University Honors Requirements

Students must complete 27 hours of Honors coursework to earn the University Honors distinction. The following courses are recommended, but not required, for all Honors College students. Students can also earn Honors credits through Honors-only seminars, departmental Honors courses, Honors Discussion Groups (Chemistry, Biology, French, Spanish, German, Accounting, etc.), Honors Study Abroad, and Honors Contracts.

I. Freshman Year (15 hours)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Semester</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honors Anchor 1 (Reasoning and Values)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Example: Anch H105: <em>The Value of Beauty</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honors Discourse H100 or Honors Focus C (Human Actions, Values and Ethics)</td>
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<td>Example: Honors 215: <em>Researching Kansas City</em></td>
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<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<th>Spring Semester</th>
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<tr>
<td>Honors Anchor 2 (Culture and Diversity)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Example: Anch H298: <em>The Idea of Culture</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honors Discourse H200</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honors Focus A (Arts and Humanities)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Example: Honors 210: <em>Reading the World</em> or Honors 230: <em>American Government</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 credits</td>
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II. Sophomore Year (12 hours)

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<tr>
<th>Fall Semester</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honors Anchor 3 (Civic/Community Engagement)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Example: Anch H397: <em>Public Urban Education</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honors Discourse H300</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honors Elective, such as Honors 391: <em>Special Topics</em> or Honors 490: <em>Special Topics</em></td>
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<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<th>Spring Semester</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honors Focus B (Scientific Reasoning and Quantitative Analysis)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honors Elective, such as Honors 391: <em>Special Topics</em> or Honors 490: <em>Special Topics</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 credits</td>
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</table>

III. Junior and Senior Years (variable credit)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beyond the Classroom Experience</th>
<th>– recommended, but not required. The BTC Experience could be an internship, a study abroad program, practice teaching, undergraduate research, or a community engagement project. Up to six credits earned in BTC Experiences may be counted toward the University Honors distinction.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Courses</td>
<td>– recommended, but not required. Up to six credits of graduate-level coursework may be counted toward the University Honors distinction.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Up to 6 credits</td>
<td>Up to 6 credits</td>
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</table>

Honors Scholar Requirements

IV. Junior and Senior Years (6 hours)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Honors Thesis or Project</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior Year: (Spring) Honors 330 Senior Honors Thesis/Project Practicum (1 credit)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Year: (Fall) Honors 495 Senior Thesis independent study (2 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Spring) Honors 499 Senior Thesis/Project Writing Group (1 credit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Spring) Honors 495 Senior Thesis independent study (2 credits)</td>
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</table>

Transfer students and currently enrolled UMKC students who enter the Honors College with more than 25 university credits will need 24 hours of Honors credit; if they enter with more than 50 hours, they will need 21 hours of Honors credit, to earn the University Honors distinction. In all cases, the Honors Scholar distinction will require an additional six credits of Honors thesis or project coursework.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Rationale for the New Honors College Curriculum

Q: Why is the Honors College planning to establish a new curriculum in fall 2016?

A: The UMKC Honors College was created at the recommendation of a university-wide task force (including some honors students) that envisioned a much broader and richer honors curriculum. The new curricular requirements follow the recommendations of that task force. Our intention is to give students a rich variety of options to fulfill their honors requirements, making the honors curriculum more flexible, engaging, and responsive to the needs and interests of individual students of all majors.

Opting In (or Opting Out of) the New Requirements

Q: Do I have to complete the new requirements, or can I stay with the old requirements?

A: It’s up to you! The basic principle involved is that a student can graduate under the requirements that existed when they first enrolled in the Honors College (or its predecessor, the Honors Program). Specifically:

- Students who plan to graduate from UMKC in spring or summer 2016 must complete the existing (old) requirements, since the new Honors College requirements are not effective until fall 2016.
- Currently enrolled Honors College students who plan to graduate in fall 2016 (or later) can stay with the old requirements, or they can opt into the new requirements.
- Students who enter the Honors College in fall 2016 (or later) must complete the new requirements.

Q: Are there any specific benefits to opting into the new curriculum (i.e. certain courses or opportunities offered only to students in the new program)?

A: Yes, the new curriculum will offer many new honors courses and is a lot more flexible for honors students of all majors. These new courses will be available to all honors students.

Q: How can I opt into (or out of) the new Honors College requirements?

A: This is an important decision. Think it over carefully and meet with the Honors College Advisor or an Honors Ambassador to discuss which option makes best sense for you. Once you have decided, please complete the Honors College Requirement Survey. This online survey (due by March 1) will let us know which set of requirements should apply to your graduation from the Honors College.
**Meeting the Honors Colloquium Requirement**

Q: Am I required to enroll in Honors Colloquium this spring semester?

A: Yes, most honors students should be enrolled in Colloquium this spring semester. Honors Colloquium will continue to be offered in spring 2016, and under the existing (old) curriculum, all honors students are required to be enrolled in Colloquium for three-fourths of the time they are enrolled in the Honors College.

Q: If I choose to stay with the old curriculum, how can I fulfill the Honors Colloquium requirement?

A: Starting in fall 2016, Colloquium will no longer be offered, and it will no longer be required. Instead, students can enroll in any other available honors courses to complete their required honors credits. Those students who stay with the old curriculum will still need to complete 28 honors credits to earn the University Honors distinction.

Q: Will service activities that currently count as a Colloquium make-up (e.g. 15 hours in Lucerna, or volunteering at the Kauffman School) continue to count toward the Colloquium requirement?

A: There is no change in the spring 2016 semester, so the current Colloquium requirement (and make-up opportunities) will remain in place for the current semester. Starting in fall 2016, Colloquium will no longer be offered, and so the Colloquium make-up opportunities will no longer be needed. However, we are confident that honors students will continue to volunteer for Lucerna and other service activities, and there will be new ways for students to earn Honors College credit for these activities. Stay tuned for further details!

**Fulfilling the New Honors Requirements**

Q: Will there be additional honors courses offered in specific majors to help me fulfill my honors requirements?

A: Yes, we plan to offer lots of new honors courses in specific majors. Stay tuned!

Q: Are there any new ways to obtain honors credit not currently offered?

A: Yes. Beyond-the-classroom experiences and graduate-level courses may now be counted.

Q: All of my planning up to now has been based on the old honors requirements. In particular, I was planning to include my Senior Honors Thesis as part of the 28 required honors credits. Is it OK if I graduate under the old requirements?

A: Yes. Any currently enrolled honors student is free to graduate under the old requirements. We encourage you to think it over carefully, talk with the Honors College Advisor or an Honors Ambassador, and figure out which set of requirements works best for you.

Q: Can I mix and match different parts of the old and new requirements?

A: No. A student must fulfill all of the old requirements, or all of the new requirements.
**Next Steps**

**Q:** What should I do now?

**A:** Once you have decided whether you want to opt into the new Honors College requirements, please complete the [Honors College Requirement Survey](#). This online survey (due by March 1) will let us know which set of requirements should apply to your graduation from the Honors College.

**Q:** Is this decision irrevocable?

**A:** No, you can always change your mind later. If you do change your decision in the future, please keep the Honors College informed, so that we can track your graduation requirements. We recommend that you meet with the Honors College Advisor before making a change in your decision.