

## The Honors College

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### Explore, Engage, Excel

The Honors College is a small community of dedicated scholars—outstanding students and committed teachers—who work together in an atmosphere usually associated with small private colleges, but with all of the resources of a major state university.

The mission of the Honors College is to create an intellectual community where outstanding students and faculty engage in innovative, interdisciplinary, and international learning. This community is committed to excellence in all endeavors, academic and personal honor, innovative pedagogy and research, and respect for self and other.

The Honors College at FIU offers the very best in undergraduate education and preparation, providing the best possible foundation for academic, social, and professional development. Students' undergraduate experiences are significantly enhanced by the interdisciplinary focus of the curriculum and the opportunity to work closely with top faculty from a wide variety of academic departments and schools. An emphasis on civic engagement and community involvement (including, but not limited to, the College's extensive partnership with the City of Sweetwater) expands students' leadership skills and builds community. Advance research, internship, professional development opportunities unique to the College prepare students for future graduate study and employment.

### Location

The Honors College operates at both Modesto A. Maidique Campus in DM 233 and the Biscayne Bay Campus in ACI 200.

### Admissions Policy

Admission to The Honors College is selective and limited. Students are admitted only at the beginning of each academic year (fall term).

**Freshmen:** Students with a 3.5 weighted high school GPA and commensurate scores on the SAT or ACT are eligible for admission to the College.

**Transfer and Continuing FIU Students:** Students who have maintained a 3.3 GPA in all college-level work are eligible for admission to the College. To be considered for admission, students must be able to complete at least 12 credits of Honors before graduating.

### Academic Policy

Students are required to maintain a cumulative 3.3 GPA for satisfactory standing in the Honors College.

### Graduation Policy

Students are eligible for the transcript notation "*Graduated through The Honors College*" if they have met the following criteria:

- completed all major and degree requirements for graduation from the University;
- were continuously enrolled in Honors seminar courses until the semester of graduation or the completion of the Honors College curriculum (whichever comes first);
- completed a minimum of six credits of Honors courses per year of enrollment in the College;
- maintained an overall minimum FIU GPA of 3.3;
- completed Honors Citizenship and Portfolio requirements.

### Honor Policy

In the Honors College, the term "honor" refers to both academic achievement and character. Students in the College should therefore adhere to and will be held to the highest standards of personal accountability. Students whose behavior brings discredit upon themselves and/or the College or who commit acts of academic misconduct will be dismissed from the College.

For more information on additional Honors College policies, please visit <http://honors.fiu.edu>.

### The Honors Curriculum

Students in the College possess dual academic citizenship. They pursue any major available in the University and at the same time complete the Honors curriculum. In most cases, participation in the College does not increase the number of credits required for graduation. All 12 credits of the first two years of Honors seminars satisfy UCC requirements. Each year students enroll in one honors seminar that is designed to stimulate thoughtful discussion and creativity and to develop communication skills. Honors seminars are limited to a student/faculty ratio of approximately 20:1 and are taught by some of the best professors in the University. In the third and fourth years, students may choose from several options including additional seminars, independent research, and foreign study.

Many classes are team-taught; all are interdisciplinary. Years one and two at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus are structured similarly: students and faculty meet in a large group session one day a week for lectures, panel discussions, case studies, student presentations, films, and special events; the other class meeting each week is spent in small group discussion sessions. At the Biscayne Bay Campus, classes meet as small seminars. The third and fourth years provide a choice of individually taught seminars, an extended research project, and/or opportunities to study abroad.

The Honors program specifically helps students to develop the following competencies:

1. **Research Skill** - Honors College students will learn the principles of conducting academic research,

- logical analysis and synthesis, and be able to communicate results fluently orally and in writing.
2. **Interdisciplinarity and Connectivity** - Students will learn to apply ideas, methods, and knowledge from multiple disciplines to a question, recognize connections among things learned inside and outside the classroom, comprehend the complexity of important questions, and contextualize ideas, knowledge, information, and experiences.
  3. **Global Learning** - Students will understand the interconnectedness and interdependence of global systems and issues; the historical, cultural, economic, and political forces that shape societies; and the nature and substance of various cultures.
  4. **Appreciation of the Creative Arts** - Students will learn to articulate the importance of cultural artifacts and their production and to integrate knowledge and appreciation of the arts into their exploration of important questions and issues.
  5. **Leadership and Community Engagement** - Students will develop awareness and application of ethical principles, assume leadership roles in the classroom, organization(s), and/or the larger community, and participate in activities that contribute to the common good.

