum is so individualized, you get to decide which classes you want to contract. There's no right or wrong answer!

## Fulfilling Your Honors Requirements: Honors Seminars

A central element in the Honors Program is the honors seminar. Most students will take two or three seminars, but many take more than are required. In fact, the popularity of honors seminars has led to limiting students to a maximum of two seminars per semester. Each semester's seminars are posted on the Honors Program website a few weeks before registration; registration for seminars takes place immediately following university registration.

The list of honors seminars can be found online: <https://www.honors.iastate.edu/honors-seminars>

Honors seminars are offered for one or two credits, normally meet once a week for one or two hours, and are graded satisfactory/fail. To promote discussion and student-faculty interaction, enrollment is capped at 17. Generally, there are no prerequisites other than individual interest. In a given seminar there is usually a wide range of disciplines, thus all students benefit from interaction with peers with different academic backgrounds.

How do you decide which honors seminars you want to take? Consider these questions:

- What topics related to your major and/or field of study are you interested in exploring?
- What topics outside of your major are you interested in exploring?
- Are there any additional skills you'd like to develop in an Honors seminar?
- What semesters might make the most sense to complete an Honors seminar? Are there any semesters to avoid?

Again, because the honors curriculum is so individualized, you get to decide which seminars you want to take.

## **Fulfilling Your Honors Requirements: Honors Capstone Project**

The honors capstone project is integral to the Honors Program. By participating in the capstone experience for the College Pathway, you will work closely with faculty on a **research or creative project**. You'll develop your topic and work under the supervision of a project advisor with expertise in the field. The project advisor and the Honors committee of your college must approve the project proposal and a report on the completed project.

If you complete your honors capstone experience through the Innovation Pathway, you will work in an interdisciplinary team on a yearlong capstone project that focuses on one of more of the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). All Innovation project proposals are approved by the University Honors Program Committee.

### **Honors Project Intent and Proposal**

To complete an honors project in the College Pathway, you will need to **submit a project proposal form to your College Honors Committee one semester before you intend to complete your Honors Project** (due dates are Sept 21 for fall approval and Feb 21 for spring approval). If you are in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and in the College of Health and Human Sciences, you need to complete a project intent form one year before completing the project. In the Innovation Pathway, you will complete your proposal in the first semester of the honors capstone.

### **Honors Project Course Registration**

#### *College Pathway*

After receiving approval from your college, you will enroll in 1-4 credits of HON 4900A. You should confirm the exact number of credits required to meet your college's requirements. The HON 4900A registration form can be found here: <https://www.honors.iastate.edu/deadlines-and-forms>. Please complete this form and return it to [honors@iastate.edu](mailto:honors@iastate.edu).

#### *Innovation Pathway*

During the first semester of your capstone experience, you will enroll for one credit HON 4900B where you and your team will collaborate to develop a project proposal. All Innovation project proposals are approved by the University Honors Program Committee. During the second semester of the project, you will enroll for three credits of HON 4900B.

### **Honors Project Grants**

Thanks to private gifts to the Honors Program, research grants of up to \$750 are available to help defray expenses of honors projects. Grant applications are reviewed by a subcommittee of the University Honors Committee, which makes recommendations on funding to the full committee. You can find information about applying for a University Honors Program Grant here: <https://www.honors.iastate.edu/grant-funding>

## **Honors Poster Presentation and Honors Convocation**

At the end of each semester, the University Honors Programs hosts the Honors Project Poster Session and Convocation for graduating honors students and other students who have completed their honors capstone experience. At the Poster Session, you will display your project as a poster and share your experiences with other honors students and the university community. Students who are graduating and who have completed their honors requirements will receive their honors medal at convocation.

If you would like to see examples of previous honors projects, you are encouraged to check out the ISU Digital Repository of honors projects:

<https://dr.lib.iastate.edu/entities/series/78a1cb49-0dee-4c38-97a8-c1fd0b7a74ea>

## **Finding a Project Advisor for Your Honors Capstone Project**

You will need to choose a project advisor to guide you in developing your project whether you complete a research project or creative component. If you've previously worked with a professor in their lab, you might choose to continue working with them; however, you are encouraged to think holistically about who might best advise you in your project and the topic you want to explore.

When seeking a project advisor to guide you in your honors project, the most helpful starting point is to think about your interests and goals. What might you like to explore during your project? Are these questions that you feel compelled to ask? Problems you want to address? Subjects that you can't stop thinking about? Skills you would like to learn? Preparation that you need for a future career or graduate school? A topic completely different than your major that you think is really cool? These are all good starting points for choosing a topic.

After you have a sense of your topic, think about the keywords that you can use to describe your topic. From there, you can start to look at Iowa State department websites to see which faculty have expertise in that type of research or topic.

You'll want to think of a way to connect your research idea to the faculty member based on their research. Look them up in Google Scholar and sort by date to see what they've been working on most recently. When you reach out to them, frame the email like:

- I'm wondering if you have 30 minutes to discuss your research on [XYZ].
- I read your articles "Title of long academic article title" and "Other interesting article title," and I was intrigued by the question of whether [interesting question that ideally was mentioned in the articles and overlaps with your core interest].
- I was hoping you might consider mentoring me for an Honors Capstone project that might dovetail with your lab goals.

