Welcome to the College of Letters & Science Honors Program!

The Honors Program enrolls approximately 1300 students, or about 7.5 percent of the College as a whole. We believe you are among the most highly motivated students in Letters & Science. You have broad interests and want to make the most of your college experience. Within a large research university, we aim to combine the more personal atmosphere and the advantages of a small-college experience with access to world-renowned instructors. In spring 2019, approximately 207 students graduated with Honors; nearly 40 of them earned Comprehensive Honors, completing both Honors in the Liberal Arts and Honors in the Major.

Honors students have access to excellent advising, many small classes and discussions led by faculty, and opportunities for research and leadership throughout their undergraduate career. While we are here to help you reach your goals, we also count on you to take initiative to seek advising, to meet faculty, and to learn more about yourself and what path best fits your interests.

At SOAR, our advisors will work with you to create a first-semester schedule that allows you to explore your interests and make progress toward your degree. Starting with Honors 181 in the first week of the fall semester, we will help you look ahead, and will encourage you to talk with an Honors advisor individually and in more depth about enhancing your Wisconsin Experience with research opportunities, study abroad, volunteering, or any number of other involvement opportunities.

Many Honors students go on to earn professional degrees or advanced degrees in academic fields or in law or medicine, and many become outstanding scholars and leaders. L&S Honors alumni are faculty members here and at many other colleges. Other alumni have served in the US House and Senate or have major administrative roles in nonprofit organizations and corporations.

L&S Honors students are not merely smart and creative; they also care about their communities, their university, and their world. We hope that you will be among those who make a difference in the world. We know that you have the talent and the potential to be a leader, and it is our goal to help you develop the skills and confidence you need to be an agent of change for a better tomorrow.

We are glad to have you here!

Sabine Gross
Director, L&S Honors Program
Professor of German
Gain skills, experiences and friendships that will launch you on a lifelong quest for knowledge and personal growth.

Meet professors who want to get to know you.

Be part of a community of students who are passionate about learning.

Receive personalized academic advising from your dedicated Honors advisors.

Apply for Honors-specific funding to conduct research, travel, or launch your own community service project.

Enroll in small, Honors-only classes taught by professors who are experts in their fields.

Why Honors?
Topics I am excited about:

Skills I already have:

Skills I want to develop:

Potential major(s):

Things I want to do:
An Introduction to L&S Degree Requirements

120 credits for your degree
(Average of 15 credits/semester for four years)

24 credits of Honors
for Honors in the Liberal Arts
(Average of 3 credits/semester for four years)

The “Other” category includes courses you take out of personal interest, for a certificate or second major, to satisfy pre-health requirements, etc.

Frequently Asked Questions About Credits

What is a credit?
Credits are units used to approximate academic work. One credit is equivalent to about one hour of instruction and 2-3 hours of work outside of class each week. Full-time enrollment is 12-18 credits. L&S Honors students typically take 13-15 credits in their first semester, but keep in mind that each student’s situation is different.

I have AP/IB/CAPP credit. What does that do?
Typically, college credits earned in high school will count toward the 120 credits you need for your L&S degree. Credits can transfer as either the equivalent of a UW-Madison course or as electives in an academic department, and these credits may help you meet graduation requirements or gain access to higher-level courses. Consult with an academic advisor to determine how your credits will be applied and how it might impact your course selection.

I heard something about retrocredits. What are those?
If you have experience learning a world language and wish to continue studying it, you may earn retroactive credits. If you take an eligible language course in your first year (before you earn 30 UW credits) and earn a B or better, you will receive college credit for any preceding courses in the language sequence for which you do not already have credit. For example, if you enroll directly in third-semester French and earn an AB, you would receive eight (ungraded) retrocredits for first- and second-semester French. In almost all cases, these credits will automatically appear on your record by the beginning of the next semester. Note that not all language courses allow you to earn retro credits, so please consult with an advisor about your best options.
For complete degree requirements, consult the Undergraduate Guide and check with an advisor:

- A cumulative GPA of 3.3 is required to graduate with the Honors in the Liberal Arts degree.
- Only courses for which you receive a B or better count toward HLA requirements.
- At least 15 of the required 24 Honors credits must be from Automatic Honors coursework.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bachelor of Arts</th>
<th>Bachelor of Science</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honors in the Liberal Arts</td>
<td>Honors in the Liberal Arts</td>
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### General Education

