

Honors in the Major Guidelines for Departments

Following are the guidelines given to all departments by the Faculty Honors Committee when creating or editing Honors in the Major curricula. Each department sets its own HM requirements, which must be approved by the L&S Faculty Honors Committee. The HM curriculum is established by each department to offer the best possible preparation for graduate and professional training, as well as for the world of work and service beyond academia. The UW Guide (guide.wisc.edu) contains descriptions of the HM track for all departments. Contact the departmental Honors advisors or the L&S Honors Program office for more information.

The requirements for Honors in the Major are as follows:

- All students completing Honors in the Major must complete the required coursework for the major. Honors in the Major curricula may not exempt students from classes that are required for all other students in the major. This is to ensure that if students are unable to complete the HM curriculum for any reason they will still be eligible to graduate with the major.
- Completion of L&S general degree requirements, for L&S degree candidates. Non-L&S degree candidates may pursue HM but will not receive an L&S degree.
- Maintenance of a cumulative GPA of at least 3.300 or higher as set by the major department (though generally not higher than a 3.500).
- Maintenance of a minimum GPA in the major of at least a 3.300 or higher as set by the department (though generally not over 3.500). Note that the L&S Faculty Honors Committee affirmed the right of departments to set a higher GPA (up to 3.500) for Honors in the Major. Departments must publicize the required GPA (3.300 or higher, cumulative and in the major) via DARS, the Guide and in other relevant print and online publications.
- Completion of a two-semester capstone project, usually a Senior Honors Thesis or upper-level seminars, or other capstone experience as stipulated by each department and approved by the Faculty Honors Committee.
- Completion of 3-6 credits of upper-level courses, beyond those required for the regular major, as designated by each department.
- Recommended completion of a departmental seminar in preparation for writing the Senior Honors Thesis and participation in departmental colloquia while conducting thesis research or working on the capstone project.
- In order for a course to be counted towards Honors in the Major requirements (including non-Honors courses), students must earn a grade of "B" or better.

Graduate courses numbered 700 or above may not be used in Honors in the Major published curricula. Departments may make individual exceptions for students, allowing graduate courses to count in lieu of Honors requirements on a case-by-case basis.