#### Year One

**IDH 1001, IDH 1002 The Origin of Ideas and the Idea of Origins (6).** The course is designed to encourage students to become self-conscious learners, exploring not only the what, but also the how and why of knowing. The course focuses on the nature of truth and reality and our role in the world each of us has constructed.

**SLS 1501 Honors First Year Experience (1).** This required fall semester course participates in the university's FYE program, but with enhanced research training for Honors students.

**IDH 1931 Honors Leadership Seminar (1).** This required spring semester course helps students identify their strengths and build them into leadership skills.

#### Year Two

**IDH 2003, IDH 2004 Inhabiting Other Lives (6).** This seminar exposes students to issues of human commonality and diversity, and invites them to investigate and to understand the interconnectedness of various cultures, times and life experiences.

#### Year Three

**IDH 3034, IDH 3035 Aesthetics, Values, and Authority (6).** These seminars build on the work of the first two years and allow students to work in depth on a problem or subject of personal interest or professional relevance.

#### Year Four

##### Prerequisites

1. 3.0 GPA in prior honors course work; and
2. A cumulative GPA of at least 3.3.

##### Option 1

**IDH 4007, IDH 4008 Aesthetics, Values, and Authority (6).** Students may opt to take a second upper-division seminar course to complete their Honors requirements.

##### Option 2

**Departmental Honors Thesis**—Honors course work or honors thesis opportunities offered by individual departments will be accepted to satisfy the fourth-year requirement, with the proviso that students register their project with ARCH (see below) and present their work at the ARCH conference in spring.

##### Option 3

**ARCH Research Project**—Students may register for an individually mentored, in-depth research project under the direction of a faculty member with matching interests. The ARCH program engages students in advanced research or artistic projects by pairing students and faculty for cutting edge research. Students must present their research at the annual undergraduate research conference that is the culmination of the program.

##### Option 4

##### Honors College Study Abroad

Students may choose to complete the fourth year of the honors curriculum through one of the College's study abroad programs during the summer. Students take a three-credit preparatory course in the spring semester before traveling abroad. In the summer, the student will earn the remaining three credits of Honors. See [http://honors.fiu.edu/study\\_abrd\\_programs.htm](http://honors.fiu.edu/study_abrd_programs.htm) for a list of current programs.

##### Honors Place

Voted "Best Living and Learning Community" in the state of Florida by Florida Leader magazine, Honors Place is a close-knit and welcoming community of Honors College students who live and learn together. Honors College students who would like to live on campus may choose from three options: Honors Place in Lakeview Hall at Modesto A. Maidique Campus (for first-year Honors students); Honors Place on the Bay at Biscayne Bay Campus (for all Honors students), or Honors Place in Everglades Hall at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus (for Honors students sophomore level and above).

For more information on how to be a part of Honors Place, visit

[http://honors.fiu.edu/slfe\\_honorsplace.html](http://honors.fiu.edu/slfe_honorsplace.html)

##### Student Information Technology Centers

Student information technology centers are located in the Honors College offices on both the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campuses. Honors students may use the computers and printers or study in the lounge areas. Honors also maintains a study room in the Green Library on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and carrels in the libraries on both campuses.

##### Student Organizations

Gamma Epsilon Phi at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and Tau Sigma Alpha on the Biscayne Bay Campus move the Honors experience beyond the classroom by organizing social and cultural activities and community service projects. The societies provide community and opportunities for leadership development. Other student groups include MUSE (student-student mentoring), HOW (Helping Our World), and the Honors Leadership Council.

## Mentoring

Mentoring is an important component of the Honors College experience. A close mentoring relationship with a faculty/staff member or community leader can facilitate and enhance the educational or professional experience. Mentoring in the Honors College is multi-faceted. Through ARCH, students develop a close, one-on-one relationship with a research professor. The student-led Mentoring Undergraduate Students for Excellence (MUSE) program pairs entering freshman with an upper-class student mentor. The Student Program Coordinator works with students to develop leadership skills, community service programs, sites for internships and part-time jobs, and college and employment recruitment opportunities. Corporate and community partners also offer unique mentoring for selected students.

