

# Honor Scholar Program Student Handbook

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**Contents:** Welcome to the Honor Scholar Student Handbook. This Handbook has been designed to guide you through your four years as an Honor Scholar student. For a complete listing of the semester course offerings, please visit the Course Descriptions page.

**History:** The Honor Scholar Program was founded in 1979 by Robert E. Calvert.

## Rationale for the Program:

The Honor Scholar Program attempts to incorporate the quintessential values of a liberal education: a community of scholars who come together to read important and challenging classic and contemporary works which range broadly in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences; who are interested in sharing their thinking with colleagues in a small seminar setting with interdisciplinary contexts; and who engage in intensive writing which culminates in the preparation and defense of a senior thesis in their fields of specialization.

More broadly, the program seeks to enhance the quality of the DePauw community's liberal experience by fostering habits of serious scholarly pursuit and by the example and contributions of its individual participants in the broader intellectual activities and academic life of the community.

## Program Requirements:

There are three components to the Honor Scholar Program: the freshman seminars, the advanced area seminars, and the thesis. Listed in the order they are to be taken, they are:

1. HONR 101 and 102: A first-year seminar, each semester, examining a variety of themes in the humanities, and the social and natural sciences, which include intensive discussion and writing as an integral part of the work. The course work satisfies appropriate graduation distribution credits, writing competency requirements, and graduation credits. More specifically, the freshman seminar

satisfies the W-requirement and replaces the freshman seminar otherwise required of all first-year students. These courses may also count for group credit.

2. HONR 300A, 300B, and 300C: Three semester-long advanced area-seminars concentrating respectively on the historical and philosophical foundations of the humanities, sciences, and social sciences. These courses satisfy other appropriate distribution and competency requirements. Specifically, the Humanities Seminar, HONR 300A, is considered to be in Group 3: Literature and the Arts. The Science Seminar, 300B, is a part of Group 1: Natural Sciences and Mathematics. The Social Sciences Seminar, 300C, is a part of Group 2: Social and Behavioral Sciences. Two sections are ordinarily taken during the sophomore year and one section during the junior year.
3. HONR 401 and 402: A senior thesis, incorporating two semesters of independent work carried out under the tutelage of a faculty mentor in the student's field of specialization, and defended before an Honor Scholar committee made up of faculty from the program and from related disciplines. If an Honor Scholar has a scheduling conflict, HONR401/402 may be taken as an overload with no fee, with the approval of the Honor Scholar Director and in consultation with the senior's Honor Scholar thesis advisor. Topics of interdisciplinary interest are encouraged. Thesis requirements include participation in the Senior Thesis Poster Presentation Night and the Thesis Proposal Meeting in the fall semester as well as the defense in the spring semester. There are guidelines for both analytical and creative theses, which seek to acknowledge and establish criteria for these two different approaches.

For a complete description of general graduation requirements, please see "Graduation Requirements" in the DePauw Catalog.

Each of these three parts of the Program will be described in further detail below. Please keep in mind that course offerings may, and usually will, vary depending upon the year.

## **Grade Requirements:**

In order to ensure a student's continuing success in all aspects of his or her college career, the Honor Scholar Program requires that a GPA of 3.0 be maintained in all Honor Scholar Seminars as well as within the major(s). In the case that the GPA should fall below 3.0 in either of these two areas, the student will be notified that he or she is on probation from the Program. A GPA below the 3.0 mark after the probationary period will lead to withdrawal from the Program.

## **Books and Other Course Materials:**

The Honor Scholar Program will provide each student with a \$100 book stipend for each Honor Scholar Class, to be distributed after the drop/add registration period. The funds

are designed to support the purchase of any books or other materials (films, equipment) required for the course. The \$100 book stipend applies to all Honor Scholar courses, First Year 100-level Seminars as well as 300-level Area Seminars.

## **Hoscho Happenings:**

Each semester, the Honor Scholar Program will sponsor 3 or 4 “Hoscho Happenings” which seek to engage students in a socio-cultural activity of interest and consequence. Students are invited to see a play, screen a film, attend a lecture or public program event (such as the Senior Thesis Poster Presentation Night) in an effort to promote discussion of the matter at hand and related issues either on campus or in the world at large.

## **Faculty:**

The Honor Scholar faculty is chosen to participate in the Program based upon the proposals they submit and the needs of the Program as determined by the Honor Scholar committee. Members of all disciplines are encouraged to share their expertise and enthusiasm with the Program. Students may submit the name of a faculty member they feel should be considered to teach in the Program.

The Honor Scholar Executive Committee is composed of the Honor Scholar administration and any faculty who is currently teaching in the program (teaching faculty) for the academic year. Professors who have taught in the program in recent (past three) years (Emeriti Faculty) are also invited to serve. Occasionally, a faculty member who will be teaching in the program in the near future will be invited as well.

## **Withdrawing from the Program:**

Because not all students will find themselves well-adapted to the rigors of the Program while others may find that the Program is not meeting their individual academic needs or interests it is clear that not all students will wish to complete the Honor Scholar Program.

To withdraw from the Program, students should initiate a meeting with the current director of the Program or with an Honor Scholar Faculty member with whom they feel comfortable. After discussing their particular situation with the appropriate person, students who wish to withdraw from the program will be asked to write a brief letter of resignation to the director of the Program. The letters are helpful in that they allow us to attempt to improve areas of concern as discerned by those withdrawing from the Program.

## **Recognition for Completion of the Program:**

In order to graduate from the Program as an Honor Scholar, all program seminars must be taken and the thesis and thesis defense must be awarded a satisfactory grade. Upon graduation from the University, the Honor Scholar's name will be listed in the official graduation program as an Honor Scholar. Furthermore, as mentioned earlier, the grade of the thesis, its title, and the name of the professor who advised the thesis will be listed on the Honor Scholar's official University transcript. The student will also be given golden cords to be worn at graduation to signify his or her status as an Honor Scholar.