## The Honors Pathways: The College Pathway and the Innovation Pathway

This handbook has outlined the elements you need to complete in order to graduate with honors. There are two distinct ways that you can progress through these requirements: The College Pathway and the Innovation Pathway.

The College Pathway is an interdisciplinary approach to your honors education, allowing you to cultivate breadth and depth within your academic curriculum by engaging in a series of self-identified honors courses, seminars, and the honors capstone project. The Innovation Pathway has similar requirements but asks students to develop skills related to innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and knowledge of humanitarian challenges. Students then apply this knowledge in a year-long, team-based capstone project that focuses on solving a humanitarian challenge.

You do not officially need to declare your pathway until the beginning of your junior year, but it is advisable to make this decision earlier rather than later. The table below outlines the overarching requirements of the College Pathway and the Innovation Pathway.

<b>College Pathway</b>			
2 Honors Courses	2 Honors Seminars	Honors Capstone	College Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minimum of 5 credits</li> <li>- Student choice of courses (but look at College requirements)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Student choice of any two seminars (HON 3210 or 3220)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1-4 credits of Independent Study (HON 4900A)</li> <li>- Topic of choice</li> <li>- Proposal due 1 semester before taking HON 4900A credits; requires College Honors approval</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Varies depending on College; typically relates to demonstration of breadth, depth, and professional development</li> </ul>

<b>Innovation Pathway</b>		
2 Honors Courses	2 Honors Seminars	Honors Capstone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minimum of 5 credits</li> <li>- 3000-level LDST course or other approved course)</li> <li>- 3000-level ENGL course or other approved course)</li> <li>- Use Innovation Pathway course contract</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Student choice of any two seminars from the Innovation Pathway list (HON 3220)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 credits of HON 4900B (1 cr. fall, 3 cr. spring)</li> <li>- Interdisciplinary, year-long, team-based project focused on innovating and addressing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals</li> </ul>

## The College Pathway: The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Honors Program

Contacts: Audrey Watne ([watne@iastate.edu](mailto:watne@iastate.edu)), William Carter ([wcarter@iastate.edu](mailto:wcarter@iastate.edu))

Email: [lashnrs@iastate.edu](mailto:lashnrs@iastate.edu)

LAS Honors Webpage: <https://las.iastate.edu/academics/las-honors-program/>

Membership in LAS Honors requires you to maintain a 3.5 GPA and develop a program of study (POS) that reflects the intellectual depth and breadth that distinguish honors curricula from the standard criteria for graduation. The POS must include the following:

1. **2 honors seminars** (does not include HON 1210).
  2. **2 honors courses** or 5000+ courses (at least one honors course in major area and one in area of exploration outside of major. These must combine for a minimum of 5 credits and cannot include ENGL 2500H, HON 2900, HON 3020 or HON 4900).
  3. An **honors project** – must register for 4900H for 1 or more credit(s).
  4. Poster presentation at the **University Honors Poster Session** upon completion of your honors project.
  5. **Honors Exploration** – Choose *one* of the following
    - Minor, Certificate or 2nd Major: Address depth/breadth in Program of Study
    - Defined Area of Exploration –15 credits beyond your requirements for your degree area: At least 9 credits at 3000+ level, 6 credits at ISU; Define area in Program of Study
    - Study Abroad (6 weeks minimum): Cultural experience and reflection project – time abroad w/ artifacts
    - Complete a cross-disciplinary honors project with other student(s) from another major or college
- The LAS **advisory program of study (POS) form** can be accessed here: <https://iastate.app.box.com/s/hlr1hi0ayt2yn5x1fytcmxezwk2m6pqc>
  - The LAS honors **project intent form** can be accessed here: <https://iastate.app.box.com/s/3pwu494glrdtrnqkz2et3xct5rr8jcbuf>
  - The LAS honors **project proposal** instructions can be accessed here: <https://iastate.app.box.com/s/zswot7oppa8nidszkyo84eux5z1swj1o>
  - The LAS honors **project proposal form** can be accessed here: <https://iastate.app.box.com/s/22dwq9t5wpzpmmuhckg2l2dr9aw4rcnr>
  - The LAS honors **guidelines for project advisors** can be accessed here: <https://iastate.app.box.com/s/jk4ckevz3qfrkd4ivhn91faxuqrjd75p>

Electronic copies should be emailed to [lashnrs@iastate.edu](mailto:lashnrs@iastate.edu)

## The College Pathway: The College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Honors Program

Contacts: Nate Dobbels ([ndobbels@iastate.edu](mailto:ndobbels@iastate.edu)), Mary Clancy ([clancy@iastate.edu](mailto:clancy@iastate.edu)),  
Peter Wolter ([ptwolter@iastate.edu](mailto:ptwolter@iastate.edu))

CALS Honors Webpage: <https://www.cals.iastate.edu/student-services/Honors>

*\*You will be added to the [CALs Honors Canvas](#) where you can submit your advisory program of study (POS) and your honors project proposal.*