## Graduate and Professional School

The Honors College has special relationships with the university's professional schools that offer students unique opportunities: a 3+3 program with the College of Law allows eligible students to begin law school in lieu of their fourth year of undergraduate study, and the College of Medicine guarantees Honors College graduates a personal interview for admission, subject to minimum eligibility requirements.

## Other Privileges

Because of the special nature of their contribution to the university, Honors College students enjoy other privileges as well, including

- Priority registration
- "Graduated through the Honors College" on the transcript
- Library privileges as graduate students
- Honors-only scholarships
- Participation in community partnerships for service learning and engagement
- Supplemental funding to present at conferences
- Internships and mentoring
- Special recognition at commencement ceremonies

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## Course Descriptions

### Definition of Prefixes

IDH – Interdisciplinary Honors

**IDH 1001 Honors Seminar I (3).** Focuses on origins and the various interpretations by the different disciplines, including the roles of technology, science, humanities, and social science. Prerequisite: Admission to Honors Program.

**IDH 1002 Honors Seminar II: The Origin of Ideas and the Idea of Origins (3).** The course is designed to explore not only the what, but also the how and why of knowing. Focuses on the nature of truth and reality and our role in the world each of us has constructed. Prerequisites: Enrollment in the Honors College and IDH 1001.

**IDH 1931 Honors Leadership Seminar (1).** An introduction to principles of leadership necessary for advancement within the institution and beyond graduation. Prerequisite: SLS 1501. Corequisite: IDH 1002.

**IDH 2003 Honors Seminar III (3).** The first of a two semester sequence, examining cultural commonalities and differences from an interdisciplinary perspective. Prerequisite: Admission to Honors Program.

**IDH 2004 Honors Seminar IV (3).** A continuation of Seminar III, this course is an interdisciplinary examination of other cultures and multicultural societies. Includes directed individual research projects. Prerequisite: Admission to Honors Program.

**IDH 2910 Honors Independent Study (3-6).** Directed Independent Study from an interdisciplinary perspective. Prerequisite: Admission to Honors College.

**IDH 2910L Research/Lab Experience (1).** Laboratory research experience in conjunction with the Honors College FIU/USF Medical Education Program.

**IDH 3034 Honors Seminar V (3).** The first of a two course sequence, this course examines the aesthetic underpinnings of culture, the foundations of what are commonly held as western values, and the power relationships that surround them. Prerequisite: Admission to Honors Program.

**IDH 3035 Honors Seminar VI (3).** A continuation of Honors Seminar V, this course examines the interplay of various sources of authority in society and our system of values and aesthetics. Includes directed individual research projects. Prerequisite: Admission to Honors Program.

**IDH 3125 Amazon Seminar: Environment, People and Opportunity on the Last Frontier (1).** Introduction to the geological, ecological and human history of the Amazon; survey of its biodiversity, and review of current challenges facing the environment and its people.

**IDH 3910 Honors Independent Study (3-6).** Directed Independent Study from an interdisciplinary perspective. Prerequisite: Admission to the Honors College.

**IDH 3940 Honors College Internship (1-6).** Structured practical training and work experience in programs to which students have access as Honors College students. Prerequisite: Admission to The Honors College.

**IDH 3955 Research Techniques: Applying Interdisciplinary Research in the Amazon (2).** Interdisciplinary research of the Amazon with faculty guided development of student research proposal. Projects will be implemented in a study abroad course on the Peruvian Amazon during the summer. Prerequisite: IDH 3125.

**IDH 4007 Honors Seminar VII (3).** The first of a two semester sequence, this course is an interdisciplinary examination of expectations for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Prerequisite: Admission to Honors Program.

**IDH 4008 Honors Seminar VIII (3).** The second of a two semester sequence, this course is an interdisciplinary examination of expectations for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Prerequisite: Admission to Honors Program.

**IDH 4460 Ethnic Groups of Spain (3).** Transdisciplinary view of Spain's ethnic composition. Includes analysis of origin, geographical distribution, migration patterns, mix, social status, and economic and political power.

**IDH 4461 Fauna and Flora of Spain (3).** Survey of representative animal and plant species of Spain. Includes geographical distribution, characteristics and lifestyles, role in ecological balance, economic use, and prospects.

**IDH 4462 The Arts in Spain (3).** Survey of Spanish artists and schools in painting, sculpture, music, literature, theater, and cinematography from antiquity to the present.