- **Communication**
  - A course
- **Quantitative Reasoning**
  - A course
  - B course
- **Ethnic Studies**
  - A course

### Breadth

- **Humanities**
  - 6 cr. of literature
- **Social Science**
  - 12 cr. of additional humanities
  - 6 cr. of biological science

### Mathematics

- Satisfied through Quantitative Reasoning work (above)
- 2 int./adv.-level courses in math, computer sciences (limit 1), and/or statistics (limit 1)

### Foreign Language

- 4 th unit of one language
- 3 rd unit of one language
- 2 nd unit of another language
- 3 rd unit of another language
- OR
  - 3 rd unit of one language
- 2 nd unit of another language

### Natural Science

- 6 cr. of additional natural science
  - 3 cr. of physical science
  - 3 cr. of biological science

### Social Science

- 6 cr. of additional humanities
- 6 cr. of literature

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| Language and Literature
|------------------------|
| 3rd unit of one language
| 2nd unit of another language
| OR
| 3rd unit of one language
| 2nd unit of another language

| Mathematics
|------------------------|
| 2 int./adv.-level courses in math, computer sciences (limit 1)
| 3rd unit of one language
| 2nd unit of another language

| Foreign Language
|------------------------|
| 4th unit of one language
| 3rd unit of one language
| OR
| 3rd unit of one language

| Natural Science
|------------------------|
| 6th unit of one language
| 5th unit of another language
| OR
| 6th unit of one language

| Social Science
|------------------------|
| 6th unit of one language
| 5th unit of another language
| OR
| 6th unit of one language

| Humanities
|------------------------|
| 6th unit of one language
| 5th unit of another language
| OR
| 6th unit of one language

| Breadth
|------------------------|
| 6th unit of one language
| 5th unit of another language
| OR
| 6th unit of one language

| Education
|------------------------|
| 6th unit of one language
| 5th unit of another language
| OR
| 6th unit of one language

| General
|------------------------|
| 6th unit of one language
| 5th unit of another language
| OR
| 6th unit of one language

For complete degree requirements, consult the Undergraduate Guide and check with an advisor.
Types of Honors Classes

What is an “Honors” class, and how does it differ from a “regular” class? There are three types of Honors classes in the L&S Honors Program. Each class type emphasizes a different style of learning or assessment that corresponds with the structure of the class and the interests of Honors students.

Automatic Honors (at least 15 of your 24 Honors credits)

Honors Only Courses
- Reserved for Honors students
- Low-enrollment seminars (usually 20 students or fewer) or small, professor-taught discussion sections of larger classes
- Taught by faculty members who are motivated to work closely with students
- Designed to encourage your active participation and be shaped by your and your classmates’ questions and interests
- Focused on interactive learning and intellectual engagement rather than passive learning activities

Accelerated Honors Courses
- Open to both Honors and non-Honors students
- Grant Honors credit due to the amount and rigor of the material they cover
- Often intensive and fast-paced; carefully consider prerequisites and workload as you build a schedule that includes an Accelerated Honors class
- If you choose to do a senior thesis in your major department, your thesis will typically carry Accelerated Honors credit. Senior theses are not required for the Honors in the Liberal Arts degree, but are part of Honors in the Major requirements for most majors.

Other Honors

Honors Optional Courses
- Open to Honors and non-Honors students; you opt in during enrollment
- Allow students to earn Honors credit via completion of an extra Honors component (i.e., a supplemental project or experience)
- Can promote alternative types of learning, such as presentation or creative writing skills, although some instructors may assign an additional paper or problem set
- Your responsibility! If the Honors Optional project is not mentioned in the syllabus, be sure to ask your instructor about the Honors requirement(s) early in the semester. You are also responsible for removing the Honors Option from your enrollment if you decide to not complete the Honors Optional work.