1. Must attain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.50. If the GPA for an individual semester is below 3.50 but the cumulative GPA is still above 3.50, you may remain in the Honors Program. If the cumulative GPA requirement is not met, you may be dropped from the Honors Program. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Honors Committee deals with grade problems on a case-by-case basis.
2. Complete at least **two honors seminars** (HON 3210 or 3220). Enrollment in seminars is controlled by the University Honors Program.
3. Complete at least **two honors courses** (above depth and breadth requirement and English 2500H). Additional honors courses can be added as desired or needed.
4. Complete the **advisory program of study (POS)**. The goal of the program of study is to promote development of a highly individualized academic program for each Honors student through an evaluation of your curriculum to provide a wider range of subjects and/or to explore certain areas more deeply. The program of study must provide both depth and breadth of academic experiences comparable to (and hopefully exceeding) the academic requirements of the curriculum, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the University.
5. Complete an **honors capstone project** (HON 4900A) for three credits.
6. Present your poster at the **University Honors Poster Session** upon completion of your honors project.
7. Add **Depth & Breadth**: Please see the [CALs Honors Canvas](#) page for specific examples of Depth and Breadth.

The CALS program of study form can be found on the CALS Honors Canvas page. **Please submit the CALS advisory POS and the project proposal to Canvas.**

## The College Pathway: The Ivy College of Business Honors Program

Contacts: Kelly Pistilli ([kellyp1@iastate.edu](mailto:kellyp1@iastate.edu)), Dennis Shaw ([dlshaw@iastate.edu](mailto:dlshaw@iastate.edu))

Email: [cobhonors@iastate.edu](mailto:cobhonors@iastate.edu)

Ivy Business Honors Webpage: <https://www.ivybusiness.iastate.edu/life-at-ivy/get-involved/honors-program/>

*\*You will be added to the [Ivy Honors Canvas](#) where you can submit your honors advisory program of study (POS) and your honors project proposal.*

In order to maintain good standing in the University Honors program, business students must:

1. Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or above.
2. Develop and submit an Ivy Honors advisory program of study (POS) that details how the Ivy Honors requirements will be completed.
3. Complete all required Ivy honors components.

Below are the required Ivy College of Business honors components:

1. Complete a minimum of **2 honors designated courses** (minimum of 5 credits total, not including ENGL 2500H). Examples: ECON 1010H, ACCT 2840H, ENGL 3020H (fall only), HDFB 2830H, any other Iowa State approved honors courses, any Iowa State course with an honors contract, or 5000-level (graduate) courses.
2. Take a minimum of **2 honors seminars (HON 3210 or 3220)**.
3. Take a minimum of **50 credits at the 3000-level or above**.
4. Complete an **honors project** (BUSAD 4900H).
5. Present your poster at the University Honors Poster Session upon completion of your honors project.
6. Demonstrate **breadth, depth, and leadership** through a variety of experiences.
  - o **Breadth** can be demonstrated through these options (choose one):
    - Participation in Study Abroad/National Student Exchange
      - Study at ISU for international students does not count for this requirement.
    - Completion of 6 credits of 3000-level elective class(es) outside of Ivy, all for a grade
    - Completion of world language class(es) 2010 level or higher
      - Students whose first language is not English may go through a verification process to ensure proficiency and then your primary language could count. Heritage speaking placement can also count.

- Non-Ivy major/minor/certificate
- An approved associate's degree
- Volunteer with a community service organization, minimum of 40 hours total
  - Can be service hours from a student organization and fraternity or sorority
- Completion of the Gerdin Leaders Academy
- Participate in the CyStarters program or CyBiz lab consultants
- **Depth** can be demonstrated through these options (choose one):
  - Completion of Ivy minor or a second major in Ivy
  - Concurrent Master of Accounting (MACC) or other concurrent master's program with Ivy
  - Documented major-related Internship Experience (paid)
  - Participation in Ivy recognized case competition
  - Research (Undergraduate Research Assistant; RA)
    - Honors project (BUSAD 4900H) may not double count for this.
  - Completion of HON 2900 (first year research program)
  - Participate in the CyBiz Lab or CYstarters program
  - Business Volunteer work, such as:
    - United Way Finance mentors
    - VITA program
- **Leadership** can be demonstrated through these options:
  - Completion of the Gerdin Leadership Academy
  - Serve as a Business Learning Team Peer Mentor
  - Serve as a First Year Honors Peer Mentor
  - Serve as a Cyclone Aide
  - Residence Assistant for the ISU Department of Housing
  - Leadership minor or certificate (can only fulfill either leadership or breadth, not both)
  - Leadership role in a university sponsored student organization
    - Club officer, not just membership in that organization

\*\*Approval for Breadth, Depth, and Leadership opportunities not on this list, please see your academic advisor.

\*\*One experience may not double count in Breadth, Depth, and Leadership.

