

University Honors Program: Quick information sheet for faculty

Our most comprehensive honors option for undergraduates is our University Honors program. The goals of this program are to recognize and reward our best students, to create community for our best students, and to incentivize all students to be our best students.

(For clarity: please note that University Honors is not the only honors option available to undergraduates. There are two narrower forms of honors with which students can graduate:

- *Latin honors.* Latin honors reflect a student's GPA. Students who have 60 or more credits graded on an A-F scale and meet the following overall GPA requirements graduate with Latin honors: 3.50 - 3.74 - cum laude; 3.75 - 3.89 - magna cum laude; 3.9 and above - summa cum laude.
- *Departmental honors.* Departmental honors reflect the completion of a major research or creative project. Students who successfully complete a Departmental Honors Projects (DHPs) in their majors graduate with departmental honors.)

The University Honors program is larger and more comprehensive than either Latin or Departmental honors, and requires students to create and complete their own comprehensive programs.

To achieve University Honors, students must achieve in four areas:

- **Academic excellence:** achieving a GPA of 3.4 or higher.
- **Undergraduate research:** having two experiences.
- **Contributions to community:** participating in a wide range, from holding office in HUSC or to maintaining membership in Hmong Student Association to working at a Twin Cities shelter for victims of domestic violence to working with national or international groups.
- **Development as a lifelong learner:** attending lectures, concerts, plays, and the like, on or off-campus.

Students must also:

- Propose their own plan
- Earn sufficient points (in each area and overall)
- Submit reflections on all activities
- Successfully complete an honors defense colloquium/exit interview

Distinctive features of the program:

- At most institutions, students can enter the Honors Program only at the point of admission as a new first-year student. In our **University Honors Program, all students can work towards Honors.** University Honors is not based on high school or previous performance. Transfer students are eligible and welcome.

What you need to know as an advisor

- We have a comprehensive program for undergraduates, called University Honors
- The basics: 3.4 GPA, two research experiences, contributions to community, development in lifelong learning.
- Send them to the website and to Director of Honors Susie Steinbach, ssteinbach@hamline.edu.