During group advising sessions in the fall, you will learn about additional processes that exist to help you earn credit toward your Honors in the Liberal Arts requirements.
Exploration

- Use the search filters in the Course Search & Enroll tool to find courses you might enjoy for general education requirements and in each breadth area. **Save courses that interest you by using the heart icon!**
- Look through Automatic Honors course offerings
- Peruse the FIG binder
- Utilize The Guide to discover potential majors and certificates: https://guide.wisc.edu/
- Learn about the 40+ languages offered on campus: https://languages.wisc.edu/
- Check out different student organizations on campus through the Wisconsin Involvement Network: win.wisc.edu

Interests

- Mark the items that interest you, and write in additional items that reflect your interests and goals as a student and member of the campus community
  - Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Science
  - First-Year Interest Group (FIG)
  - World Language(s)
  - Pre-Health
  - Pre-Law
  - Student Athlete
  - Study Abroad
  - Research

Course Ideas

- Keep track of courses you find that interest you and recommendations from advisors
  - Wisconsin Experience Seminar
  - Residence Hall Seminar
  - Undergraduate Research Scholars

Other Notes
Campus Resources

Get to know the many forms of support that are available to help you as a student and member of the university community.

**Campus Assistance**
- Campus Life Student Services: wisc.edu/campus-life/student-services
- Campus Safety: uwpd.wisc.edu
- Center for First-Year Experience: newstudent.wisc.edu
- Dean of Students Office: doso.students.wisc.edu
- International Student Services: iss.wisc.edu
- University Housing: housing.wisc.edu
- McBurney Disability Resource Center: mcburney.wisc.edu
- Office of Student Financial Aid: financialaid.wisc.edu
- Office of the Registrar: registrar.wisc.edu
- Bursar’s Office: bursar.wisc.edu
- Wisconsin Scholarship Hub: wisc.academicworks.com
- Veteran Services and Military Assistance Center: veterans.wisc.edu
- Wisconsin Union: union.wisc.edu

**Health and Wellness**
- Financial Wellness through GradReady: wisc.gradready.com
- Recreational Sports: recsports.wisc.edu
- University Health Services (UHS): uhs.wisc.edu
- Well (Living Well, Being Well): well.wisc.edu

**Tutoring and Learning Support**
- Collection of Tutoring Resources: advising.wisc.edu/tutoring
- Greater University Tutoring Services: guts.wisc.edu
- Residence Hall Tutoring: housing.wisc.edu/residence-halls/academicstutoring
- The Writing Center: writing.wisc.edu
- University Libraries: library.wisc.edu
- GPA Calculator: advising.wisc.edu/gpacalculator

**Career Preparation**
- Career Exploration Center: cec.ccas.wisc.edu
- SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science: successworks.wisc.edu
- Center for Pre-Health Advising: prehealth.wisc.edu
- Center for Pre-Law Advising: prelaw.wisc.edu
- Student Job Center: studentjobs.wisc.edu
E-mail: advisor@honors.ls.wisc.edu
If you have a concrete question about Honors or any other academic matter, e-mailing us is often the quickest way to get an answer or be directed to the appropriate resource.

Appointments via Starfish
You can make an appointment with any of the Honors advisors, and appointments are available throughout the year. Appointments allow for discussions about the transition to college, academic or personal concerns, major exploration, reviews of degree progress, and long-term planning. Use the Starfish tile in MyUW to schedule a 30-minute appointment.

Drop-In Advising
We hold regular drop-in advising hours in Washburn Observatory. Students are served on a first-come, first-served basis, and drop-ins are most useful for quick questions (up to 15 minutes). Drop-in advising availability is posted on the L&S Honors web calendar and on Starfish.

Washburn Observatory
1401 Observatory Drive
Madison, WI 53706
(608) 262-2984

L&S Honors Program Website
honors.ls.wisc.edu
Checkout Process

Finished enrolling for the fall? Before you meet with a professional advisor to check out, please complete the steps below.

☐ Use maps.wisc.edu or another campus map to look up the location(s) of each course.
☐ Print your schedule.
☐ Fill out the following chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>My Reason(s) for Taking the Course</th>
<th>Final Exam Date/Time</th>
<th>Honors Status (e.g. Honors Only, Optional, None)</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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Total credits: __________

☐ Multiply your total number of credits by 3 to estimate the amount of time you’ll want to spend on academic work outside of class each week:

_____ credits x 3 hours/credit = _____ hours

☐ Register for your Honors 181 fall advising session.

My Honors 181 session is on ________________________
from _____________ to _____________ in Washburn Observatory.

☐ Let a Peer Advisor know you are ready to check-out!
☐ Complete the “Before You Go” owl activity on the following pages.
☐ Continue exploring UW resources, chat with your peers, and write down any follow-up questions you have for an advisor.
Schedule Changes After SOAR

Congratulations on enrolling in your classes for the fall semester! We hope you are satisfied with your schedule. We understand, however, that sometimes a student's situation changes between SOAR and the first week of classes, and you may feel a need to alter your schedule. If you and your advisor have discussed potential schedule changes, take note of them here:

If ... Then ...

