

Faculty

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The Goal of the Honors Program

The *Honors Program* enrolls a cohort of students who earnestly seek understanding of our complex world. As an alternative to the traditional general education requirements, students in Honors take a unique set of courses that prepares them for an active lifetime of critical thought, aesthetic appreciation, and spiritual prosperity. In particular Honors students excel as

- *seekers* of truth, engaging in a journey of personal growth and spiritual development;
- distinguished *scholars*, exhibiting intellectual curiosity, creativity, critical thinking and a commitment to academic excellence; and
- capable *leaders*, serving the wider community through the integration of faith, knowledge, and ingenuity.

Students who complete the Honors Program have fulfilled PUC's general education requirements.

Compatibility with Other Programs

As is traditional with Honors programs, this truncated version of general education allows students to pursue double majors, or minors, or to customize electives that align with their individual goals.

The Honors Program is compatible with any major and may be particularly desirable for pre-professional students wishing to gain the broad liberal arts background sought by graduate, law, and medical school admissions committees. Students pursuing certain specialized programs (such as nursing licensure or elementary education credentials) may need to complete additional general education classes required for those programs.

Graduation "With Honors"

Students who successfully meet the Honors Program requirements graduate "With Honors," as designated on the official transcript, graduation program, and diploma. The following requirements must be met in order to graduate "With Honors":

- Completion of all Honors Program course requirements, including seminars, electives, and cognates
- Completion and presentation of a satisfactory Honors Project
- A minimum cumulative college GPA of 3.3

Admission to the Honors Program

Honors Program applicants are expected to meet the following entrance requirements:

- A minimum 3.5 high school GPA
- Composite exam scores at or above 25 (ACT) or 1200 (SAT- new scoring system) or 1700 (SAT- old scoring system)
- Strong writing skills
- A high school curriculum that includes the successful completion of the following:
 - 4 years of English
 - 2 (or more) years of history
 - 3 (or more) years of mathematics (including Algebra II*)
 - 3 (or more) years of science
 - 1 (or more) years of foreign language study

Honors Program

Under some circumstances, non-freshmen may apply for transfer into the Honors Program. The application will be evaluated based on high school performance, composite exam scores, and completed college coursework. If accepted into the program, the transfer student will work with the Honors Program Director to develop a course equivalency plan. This plan will outline the applicability of the student's completed college coursework to the Honors Program requirements.

Continuance in the Honors Program

A minimum cumulative college GPA of 3.3 must be maintained while in the Honors Program. Any student who drops below this minimum GPA will be placed on probationary status for up to two quarters. The Honors Program Director will work with the student to explore the feasibility of continuing in the program and to develop an academic success plan.

Failure to earn a minimum GPA of 3.3 for three consecutive quarters may result in the student being withdrawn from the program.

No course with a grade below C- may apply toward Honors Program requirements.

Students who withdraw from the Honors Program will work with the Honors Program Director to develop a course equivalency plan. This plan will outline the applicability of the completed Honors Program coursework to the traditional general education program.

Honors Program Requirements

> First-Year Seminars (15)

HNRS 111	Narrating the Quest	5
HNRS 121	Analyzing the Arts	5
HNRS 131	Scientific Inquiry	5

> Additional Seminars and Electives (29)

HNRS 201	Engaging Scripture	4
HNRS 202	Leadership: Theory and Practice	3
HNRS 301	Discovering Jesus	4
HNRS 380	Seminar (Two different topics)	4+4

Enrichment Electives 10

Take 3 Honors elective courses, selected from additional offerings of the Honors seminar (HNRS 380) and from H-designated courses from other departments. Recent enrichment elective options include the following:

ARTH 470 H	Contemporary Art (4)
COMM 426 H	Argumentation (3)
ECON 265 H	Microeconomics (4)
ENGL 352 H	Theme Courses (4)

ENVR 360 H	Conservation Biology (3)
HIST 357 H	Civil War & Reconstruction (4)
MATH 451 H	History of Mathematics (4)
RELT 350 H	God and Human Suffering (3)

> Capstone Seminar and Project (7)

HNRS 403	The Christian Scholar	4
HNRS 490	Honors Project I	1
HNRS 491	Honors Project II	2

> Cognates (10-11)

Algebra Proficiency

A full year of either Algebra II or Integrated Math III with semester grades of C- or better at an accredited secondary institution or successful completion of an approved waiver exam or MATH 095+096 Basic Algebra I+II (remedial courses)

STAT 222	Introduction to Statistics	4
Lab Science		4-5

Take one lab science course from subjects
ASTR, BIOL, CHEM, ENVR, GEOL, MICR, or PHYS

Exercise Science Activity	2
Take two exercise science activity (ESAC) courses	

> World Language (4-16)

Students pursuing a B.A. degree:
Complete the World Language requirement outlined for the B.A.
General Education Requirement (see p. 40-41).

All other students: 0-4

Complete one of the following options:

- One year of foreign language study in highschool (0)
- One Language & Culture course (4)
Options include CHIN 111, FREN 111, GRMN 111, ITAL 111, JAPN 111,SPAN 105, and SPAN 111

Honors Courses

Enrollment is open to students in the honors program.

LOWER-DIVISION COURSES:

HNRS 111 **5 F** **Narrating the Quest**

Explores the literary motif of quests as a metaphor for personal journeys of identity and growth. Emphasizes reflective and scholarly writing. Fulfills ENGL 101 College English requirement. Prerequisite: Admission to the Honors program.

HNRS 121 **5 W** **Analyzing the Arts**

An interdisciplinary overview of the arts (music, visual arts, literature) through an examination of the theme of creation. Incorporates specific instruction in academic writing, particularly literary analysis and research. Fulfills the ENGL 102 College English requirement. Prerequisite: HNRS 111.

HNRS 131 **5 S** **Scientific Inquiry**

Examines scientific methods for gathering and evaluating evidence, identifies relevant scientific principles, provides practice and critique in the communication of scientific ideas, and evaluates how science impacts and is impacted by society. Incorporates instruction in communication and academic writing, particularly explanatory texts. Fulfills the COMM 105 Introduction to Communication requirement. Prerequisite: HNRS 121.

HNRS 111, 121, and 131 are prerequisites to all remaining honors courses.

HNRS 201 **4 F** **Engaging Scripture**

Interpreting and understanding the Bible as sacred text. In addition to engaging the texts of the Bible using various current methods of interpretation, a strong emphasis is placed upon a contextual reading that prunes the text from eisegetical interpolations.

HNRS 202 **3 S** **Leadership: Theory and Practice** (See COMM 332)

This course will explore various approaches to leadership with the goal to understand one's own strengths and areas of improvement for future (and present) leadership responsibilities. Areas of emphasis include communication behaviors, skills, and practices of effective leaders.

UPPER-DIVISION COURSES:

HNRS 301 **4 W** **Discovering Jesus**

Examination of the biblical stories and theology about Jesus and their influence and effects on human civilization and culture as well as one's personal life. Prerequisite: HNRS 201.

HNRS 380 **4 W, S, Su** **Seminar:**

An in-depth study of a topic, often with an interdisciplinary focus. Focuses on critical thinking and the analysis and evaluation of information. Repeatable for credit under different titles, such as:

Race and the American Century
Beethoven, Goethe, and Democracy
Thinking Ecologically

Additionally, the International Cultural Experience seminar is offered for students who study abroad; consult with the honors program director for details. Qualifies for IP Grading.

HNRS 403 **4 S** **The Christian Scholar**

This capstone seminar provides a reflection on the intersection of faith, knowledge, and practice. Students will analyze available models of faith-learning integration and theorize their own honors experience in an attempt to understand the role of the Christian scholar both as a member of the academy and as a citizen of the larger world--theoretically and through personal action.

HNRS 490+491 **1+2 S+W** **Honors Project I-II**

An individual research or creative project that showcases the student's expertise.

HNRS 490 provides guidance in identifying the project—selecting an advisor, defining the scope, developing a foundational bibliography. Culminates in an approved project proposal. Taken during the spring quarter of the junior year.

HNRS 491 provides continued guidance for the completion of the project, particularly the final written paper and oral presentation. Taken during the winter quarter of the senior year. Prerequisite: HNRS 490. Qualifies for IP grading.

HNRS 495 **1-3 Arr** **Independent Study**

Offers the advanced student opportunity to pursue investigation in a field of special interest under the direction of program faculty.

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