

UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM & MINOR

Dr. Jana Marcette, Director

COE 297 (406) 657-2908

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

Established in 1997, the Honors Program at Montana State University Billings cultivates intellectual curiosity, empowers student leadership, and nurtures a diverse community. Honors students engage in interdisciplinary connections to creatively and ethically address the dynamic challenges of our community from the local to the global. The Honors Program uplifts and promotes an unparalleled learning experience through the guidance of faculty noted for excellence in teaching and scholarly activity. Student opportunities are expanded with small Honors sections of regular courses, interdisciplinary colloquia, special seminars, opportunities for undergraduate research and creative endeavors, immersive experiential learning, and service leadership. Honors students build directly transferrable skills for careers and professional programs through research projects, presentations, field experiences, and networking with academic and community leaders. Honors students are challenged and supported in their efforts to take full advantage of their intellectual and personal talents.

University Honors Program 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/>) 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 of 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.

Interdisciplinary Honors Minor Program Learning Outcomes

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

- Apply communication skills through discussion as well as writing and/or presentations
- Apply research/inquiry skills through projects or reports
- Consider the immediate and long-term consequences of ideas
- Critique the social context of course themes and ideas

Required Courses

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.**

Code	Title	Credits
HONR 111	Perspectives and Understanding	3
or HONR 311	Adv Perspectives and Understanding	
HONR 205	Honors Inquiry and Research	3
HONR 499	Honors Capstone ¹	3
Honors seminar or upper division course elective outside of student's major		3
Elective honors credits (see below)		9
Total Minimum Credits		21

¹ Can be substituted for research based 400-level capstone.

Choose the 9 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

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.