The Ivy College of Business advisory program of study form can be found on the Honors Program – Ivy College of Business Canvas. **Please submit the Ivy COB Honors POS to Canvas.** The Ivy College of Business Honors project proposal form can be found on the Honors Program – Ivy College of Business Canvas. **Please submit the Ivy COB Honors project proposal form to Canvas and sign up for a proposal presentation time.**

## The College Pathway: The College of Health & Human Sciences Honors Program

Contacts: Bayleigh Hannon ([bbhannon@iastate.edu](mailto:bbhannon@iastate.edu)), Clayton Johnson ([cjohn@iastate.edu](mailto:cjohn@iastate.edu)), Daeyong Lee ([daelee@iastate.edu](mailto:daelee@iastate.edu))

Email: [chshonors@iastate.edu](mailto:chshonors@iastate.edu)

CHHS Honors Webpage: <https://hs.iastate.edu/academics/honors-program/>

*\*You will be added to the [CHS Honors Canvas](#) where you can submit your honors advisory program of study (POS) and your honors project intent.*

The following are required for students in CHHS to graduate with honors:

1. Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50 or above.
2. Complete College of Health and Human Sciences Honors program orientation.
3. Complete the **advisory program of study**.
4. Participate in at least **two honors seminars**.
5. Complete one, three credit **honors course *outside* your major** for a letter grade.
6. Complete one, three credit **honors course *inside* your major** for a letter grade.
7. Complete **project intent form two semesters** before you complete your honors project.
8. Submit your **honors project proposal** one semester before you complete your honors project.
9. Develop an **honors project** (2-4 credits of HON 4900A) and present at the **Honors Poster Session**.

**Your advisory POS and project intent form should be submitted to the CHS Canvas page.**

**Submit your project proposal to the [online College of Health and Human Sciences Project Proposal Form](#).**

## The College Pathway: The College of Engineering Honors Program

Contacts: Paul Castleberry ([paulca@iastate.edu](mailto:paulca@iastate.edu)), Ed Banach ([ebanach@iastate.edu](mailto:ebanach@iastate.edu)), Mark Mba-Wright ([markmw@iastate.edu](mailto:markmw@iastate.edu))

Email: [engrhonors@iastate.edu](mailto:engrhonors@iastate.edu)

Engineering Honors Webpage: <https://www.engineering.iastate.edu/engineering-honors-students/>

In order to maintain good standing within the UHP and Engineering Honors Program (EHP), you must:

1. Maintain a continuing cumulative GPA of **3.5 or above**.
2. Participate in **two honors courses** and two **honors seminars**.
3. Complete EHP requirements of breadth, depth, and community and professional development (see figures below for guidance).\*
4. Submit an advisory **program of study** (POS) to the EHP not later than four semesters prior to graduation. Fill out this form: [COE Honors POS form](#) (.docx)
5. Develop an **honors project** and have it approved by the EHP at least two semesters prior to graduation. The project must be completed and **presented** before or during the semester of graduation.

You are required to submit your POS no later than four semesters prior to the term in which you are graduating (by Sept. 21 or Feb. 21 for fall/spring semester respectively). For those on a four-year plan for degree completion, that would be the second semester of sophomore year. Failure to submit a POS by the appropriate deadline for your graduation term may result in suspension from the Honors Program.

**Email your completed POS form**, along with any required documents (for POS elements that are not visible on your degree audit; see the second page of the guidelines linked above), to [engrhonors@iastate.edu](mailto:engrhonors@iastate.edu). **These forms should be Word documents.**

Programs of study are evaluated on a rolling basis. When you submit your POS, it will be considered by a panel of EHP faculty committee members, and you will be notified of their decision. A POS may be accepted, returned for minor revision, or rejected if it does not meet the requirements. If your POS is not accepted, suggestions for appropriate changes will be given. Your changes will be due within three weeks. The date will be provided with your feedback.

\*The table below show guidance on completing the breadth, depth, and community and professional development requirements for the [Engineering Honors Program](#).

**POS Requirement 1. Take two honors courses (not including LIB 160H or Engl 250H). You may also use these as expressions in Requirement 2.**

**POS Requirement 2. Illustrate breadth, depth, and community & professional development through selection of activities that express your interests and aptitudes, following the guidelines below. (Second “intense” expression in any of the three categories can substitute for one moderate requirement in one of the other two categories.)**

Breadth	Depth	Community & Professional Development
<p><i>Choose one “intense” expression, such as . . .</i></p>	<p><i>Choose one “intense” expression, such as . . .</i></p>	<p><i>Choose one “intense” expression, such as . . .</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A minor, second major, or certificate in a non-STEM field (STEM = science, technology, engineering, math), excluding leadership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A minor, second major, or certificate in a STEM field</li> <li>• Research activity resulting in peer-reviewed evidence of scholarship, with you as first student author</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of a minor or certificate in leadership</li> <li>• Formal study- or work-abroad for a semester or more, in a country other than your home country</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Or, choose two “moderate” expressions, such as . . .</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Or, choose two “moderate” expressions, such as . . .</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Or, choose two “moderate” expressions, such as . . .</i></b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 credits of honors coursework in a non-STEM area (not including Engl 250H)</li> <li>• 3 credits of 300-level or above social science or humanities (SSH) course applied to your BS degree requirements, but beyond the minimum level required for your program</li> <li>• 3 credits of 200-level or above SSH course not applied to your BS degree requirements</li> <li>• 4 credits of performing arts (such as music, dance, theater)</li> <li>• 3 credits of 300-level or above business course not applied to your BS degree</li> <li>• An undergraduate research project in a non-STEM area (non-STEM honors project would count here)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 credits of honors coursework in a STEM area,</li> <li>• A graduate-level STEM course either as an addition to your required curriculum or as a substitution for a lower-level requirement</li> <li>• An undergraduate research project not included in your required honors project (requires a letter from your research mentor/supervisor)</li> <li>• Enrollment in a STEM departmental graduate seminar series</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three credits of leadership coursework (excluding honors seminars) not applied to your degree</li> <li>• Three credits of honors leadership coursework</li> <li>• Membership in Tau Beta Pi</li> <li>• <i>Leadership</i> in a campus or community organization</li> <li>• Leadership in the University Honors Program (as a UA, FHP leader, or Honors Ambassador)</li> <li>• Serving as a learning community Peer Mentor</li> <li>• Study- or work-abroad for less than a semester but for at least 6 weeks, in a country other than your home country.</li> <li>• Working as an SI tutor or help room staff</li> <li>• A formal TA position involving lecturing, leading a discussion, or managing a laboratory (grading-only positions will not be considered)</li> <li>• Studying at Iowa State as an international student</li> </ul>

