
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 at regional and national conferences and are eligible for a variety of scholarships awarded through the University Honors Program (including a study abroad scholarship).

San Diego State University rewards completion of the University Honors Program requirements with recognition at commencement (name and thesis title is included in the convocation program), a special transcript annotation, a University Honors Program graduation banquet and a University Honors Program certificate as a supplement to the diploma. The University Honors Program also provides a special honors medallion to its graduates, especially suited for wearing at commencement.

Admission to the Program

The application deadline for entering first year 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 entry essay. For continuing and transfer students, eligibility is determined according to collegiate GPA (3.25 or above) and quality of the entry essay. Applicants that are close to meeting these quantitative criteria and who also evidence intellectual curiosity should still apply. 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 Web site at <http://www.sdsu.edu/honors>.

Curriculum

Study Abroad. All University Honors Program students are required to complete a 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 Thesis/Project. The program is committed to developing a community of undergraduate scholars and promotes research opportunities for highly motivated undergraduate students. All honors students must complete a major piece of original research or creative work with a faculty member.

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.

Courses (HONOR)

Refer to Curricula and Courses 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 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)

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor.

Individual study. Limit of six units of any combination of 299, 499 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES (Intended for Undergraduates)

HONOR 413. Multicultural Aspects of Social Institutions (3) [GE]

Prerequisites: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Various social institutions from multicultural and interdisciplinary perspectives. (Formerly numbered General Studies 413.)

HONOR 490A. Senior Seminar: Thesis/Project Development (3)

Prerequisites: Completion of the honors program required course sequence.

Conventions of scholarly writing as appropriate for the honors thesis. Analysis of specific disciplinary texts. Defining questions, drafting, and revising manuscripts. (Formerly numbered General Studies 490A.)

HONOR 490B. Honors Senior Thesis (3)

Prerequisites: Honors Program 490A with grade of C or higher.

Conventions of scholarly writing as appropriate for the honors thesis. Analysis of specific disciplinary texts. Defining questions, drafting, and revising manuscripts. (Formerly numbered General Studies 490B.)

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)

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor.

Individual study. Limit of six units of any combination of 299, 499 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree.