

Honors College Program Requirements

for Students Entering Fall 2020

Established in 2010, the Honors College at Cal State LA provides intimate, seminar-style classes, unique co-curricular opportunities, and dedicated support to more than 300 highly-motivated undergraduate students. Serving a diverse student body composed of academically engaged and intellectually curious students, the Honors College offers a rigorous, interdisciplinary curriculum that encourages exploration, inquisitiveness, and innovation.

Learning Goals and Outcomes

Recognizing the need for advanced intellectual and creative skills that emphasize interdisciplinary and independent thinking, students in the Honors College are expected to meet learning outcomes in the following areas:

INQUIRY, ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH: Students develop an understanding of modes of inquiry in different disciplines. They undertake effective inquiry that demonstrates open-mindedness and uses a systematic process that involves rigorous assessment of evidence, data, and social contexts. At advanced levels, students formulate relevant research questions and produce original research, scholarly or creative projects.

CREATIVE THINKING: Students will be able to combine or synthesize existing ideas, images, or expertise in original and imaginative ways characterized by a high degree of innovation, divergent thinking, and risk taking.

PROBLEM SOLVING: Students will learn to develop, implement, and evaluate a solution that addresses an open-ended question or achieves a desired goal.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: Students will learn how make a difference in the civic life of our communities and promote the quality of life in local and global communities, through both political and non-political processes.

LEADERSHIP: Students will learn to take initiative, work effectively in teams to achieve a common purpose, involve and motivate others, and demonstrate self-leadership and commitment.

Honors College Admissions

The Cal State LA Honors College is committed to admitting motivated students who are interested in actively participating in our intellectual, social, and community engagement programs. Selection will be based on a comprehensive review of application materials, including written essays, letters of recommendation, and SAT/ACT scores. Finalists may be invited to

interview with the Honors College Admissions Committee. Both new and continuing students are eligible for admission to the Honors College. New students must also be admitted to the University.

We recommend that incoming freshmen applicants have a cumulative high school GPA of 3.5 or higher and a combined minimum score of 1170 on the Evidence Based Reading and Writing and Math sections of the SAT, or a minimum composite ACT score of 26.

We recommend that incoming transfer students have a minimum GPA of 3.5 or higher in their college coursework and in all lower division GE requirements, which must be completed prior to admission to the Honors College.

Continuing Cal State LA sophomores interested in entering the Honors College in the junior year may also be eligible for admission to the Honors College provided they have attained a minimum GPA of 3.5 or higher in their college coursework and in all lower division GE requirements, which must be completed prior to admission to the Honors College.

For all applicants, admission is based on a holistic evaluation of preparedness based on application materials, and may include an interview. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission to the Honors College.

Scholarships

All eligible applicants to the Honors College will be considered for these and other scholarships. No separate application is required. Scholarships are competitive and will be awarded based on a comprehensive review of application materials.

President's Scholars. Annual scholarships of \$2,500 to \$6,800 (potentially renewable up to four years) may be awarded to incoming freshmen demonstrating high achievement, motivation and a commitment to education. President's Scholars will generally have a cumulative high school grade point average of at least 3.75 and a combined SAT Reasoning Test score of at least 1270 (Evidence Based Reading and Writing and Math sections), or a composite ACT score of at least 27.

Honors College Scholars. Additional multi-year scholarships may be offered to incoming Honors College freshmen who have demonstrated great potential, motivation, and a commitment to education.

Requirements, Good Standing, and Probation

Honors College students remain in good standing if they maintain an overall and Cal State LA GPA of 3.3 or higher, complete required honors courses on schedule and participate in Honors College activities each semester. These required activities include 10 hours of community service/engagement per year, and 2 on-campus enrichment activities per year.

Students are placed on honors probation if their overall or Cal State LA grade point average falls below 3.3. Students who are on probation for more than two consecutive semesters (not including Winter and Summer intersessions) will lose their Honors College privileges, including priority registration and any Honors College scholarships. Students on probation will be restored to good standing once their overall and CSULA GPA return to 3.3.

To be eligible to register for HNRS 4970 (Honors College Senior Forum), the course in which the honors thesis/project is completed and presented, students must have a 3.3 overall GPA, senior standing in the Honors College, a completed Letter of Understanding, and an approved Thesis Prospectus. Students who fail to meet any of the requirements to be eligible to complete HNRS 4970 during their senior year will immediately lose their standing as Honors College students including loss of all Honors College privileges and scholarships.

Students may also lose their privileges if they fail to demonstrate active participation in Honors College activities, are not completing the Honors College program requirements, or violate the Honors College code of conduct.

Students who graduate in Good Standing in the Honors College will receive an “Honors College Program Completed” designation on their transcripts and on their diploma.

Honors Thesis/Project

The Honors College undergraduate experience culminates in a required advanced research or creative thesis/project completed either in the student’s undergraduate degree program or in the Honors College. An honors-level undergraduate thesis/project will promote focus, depth, and independence and will develop creativity, resilience, and patience. By completing the thesis/project, students demonstrate the ability to become producers of knowledge in their own right.

Students complete the thesis/project requirement in conjunction with offerings in their major department/college (variable units) by creating an honors thesis/project contract with permission of the instructor and Honors Director/Associate Director during the fall semester of their thesis year and enrolling in the following course during the spring semester of their thesis year. Students must have a minimum overall and Cal State LA GPA of 3.3 in order to be eligible to begin the thesis/project.

Early Entrance Program

The Early Entrance Program (EEP) was established at Cal State LA in 1982 and is a distinct community within the Honors College. The EEP allows qualified students between the ages of 11 and 15 the opportunity to enroll in College early as full-time students. With a community of approximately 100 students, EEP offers a challenging and focused academic environment, along with dynamic social opportunities, that allow young students to excel in a University setting.

EEP Admissions

Prospective EEP students follow a separate admissions process than that of Honors College applicants. Successful EEP applicants will have at least a 22 English and a 23 Math score on the ACT, or a minimum score of 550 Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and 570 Math. Interested applicants must submit qualifying test scores to the EEP office by May 1st of the application year. The application process involves submitting an online application, letters of recommendation, transcripts, and a portfolio item. Students and their parents are then interviewed. An offer to participate in the 6-week summer Honors Academy is extended to select students after a holistic review of application materials and the interview. Admission to EEP is offered to select students who complete the Honors Academy.

EEP Requirements

Admitted EEP students are automatically members of the Honors College and are assigned to a class cohort that is enrolled in designated Honors classes for their first year. Students are also required to attend regular meetings with EEP staff, participate in scheduled EEP activities, and maintain enrollment as full-time, degree-seeking undergraduates. EEP students are responsible for tuition identical to other CSU students and are eligible for financial aid and scholarship assistance.

All Honors College policies apply to EEP students. In addition, EEP students may not enroll in more than 15 units per semester if they earned a term GPA lower than 3.0 in the immediately preceding semester. For further information please contact the EEP Office at (323) 343-2287, Fax (323) 343-5575, or visit www.calstatela.edu/academic/eep.

I. First-Time Freshmen (14 units)

A. Lower Division Required Courses (7 units)

HNRS 1010 Introduction to Academic Inquiry in the Honors College	(3)
HNRS 1100 Reading Los Angeles: Communication in the City of Angels	(3)
HNRS 2900 Honors Declaration	(0)

B. Lower Division Directed Elective (3 units)

Select one course with advisor approval.

HNRS 1200 Reading Los Angeles: Engaging Cultural Expressions in a Global City	(3)
HNRS 1300 Reading Los Angeles: Community and Structure in the Metropolis	(3)

C. Upper Division Directed Elective (3 units)

Select one course to meet Upper Division General Education requirements.

HNRS 3200 Humanities Approaches to Race, Ethnicity, and "Wicked" Problems	(3)
HNRS 3300 Addressing "Wicked" Problems through the Social Sciences: A Case Study in Diverse Communities	(3)
HNRS 3400 Addressing "Wicked" Problems: A Natural Sciences Case Study	(3)

D. Honors Thesis/Project (1 unit)

HNRS 4970 Honors College Senior Forum	(1)
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II. Transfer or Continuing Students (5 units)

A. Lower Division Required Courses (1 unit)

HNRS 2900 Honors Declaration (0)

B. Upper Division Directed Elective (3 units)

Select one course to meet Upper Division General Education requirements.

HNRS 3200 Humanities Approaches to Race, Ethnicity, and "Wicked" Problems (3)

HNRS 3300 Addressing "Wicked" Problems through the Social Sciences: A Case Study in Diverse Communities (3)

HNRS 3400 Addressing "Wicked" Problems: A Natural Sciences Case Study (3)

C. Honors Thesis/Project (1 unit)

HNRS 4970 Honors College Senior Forum (1)

III. EEP Students (36-38 units)

A. Lower Division Required Courses (26 units)

HNRS 1000 EEP Student Success Workshops (1)	
HNRS 1010 Introduction to Academic Inquiry in the Honors College	(3)
HNRS 1100 Reading Los Angeles: Communication in the City of Angels	(3)
ENGL 1010 Accelerated College Writing	(3)
MATH 1040 Precalculus: Functions and Trigonometry	(6)
POLS 1000 Government and American Society	(3)
ENGL 1050 Argumentative Writing and Critical Thinking	(3)
HIST 2050 Race and Ethnicity in United States History	(3)
HNRS 2900 Honors Declaration	(0)

B. Lower Division Directed Science Elective (3-5 units)

Select one course with advisor approval.

ANTH 2600 Biological Anthropology	(3)
ASTR 1510 Principles Of Astronomy	(2)
ASTR 1520 Principles of Astronomy: Laboratory	(2)
BIOL 1010 General Biology	(3)
BIOL 1100 Principles of Biology I	(5)
CHEM 1000 Molecules Matter †	(3)
CHEM 1100 General Chemistry I	(5)
GEOG 1600 Physical Geography	(3)
GEOL 1500 Earth Revealed	(3)
PHYS 1100 Physics	(4)
PHYS 1560 Physics for the Twenty-first Century	(2)
PHYS 1570 Physics for the Twenty-first Century Laboratory	(1)

C. Lower Division Directed Elective (3 units)

Select one course with advisor approval.

- HNRS 1200 Reading Los Angeles: Engaging Cultural Expressions in a Global City (3)
- HNRS 1300 Reading Los Angeles: Community and Structure in the Metropolis (3)

D. Upper Division Directed Elective (3 units)

Select one course to meet Upper Division General Education requirements.

- HNRS 3200 Humanities Approaches to Race, Ethnicity, and "Wicked" Problems (3)
- HNRS 3300 Addressing "Wicked" Problems through the Social Sciences: A Case Study in Diverse Communities (3)
- HNRS 3400 Addressing "Wicked" Problems: A Natural Sciences Case Study (3)

E. Honors Thesis/Project (1 unit)

- HNRS 4970 Honors College Senior Forum (1)