**For expressions not on your degree audit, additional documentation is required when you submit your POS, per the below instructions:**

**An undergraduate research project (either breadth or depth)**

1. A memo from you that details your contribution to the research.
2. An endorsing statement from your project supervisor (can be on the above memo or separate) confirming that they have read and concur with your assessment of research contribution.

**Research activity resulting in peer-reviewed evidence of scholarship, with you as first student author**

1. A link to or copy of the artifact (paper, patent, proceedings, etc.)
2. A memo from you that details your contribution to the research
3. An endorsing statement from your project supervisor (can be on the above memo or separate) confirming that they have read and concur with your assessment of research contribution.

**Leadership in a campus or community organization**

1. A memo from you that describes your contribution and more importantly, your personal development as a result of your role.
2. An endorsing statement (can be on the above memo or separate) from a person in an authority role in the organization (not a fellow student) confirming that they have read and concur with your assessment of your contribution.

**Leadership in the University Honors Program (UA, FHP leader, or Honors Ambassador)**

1. No action is needed on your part, because the UHP will provide verification directly to the College of Engineering.

**Serving as a learning community Peer Mentor**

1. A memo from the faculty or staff learning community coordinator confirming your role.

**Working as an SI tutor or help room staff**

1. A memo from your supervisor confirming your role.

**A formal TA position involving lecturing, leading a discussion, or managing a laboratory (grading-only positions will not be considered)**

1. A memo from you that describes your contribution and your personal development as a result of your teaching assistantship.
2. A memo from your supervisor in the organization confirming that they have read and concur with your assessment of contribution.

## The College Pathway: The College of Design Honors Program

Contacts: Jeremy Miller ([jmiller@iastate.edu](mailto:jmiller@iastate.edu)), Patrick Finley ([pmfinley@iastate.edu](mailto:pmfinley@iastate.edu))

Design Honors Webpage: <https://www.design.iastate.edu/experiences/student-services/>

1. **Complete the advisory program of study (POS)** at least four semesters prior to graduation. The advisory program of study form can be found here: <https://www.design.iastate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/honors-pos-form.pdf>
2. **Two honors seminars** at a minimum are required. You are encouraged to take as many honors seminars as you like.
3. **Two honors courses** at a minimum are required beyond ENGL 2500H. If architecture students choose to use a 5000+ architecture elective for the DSNS 5460 studio as an honors course they must declare it through an individual course contract. [See Honors Course guidelines for options](#)
4. Complete **Honors Project** (using guidelines detailed below), either as an addition to studio or a separate 3 credit independent study.

An honors project is required of each student graduating from the Honors Program. Projects are usually completed in the final two years. Project proposals are usually planned and submitted for approval before the end of the prior semester. However, the proposals are to be submitted no later than mid-term of the semester before graduation. There are two ways for College of Design students to accomplish the honors project:

### **An addition to a design studio (3 credit minimum)**

The honors project as a design studio must include a body of research/work that is over and above the criteria for the normal studio experience. All conditions of such a studio must be approved by the respective instructor, and the project approval form should be completed as a discussion with them and with their guidance.

### **An independent study (3 credits)**

It is expected that the honors project will be a substantial piece of quality work, which will culminate in a finished body of research or creative work. Most importantly, the honors project is expected to be of high academic, design or artistic quality demonstrating individual creativity.

The appointed Honors Program faculty will review all honors project proposals for approval. All honors projects will be presented at the Honors Poster Session held at the end of the semester in which you complete your project.

## The Innovation Pathway

Contacts: Laurie Smith Law ([lfiegel@iastate.edu](mailto:lfiegel@iastate.edu)) and Stephen Gilbert ([gilbert@iastate.edu](mailto:gilbert@iastate.edu))  
Innovation Pathway Webpage: <https://www.honors.iastate.edu/honors-innovation-pathway>

*Upon joining the Innovation Pathway, you will be added to [the Honors Innovation Pathway Canvas](#).*

The Innovation Pathway has similar requirements to the College Pathway, but the focus is on developing innovation, critical thinking, communication, leadership, and collaboration skills. You will learn these skills through your courses and seminars and then apply this knowledge in the honors capstone. For this pathway, the honors capstone is a year-long, 4 credit interdisciplinary team project that focuses on one or more of the humanitarian challenges in the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which include poverty, gender equality, clean water, affordable clean energy, responsible consumption, and quality education.

