

# UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

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[www.msubillings.edu/honors/](http://www.msubillings.edu/honors/) (<http://www.msubillings.edu/honors/>)

Established in 1997, the Honors Program at Montana State University Billings provides an enhanced and supportive learning environment responsive to the educational needs of exceptionally motivated undergraduate students. This goal is accomplished through the guidance of faculty noted for excellence in teaching who offer small Honors sections of regular courses, interdisciplinary colloquia, special seminars, and increased opportunities for undergraduate research and creative endeavors. Students are challenged and supported in their efforts to take full advantage of their intellectual and personal talents. Membership is open to undergraduate students from all majors seeking enriched learning, cultural awareness, and fellowship. The program fosters an affordable small college experience while benefiting from the University's size and many degree options. As a community of scholars, faculty work enthusiastically to help students achieve the following goals.

## Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Develop abilities in self-expression, critical thinking, information gathering, and problem solving through lively class discussions.
- Gain skills necessary to investigate problems and conduct research.
- Foster a creative mindset.
- Acquire a competitive advantage for scholarships, graduate admissions, and career-building jobs.

## The Program

The program is overseen by faculty members on the Honors Council. Students may serve the program as members of the Student Advisory Board, which selects a representative for the Council. The Board also supports the program by enriching a sense of community so that social activities—such as service learning, outdoor excursions, and other special events—can increasingly flourish.

The University Honors Program is designed so that many courses contribute to satisfying General Education and programmatic requirements. Students who graduate with a cumulative 3.0 GPA can earn the University Honors transcript designation upon graduation in one of two ways:

- University Honors Scholar—Earn at least 21 credits with a GPA of at least 3.0 in Honors courses (including 9 credits in upper-division courses)
- University Honors Graduate—Enter the Honors Program with 45 University credits earned and earn at least 15 credits with a GPA of at least 3.0 in Honors courses, including HONR 499.

Students completing one of these two options will have their official transcripts notated: **University Honors Scholar: General Honors** or **University Honors Graduate: General Honors**.

At the heart of the Honors curriculum are courses that examine significant original texts in terms of their historical and cultural backgrounds. Honors courses are frequently offered in history, political science, integrated science, education, law and society, social science, communications, economics, and other areas.

Consult the University Honors Program website at [www.msubillings.edu/honors](http://www.msubillings.edu/honors) (<http://www.msubillings.edu/honors/>) or contact the Director for specific courses scheduled in the current semester.

For acceptance into the University Honors Program, incoming freshmen must satisfy at least one of these requirements:

- have a high school GPA of at least 3.5.
- be in the upper fifth of the student's graduating class.
- have a composite ACT score of 26 or better.
- have a Chancellor's Scholarship.
- be supported by a letter from a high school teacher attesting that the student has the intellectual motivation that is expected of an honors student.

Those students who have completed at least 15 credits of higher education may be admitted to Honors courses by having one the following:

- a letter of recommendation from a university faculty member.
- a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0.

Students who earn a grade of "B" or higher in an Honors course are also eligible for admission to the program.

To learn more about what we can offer you, please contact the Director of the University Honors Program by phone at (406) 657-2908 or by email at [honors@msubillings.edu](mailto:honors@msubillings.edu).

## Interdisciplinary Honors Minor

The Interdisciplinary Honors Minor consists of 21 honors credits, including 2 required courses, and a minor portfolio that represents student experience in the minor. **At least 9 credits must be 300-level or higher.**

## Required Courses

Code	Title	Credits
HONR 111 or HONR 311	Perspectives and Understanding Adv Perspectives and Understanding	3
HONR 499	Honors Capstone	3
Elective honors credits (see below)		15
<b>Total Minimum Credits</b>		<b>21</b>

Choose the 15 elective honors credits from:

- honors sections of General Education courses,
- HONR special topic seminars,
- specially designated departmental seminars,
- honors contracts,
- honors independent study courses, and
- internships.

A department capstone that contains the following elements may be substituted for honors capstone:

- original research or creative scholarship,
- written interpretation or analysis, and
- public presentation or a defense.

## The Minor Portfolio

After completing the minor courses, students work with their faculty advisors to compile a minor portfolio that represents their learning experience in the minor. Typically, it will include samples of student work and a brief essay focusing on the

ways in which their work has contributed to their learning experience at MSUB and toward their career objectives.