Waitlists. If you are on the waitlist for a class, be sure to check your @wisc.edu e-mail regularly. You will receive a notification via e-mail if a spot opens up for you. The e-mail will indicate a deadline to enroll in the course (usually 24 or 48 hours from the time the e-mail is sent) as well as instructions on how to enroll. If you do not enroll within that time, your spot will be given to another person on the waitlist.

You can change your schedule through the first week of classes.
We highly encourage you to discuss potential changes in your schedule with an academic advisor. Although you do not need an advisor's permission to make changes, talking with an advisor can help ensure that you understand your options, the potential impacts of any changes you are considering, and the larger picture of your degree.

Steps for changing your schedule
1. Go to enroll.wisc.edu and log in using your NetID
2. Click “My Courses” at the top of the page and then the “Enrolled” section. Make sure that the correct term (Fall 2019) is selected.
3. Select the empty box next to the course that you want to change. This will allow you to drop, swap, or edit the course.
   - Drop: Select this option only when you want to remove a course from your schedule and not replace it.
   - Swap: Click the three vertical dots and select the “Swap” option to switch the selected course with a new course from your cart.
   - Edit: To update your Honors Optional enrollment, open the section information and select the appropriate Honors Option.
Fall Advising

During the fall semester, you will attend two mandatory group advising sessions:

**Honors 181: Early Fall Group Advising**
This is a one-time, mandatory group advising session for first-year students in the L&S Honors Program. The session will provide important information about the fall semester, highlight helpful resources and opportunities on campus, and help you continue to meet other Honors students. We encourage you to bring your questions about the Honors Program—or about college life in general—to the session.

**Honors 182: Pre-Enrollment Group Advising**
As spring semester registration approaches, the second Honors group advising session will answer your questions about finding classes, using the Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) and degree planner, and much more. We will also review Honors Program requirements and share additional details about ways to meet those requirements. This session will help you be more prepared to make decisions about your academic career moving forward and offer time to explore spring classes with an advisor present.

Look for an e-mail in the fall with information about Honors 182 registration!
Before You Go ...

I want to finish a draft of any long paper ten days early so I can get feedback on my arguments and learn to write stronger thesis statements. I also want to ride my bike every week and find a favorite spot in Madison.

1. On the **front** of a notecard, draw an owl and write your name.

2. On the **back**, write one or two “SMART” personal goals for the fall.

3. Give your finished notecard to a peer advisor.

---

**SMART**

- **Specific**
- **Measurable**
- **Attainable**
- **Relevant**
- **Time Based**
Honors First-Year Dinner

Wednesday, September 25, 2019
5:30-8:30 PM, Pyle Center

The Honors Fall Dinner is an evening on-campus event that gives first-year students a chance to connect with other Honors students, faculty, and staff from across the UW-Madison campus. You will receive an invitation at your home address.

"I liked the open... discussion. It was nice to see how approachable professors can be outside of class."

"The personal interaction with faculty and advisors during this event made me more aware of the opportunities available on campus in a context more relevant for me."

"I feel energized and refocused."

Meet other Honors students, faculty from a variety of fields, and other members of the Honors community.

Enjoy tasty food and engaging company in an informal setting.

Ask questions about research, scholarship, and higher education.

Exchange information with experienced students and faculty about courses and the "ins and outs" of life at UW-Madison.

Learn how top scholars became interested in their disciplines, navigated obstacles, and leveraged opportunities throughout their educations and careers.
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<td>Sept. 4-6</td>
<td>Honors 181 (Early Fall Group Advising)</td>
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<td>Monday, Sept. 9</td>
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<td>Last Day to Drop a Course Without “DR” on the Transcript</td>
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<td>Wed.-Thurs., Sept. 11-12</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Oct. 16</td>
<td>Go Big Read Lunch for Honors Students</td>
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Throughout each semester, you will receive **Honors Online**, a weekly e-newsletter from the L&S Honors Program. Read each newsletter for important information regarding upcoming events and deadlines, campus opportunities, advising, scholarships, and more! Dates and deadlines related to enrollment can always be found on the Office of the Registrar’s website: registrar.wisc.edu