As with the College Pathway, honors students need to complete two Honors courses, two Honors seminars, and a capstone project. For the Innovation Pathway, students will take:

1. **Honors course 1:** A 3000-level LDST course or an approved course with an Innovation Pathway course contract
2. **Honors course 2:** A 3000-level ENGL course, or an approved course with an Innovation Pathway course contract
3. **Two seminars** from the Innovation Pathway list (HON 3220)
4. **HON 4900B: Independent Study:** Innovation Pathway (1 credit fall; 3 credits spring)

The advisory program of study form for the Innovation Pathway can be found here:

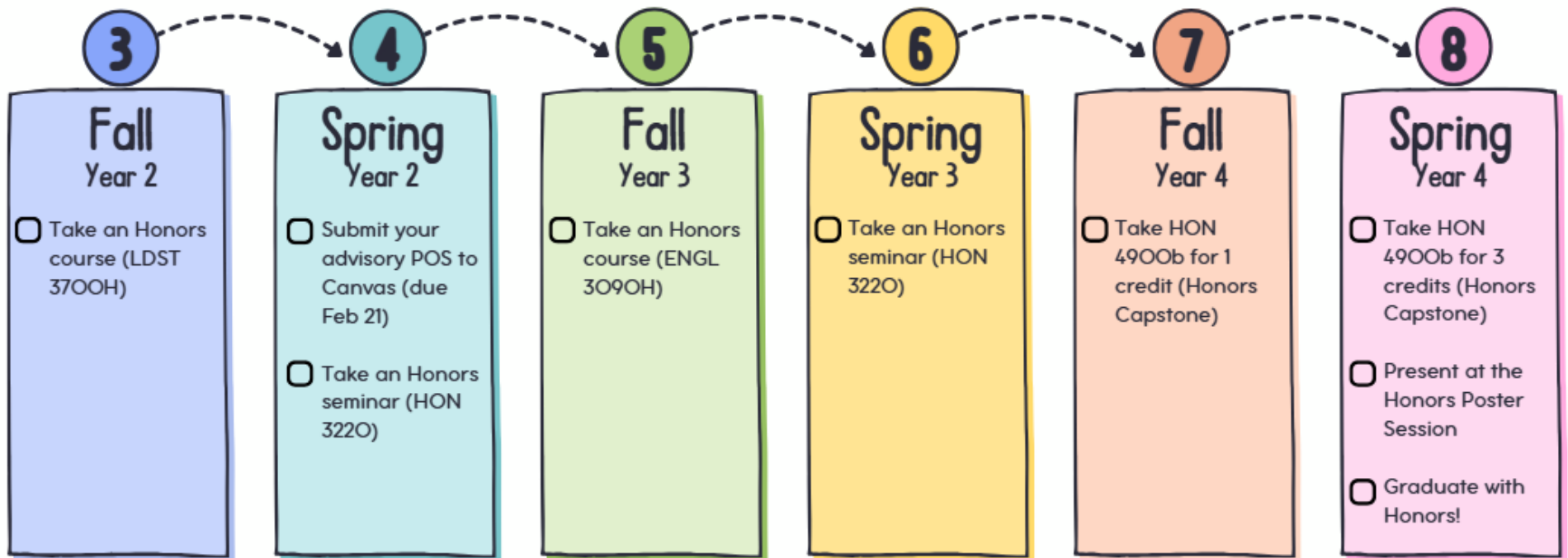
<https://www.honors.iastate.edu/files/documents/2025-11/Innovation%20Track%20Advisory%20Program%20of%20Study-UpdatedNov2025.pdf>