**IDH 4463 Spain and the European Union (3).** Transdisciplinary view of the incorporation process. Includes economic, social, political, legal, and administrative aspects.

**IDH 4464 Current Honors Topics on Spain (3).** Transdisciplinary view of topics of current interest on Spain. Topics vary from one semester to another.

**IDH 4905 Honors Independent Study (0-6).** Directed independent study from an interdisciplinary perspective. Prerequisite: Admission to Honors Program.

## Fellows of the Honors College

**Alonso, Irma, T., Ph.D.** (*University of York, England*),  
*Economics*

**Alvarez, Daniel, M.A.** (*Harvard University*), *Religious Studies*

**Baez, Benjamin, Ph.D.** (*Syracuse University*), *Higher Education*

**Bailey, Regina, M.F.A.** (*Pratt Institute*), *Art*

**Bailly, John, M.F.A.** (*Yale University*), *Painting and Printmaking*

**Barantovich, Martha, Ed.D.** (*Florida International University*), *Leadership and Professional Studies*

**Bauman, Whitney, Ph.D.** (*Graduate Theological Union*),  
*Theology and Religious Studies*

**Becker, David, Ph.D.** (*M.I.T.*), *Chemistry*

**Beesting, William, K., Ph.D.** (*Florida State University*),  
*English*

**Blevens, Frederick, Ph.D.** (*University of Missouri*), *Journalism and Mass Communication*

**Calloway, Jason, M.M.** (*The Julliard School*), *Cello-Performance*

**Castells, Ricardo, Ph.D.** (*Duke University*), *Romance Languages*

**Davies, Gwyn, Ph.D.** (*University College, London*),  
*History*

**Espinosa, Juan Carlos, Ph.D.** (*University of Miami*),  
*International Studies*

**Fain, Stephen M., Ed.D.** (*Columbia University*),  
*Leadership and Professional Studies*

**Fingerhut, H. Scott, JD** (*Emory University*), *Law*

**Garrote, Ruben, M.A.** (*Florida International University*), *Religious Studies and Philosophy*

**Gerstman, Bernard, S., Ph.D.** (*Princeton University*),  
*Physics*

**Graham, Devon, Ph.D.** (*University of Miami*), *Biology*

**Gutierrez-Boronat, Orlando, Ph.D.** (*University of Miami*),  
*International Studies*

**Hanly, Elizabeth, M.A.** (*Columbia University*), *Journalism and Mass Communication*

**Hayes, Christyno L., JD** (*University of North Carolina*),  
*Law*

**Hoder-Salmon, Marilyn, Ph.D.** (*University of New Mexico*), *English*

**Javadzadeh, Abdolrahim, Ph.D.** (*Florida International University*), *Sociology*

**Kass, Scott, M.S.** (*Florida State University*), *Library Science, English Literature*

**Klotz, Michael, M.M.** (*The Julliard School*), *Violin and Viola Performance*

**Lichter, Joseph, Ph.D.** (*Emory*), *Chemistry*

**Littley, Marcia, B.M.** (*The Julliard School*), *Violin-Performance*

**Machonis, Peter, A., Ph.D.** (*Pennsylvania State University*), *Modern Languages*

**Markowitz, Pete, E. C., Ph.D.** (*College of William and Mary*), *Physics*

**McGoron, Anthony J., Ph.D.** (*Louisiana Tech University*),  
*Biomedical Engineering*

**Northup, Lesley, A., Ph.D.** (*Catholic University*),  
*Religious Studies*

**Peterson, Brian, Ph.D.** (*University of Wisconsin, Madison*), *History*

**Pfeiffer, Mary Lou, LL.M.** (*St. Thomas University*),

**Human Rights Law, M.A.** (*Florida International University*),

*Religious Studies*

**Pyron, Darden, Ph.D.** (*University of Virginia*), *History*

**Riach, James, Ph.D.** (*University of Georgia*),  
*Anthropology*

**Schwartz, Bennett L., Ph.D.** (*Dartmouth College*),  
*Psychology*

**Tsalikis, John, Ph.D.** (*University of Mississippi*),  
*Marketing*

**Valle-Riestra, Diana, Ph.D.** (*University of Miami*), *Special Education*

**Vitenson, Misha, M.M.** (*The Julliard School*), *Violin Performance*

**Watts, Barbara J., Ph.D.** (*University of Virginia*), *Art History*