Honors Program
In the Division of Undergraduate Studies

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General Information

The University Honors Program provides a broad academic foundation for SDSU's most academically engaged undergraduate students. Honors students are exposed to subjects in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. The objective of the program is to provide the richest possible intellectual experience by helping students become conversant in multiple disciplines, think flexibly, solve problems and pursue the creative expression of ideas. Building upon the university's commitment to educate students for a global world, the University Honors Program provides a distinctive learning community for students who seek creative, innovative and responsible ways to understand and engage the international community.

The University Honors Program courses are small, discussion-based, and rigorous. The program also helps students become engaged in intellectual co-curricular activities, undergraduate research and study abroad. Students may receive special travel assistance from the University Honors Program to present research and study abroad. Students may engage in intellectual co-curricular activities, undergraduate research and study abroad. Students may receive credit for taking departmentally-based honors courses, including the senior thesis.

Admission to the Program

The application deadline for students is February 1. For entering first year students, eligibility for acceptance into the University Honors Program is determined by several factors, including SAT score (a combined score for verbal and mathematics of 1200 or above) or ACT score (a composite score of 28 or above), or high school GPA (3.7 or above), and thoughtful completion of the application essays. For continuing and transfer students, eligibility is determined according to collegiate GPA (3.5 or above) and quality of the application essays. Once admitted to the University Honors Program, students must maintain at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA and earn a 3.0 or higher in all honors courses. For additional information and to download the application, interested students should consult the website at http://www.sdsu.edu/honors.

Key Features of the Curriculum

Study Abroad. All University Honors Program students are required to complete a credit-bearing study abroad experience. The Honors Program recognizes that students may have limited time and/or resources to engage in study abroad. To accommodate students' needs, a combination of short-term and long-term options is available to students. To meet the study abroad requirement, students may choose either short-term study tours, summer abroad programs, semester-long, or year-long exchanges. See the Honors Adviser to make arrangements to meet this requirement.

Honors Senior Capstone: Thesis or Portfolio. The University Honors Program is committed to developing a community of undergraduate scholars and promotes research opportunities for highly motivated undergraduate students. All honors students must work with a faculty member to complete a thesis or an honors portfolio during their senior year.

Departmental Honors Programs. The University Honors Program supports students who are active in their departmental honors programs. Students may receive credit for taking departmentally-based honors courses, including the senior thesis.

Honors Minor in Interdisciplinary Studies

(Minor Code: 49993) (SIMS Code: 888001)

The Honors Minor in Interdisciplinary Studies consists of 19 units of honors program interdisciplinary seminars and honors program general education courses, to include seven lower division and 12 upper division units. Students are required to complete an honors thesis or portfolio during their senior year. Students must be admitted to the University Honors Program at the time they declare the minor. Students not enrolled in the University Honors Program may take courses in the minor if they have consent of the instructor and approval from the honors program director.

Preparation for the Honors Minor (7 units), Honors Program 100, 275, and three units selected from Honors Program 275 or honors sections of general education courses (English 220; Humanities 140; Philosophy 101, 102; Religious Studies 101, 103; Sociology 101, 102).

Upper Division for the Honors Minor (12 units), Honors Program 413; 490B or 490C; and six units selected from honors program seminars or honors sections of general education courses (an additional three units of Honors Program 413, 450, 490A; Anthropology 402; Chemistry 300; Counseling and School Psychology 420; General Studies 410, 450; Humanities 370; International Security and Conflict Resolution 310; Linguistics 356; Philosophy 329, 340; Psychology 340; Religious Studies 353, 363, 376; Sociology 320, 352).

Courses in the major department or required for the major may not be used to satisfy requirements for the minor. A minimum of six upper division units must be completed in residence at San Diego State University.

Study Abroad Requirement. All Honors Minor in Interdisciplinary Studies students are required to complete a credit-bearing study abroad experience. To meet this requirement, minors must complete one of the following:

1. An SDSU Study Abroad Program;
2. An SDSU Exchange Program;
3. An SDSU Study Travel Program;
4. A CSU Study Abroad Program;
5. General Studies 450;
6. Honors Program 450.
Courses (HONOR)

Refer to Courses and Curricula and University Policies sections of this catalog for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

LOWER DIVISION COURSES

HONOR 100. Introduction to Honors (1)
Ways to integrate learning and experiences to enrich college experience. Leadership, community service, research and creative arts, scholarship and fellowships, and study abroad opportunities.

HONOR 275. Seminar in Interdisciplinary Studies (3)
Analysis of various disciplines and topics in workplace and societal settings. Integration of a variety of schools of thought and value of interdisciplinary outlook. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit six units. See Class Schedule for specific content.

HONOR 296. Honors Experimental Topics (1-4)
Selected topics. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor’s degree.

HONOR 299. Special Study (1-3)
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Individual study. A maximum combined credit of nine units of 299, 499 courses applicable to a bachelor’s degree.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES

(Intended for Undergraduates)

HONOR 413. Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Social Problems (3) [GE]
Various social problems from interdisciplinary perspectives. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units of which three units may be applicable to General Education.

HONOR 450. Honors Study Abroad (3)
Prerequisite: Upper division standing. Life and culture in a selected international setting through an approved study abroad program sponsored by the University Honors Program. Maximum credit six units.

HONOR 490A. Senior Seminar: Thesis Development (3)
Prerequisites: Admission to the Honors Program, senior standing, and completion of at least 12 units of honors courses. Conventions of scholarly writing as appropriate for the honors thesis. Analysis of specific disciplinary texts. Defining questions, drafting, and revising manuscripts.

HONOR 490B. Honors Senior Thesis (3)
Prerequisites: Admission to the Honors Program, senior standing, and completion of at least 12 units of honors courses. Conventions of scholarly writing as appropriate for the honors thesis. Analysis of specific disciplinary texts. Defining questions, drafting, and revising manuscripts.

HONOR 490C. Honors Senior Portfolio (3)
Prerequisites: Admission to the Honors Program, senior standing, and completion of at least 12 units of honors courses. Honors capstone culminating experience. Synthesis of personal and academic growth, and integration of major field of study with honors program curriculum.

HONOR 496. Experimental Topics (1-4)
Selected topics. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor’s degree.

HONOR 499. Special Study (1-3)
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Individual study. A maximum combined credit of nine units of 299, 499 courses applicable to a bachelor’s degree. Maximum credit of six units of 499 applicable to a bachelor’s degree.