**Please upload your advisory POS the Honors Innovation Pathway Canvas.**

## Common Honors Timeline: Innovation Pathway

2nd - 4th Year at ISU

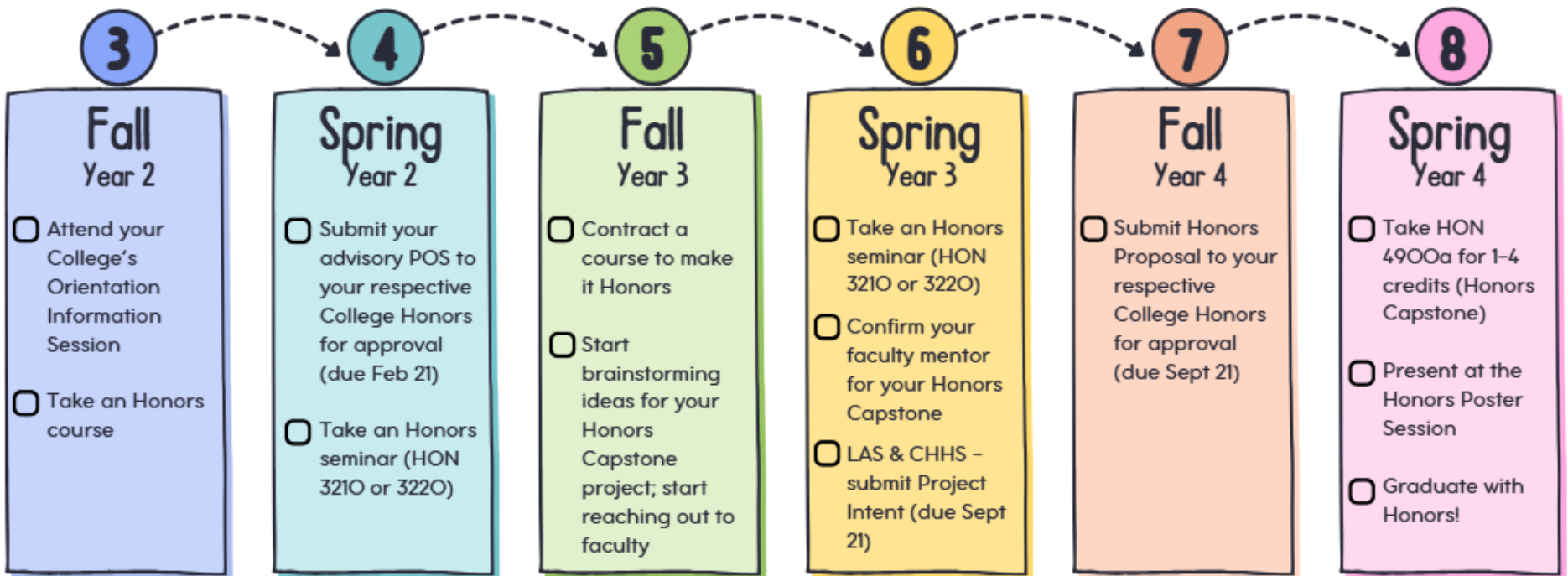
# INNOVATION PATHWAY: A SAMPLE TIMELINE



# Common Honors Timeline: College Pathway

2nd - 4th Year at ISU

## COLLEGE PATHWAY: A SAMPLE TIMELINE



## Opportunities for Honors Involvement

### Honors Salons

Honors Salons are an opportunity to come together with other honors students and learn about the biology of beer, the mathematics of juggling, asteroid deflection, symbolism in Harry Potter, the truths about zombies, completing triathlons, and many other intriguing topics.

- **What:** In the 17th and 18th centuries, a “salon” was an occasion for thinking folks to get together and discuss art, politics, philosophy, and other topics of interest. In Honors, salons are held on Friday afternoons during the Fall semester. Topics are introduced by an expert in the field and then opened for discussion.
- **Who/When:** All honors students are welcome to attend. Salons are held on Friday afternoons during the Fall semester.
- **Where:** Jischke Honors Building Lounge
- **Why:** Learning is fun, even more so when it’s informal and attended with your friends (and not to mention free popcorn). Think of salons as a miniature honors seminar or TED talk.

### Honors Student Board (HSB)

The Honors Student Board (HSB) is the student voice of the University Honors Program and serves as a liaison between honors students and the University Honors Committee. The HSB executive committee plans programs, social events, and intramural events for honors students to enjoy. Favorite HSB events Bagels and Brew, the Ice Cream Social, Spooky Skating, Paper with Puppies, Pizza and Painting, Trivia, and the Honors Ball. All members of the University Honors Program are members of HSB.

Follow HSB on Instagram @hsbatisu

### First-Year Honors Program (FHP) Leaders

Leaders for the First-Year Honors Program work in co-leader teams to facilitate an HON 1210 seminar section. With the supervision and support of the Undergraduate Assistants and University Honors Program staff, leaders plan their section’s syllabus and all activities related to their section. The co-leaders facilitate discussions, plan events, attend lectures, and organize group activities for their section. Leaders also attend the FHP Retreat and assist with various retreat events. All leaders attend training sessions in the Spring semester and attend weekly leaders meetings in the Fall to receive ongoing information, training, and support from the UAs and Honors staff.

## **Undergraduate Assistants (UAs)**

Undergraduate Assistants (UAs) within the University Honors Program work closely with the Honors staff to provide guidance, support, and coordination for the First-Year Honors Program.

Together with the assistant director, the Undergraduate Assistants help to hire, train, and supervise the FHP Leaders, as well as assist with the overall coordination of the First-Year Honors Program, including the First-Year Honors Retreat.

## **Honors Ambassadors**

Ambassadors recruit the next generation of [First-Year Honors Program](#) students and also help out with a variety of honors activities:

- Representing honors in admissions visits.
- Talking with campus visitors at Experience Iowa State Programs.
- Managing events like honors salons, FHP Kickoff, and “Welcome to Honors.”
- Writing (and taking photos for) blog posts.
- Serving as panelists and tour guides for high school students visiting ISU through the OPPTAG program.

Ambassador meetings are held throughout the year and include food! New ambassadors join the group at the beginning of each semester. Are you interested in being an Honors Ambassador? Contact [honors@iastate.edu](mailto:honors@iastate.edu) or submit a completed [Honors Ambassador Application Form](#).

## **Grant Funding**

### **First-Year Honors Mentor Program Grant**

Individual grants up to \$250 or group grants up to \$500 are available to support students who are participating in the First-Year Honors Mentor Program. The grants can be used to cover the cost of research supplies and other expenses throughout their time in the Mentor Program. These requests are made jointly by the student(s) and the mentor. To learn more about the First-Year Honors Mentor Program Grant follow this link:

<https://www.honors.iastate.edu/grant-funding#mentor>

### **Dr. Robert M. Melampy Grant**

Up to \$500 is available to students in Animal Science to help cover project expenses related to the research you are doing within their field of study. Preference will be given to students participating in the First-Year Honors Mentor Program and will be awarded each year for a Spring or Summer term. To learn more about the Dr. Robert M. Melampy Grant follow this link: <https://www.honors.iastate.edu/grant-funding#melampy>

### **University Honors Program Grants**

Up to \$750 can be awarded to offset the cost of materials and other expenses needed to complete your honors capstone project. To learn more about University Honors Program Grants follow this link: <https://www.honors.iastate.edu/grant-funding#uhonors>

### **Stewart Research Award**

Up to \$750 are available to help cover project expenses for your honors capstone and other research projects. Preference for these awards will be given to research that is likely to result in a student-authored or coauthored publication. To learn more about the Stewart Research Award follow this link: <https://www.honors.iastate.edu/grant-funding#stewart>

### **Elizabeth C. Beck Honors Student Enrichment Grant**

Up to \$300 are available to help you cover travel and/or registration expenses to present research at a national conference, or expenses related to the preparation of a manuscript for publication. Preference will be given to students presenting at an academic or professional conference. To learn more about the Elizabeth C. Beck Honors Student Enrichment Grant follow this link: <https://www.honors.iastate.edu/grant-funding#enrichment>

### **Funding for the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)**

#### **Lodging Assistance**

National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR) support for honors students is for lodging assistance only. You are encouraged to seek support for travel assistance

through your research project advisor or the Undergraduate Student Conference Travel Fund.

Applicants must be members of the Honors Program and have been accepted to present at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research. If you are a student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, you are encouraged to apply for conference support through the college. Please apply at [online application](#). The deadline is Wednesday prior to the early registration deadline.

### **Registration Assistance**

Undergraduate Conference Travel Fund Eligibility: Arrangements have been made with the Division of Student Affairs to provide registration assistance for NCUR presenters, regardless of college or discipline. Students attending NCUR should not request additional support (for travel, lodging, or per diems) through this fund unless they are affiliated with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

This funding is for registration only. Students who have already registered will be asked to supply a receipt for reimbursement. Students who have not yet registered can coordinate with Student Affairs staff to do so with no out-of-pocket expense. Submit an [online application](#) at least 2 weeks prior to the conference.

## **Honors and Awards**

### **Outstanding First-Year Honors Program Members**

Every HON 1210 co-leader pair is allowed to nominate one first-year honors student within their section to apply for the Outstanding First-Year Honors Program Member scholarship given out by the University Honors Committee and the Honors Student Board. Four to six winners are chosen annually based upon their current and potential future involvement in the University Honors Program, the recommendation of their former first-year honors seminar leaders, and their academic achievement and involvement so far at Iowa State University. Winners receive a \$250 scholarship which is credited to their tuition and fee charges for the following semester.

### **Outstanding University Honors Program Member**

Each year the Outstanding University Honors Program Scholarship is awarded to an honors member who best articulates how the honors program has furthered or improved their education academically or through co-curricular engagement.

### **Freeman Memorial Scholarship**

The Freeman Memorial Scholarship, created as a memorial to Paul William Freeman, is a one-time award of \$500, open to honors students majoring in Chemical Engineering who are progressing toward completion of their honors degree. Recipients have been involved extensively both on campus and within the University Honors Program.

### **Outstanding Honors Student Board Member**

The \$250 Outstanding Honors Student Board Member Scholarship goes to a member of HSB who, through their participation, made a significant impact in the life of the board. The recipient will not necessarily have been an elected officer but will be someone who has been substantially involved in the board's activities. The student must have been active with the board for at least two years. Other involvement in the University Honors Program will also be considered.

### **W. Robert Parks Honors Commendations**

Each year the W. Robert Parks Honors Commendations are awarded to a faculty member, a friend, and a student associated with the University Honors Program. Honors students nominate individuals in each of the three categories who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to the Honors Program. The Honors Student Board (HSB) then selects the recipients.

### **Teaching and Mentor Awards**

In order to recognize Iowa State faculty and staff who support Honors at Iowa State, the University Honors Program gives two annual awards of \$500 for outstanding honors teaching, advising, or mentoring. Each year's recipients will be recognized at the University

Honors Program Convocation. The criterion for these awards is general excellence in teaching of honors courses, seminars, or other courses taught for honors credit; or in the mentoring of Honors students through academic advising, advising of honors projects, and mentoring of students in the First-Year Honors/Mentor Research Program. Anyone who has taught or mentored in the University Honors Program at least once is eligible to apply.

Letters nominating candidates for these awards (including self-nominations) supporting materials such as syllabi or student letters, may be delivered to the University Honors Program Office, 2130 Jischke Honors Building. The University Honors Committee will evaluate the nominations.

### **Lynn and Carol Glass Scholarship**

Each year the Lynn and Carol Glass Scholarship awards funding to honors students with demonstrated financial need. Recipients must have junior or senior classification. Applications should be submitted through ISU's OneApp.