

Dorothy and Bill Cohen Honors College

Kimberly S. Engber, *dean*

A1180 Shocker Hall • 316-WSU-3375

Dorothy and Bill Cohen Honors College Webpage (<http://wichita.edu/honors/>)¹

The Cohen Honors College at Wichita State challenges ambitious students in any major to build a better future through rigorous classes, problem solving across disciplines, independent and collaborative research, and community service.

Cohen Honors College students choose their Honors path from many options that lead to graduating with an honors college distinction on the transcript or diploma. The Honors College curriculum options are designed to complement and enhance a student's major degree, to promote interdisciplinary awareness and reflection on experiences outside of the classroom such as research, study abroad or service-learning.

Most of the courses you take to complete Honors track requirements also meet general education or major requirements. Because of this overlap, we say that Honors is just a different way to do your degree, one that engages you more broadly or more deeply than traditional college study. In other words: **It's not more work. It's more meaningful work!**

Honors Pillars and Abilities

Members of the Dorothy and Bill Cohen Honors College community uphold four pillars, aiming to be:

Innovative

Innovative people solve problems creatively. They spot needs and take risks that their proposals will satisfy those needs. Innovation often requires bringing together the people, resources and expertise to develop new solutions, a sense of entrepreneurship. Innovation frequently involves interdisciplinary applications — borrowing from one field of endeavor to solve problems in another.

Professional

Professionals get results while committing themselves to high standards. Professionals do a good job for the sake of it. Professionals persevere in passionate pursuit of long-term goals.

Intellectual

The intelligent person masters the knowledge of a chosen specialty but also knows the value of knowledge from many other disciplines. A true intellectual is not simply a person who knows a lot or gets good grades. An intellectual is an intelligent person with a passion for and interest in knowledge, wisdom and inquiry.

Transformational

Transformational people strive to make a positive difference for a better world, a better community. Transformational people commit themselves passionately to a cause larger than themselves, put themselves in service to others, and practice good citizenship. They open their minds to the diverse views of others and deliberate the issues.

¹ Link opens new window.

Policies

Admission Requirements

Admission to the Cohen Honors College is by separate application. There are no minimum ACT/SAT or GPA requirements for admission to the Cohen Honors College.

So how do we determine acceptance? A holistic review of each applicant. We want to learn about you -- how your involvement and experiences have shaped you, your family and community. We look for evidence of qualities such as a creative approach to solving problems; urge to make a positive impact on the community and in the world; open-minded embrace of diversity in backgrounds, values and perspectives; and the willingness and ability to take on intellectual challenges.

While we do not require a minimum ACT/SAT or GPA, we do consider your scores and academic record as part of our review with greater emphasis being placed on your essay and resume.

To receive priority consideration for the Honors College Merit Scholarship, high school seniors must apply by November 1 and transfer students must apply by February 1.

Who Can Apply

Any new incoming WSU student, including freshman and transfer students, and current WSU students. Students who transfer to WSU having completed all or part of an Honors Program at a community college should speak to the Honors College Advisor about having those credits counted toward a Cohen Honors distinction.

Good Standing

To maintain good standing in Honors, students take a minimum of 3 honors credit hours each year or complete an honors track and maintain an overall GPA of 3.250. The Lindquist Honors Scholar track is designed to be completed in the first two years. In order to graduate within four years with the minor in university honors or the honors baccalaureate diploma, students should take at least 6 honors credit hours each year.

Probation and Dismissal

The Dorothy and Bill Cohen Honors College adheres to current WSU Probation and Dismissal policies found in the Academic Probation and Dismissal (<http://catalog.wichita.edu/undergraduate/academic-information/academic-progress/probation-dismissal-withdrawal-etc/>) section of the Undergraduate Catalog with the following exceptions: Honors College students must maintain a GPA of 3.250 and enroll in at least one honors course each year or complete an honors track.

In addition to meeting academic standards, students are expected to follow the Student Code of Conduct which can be found online in section 8.05 of the WSU Policies and Procedures Manual (<http://wichita.edu/policiesprocedures/>)¹, and to meet the professional standards governing any organization in which the student is participating as an intern, exchange student or other capacity.

¹ Link opens new window.

Curriculum Overview: Honors Distinctions

Cohen Honors College students are expected to develop broad perspectives and/or engage in deep analysis through a curriculum comprising General Studies (breadth of study) and Advanced Scholarship (depth of study) tracks.

Students may choose to complete one or more tracks to earn transcript- and/or diploma-level distinctions. (These distinctions are not the same

as graduating with Latin honors such as cum laude or magna cum laude. Latin honors distinctions are based on your grade point average. Cohen Honors distinctions are based on the work you choose to do.)

General Studies

The General Studies Emory Lindquist Honors Scholar track (12 credit hours, typically 4 courses) is intended to expose students to foundational concepts and recent developments in the arts, humanities, social sciences and/or sciences. This track calls for students to engage in breadth of study in honors including at least one special-topics honors seminar and independent or collaborative research or creative activity. Students choose the remaining credits from the multiple types of honors courses. Completing this track earns a transcript distinction.

Most general studies track requirements fulfill university general education requirements or meet prerequisites or requirements for the major.

Advanced Scholarship

Interdisciplinary Honors (law and public policy, leadership, or general interdisciplinary) and Departmental Honors tracks (typically 12 credits or the equivalent amount of work) engage students in depth of study or enhancement of the major. Advanced honors scholarship is traditionally undertaken during junior and senior years but may be started earlier. Some advanced scholarship track requirements overlap with general education requirements and major requirements.

- Interdisciplinary tracks, whether in a determined area of study or proposed by the student, require coursework in two or more areas of academic interest. Completing this track earns a transcript distinction.
- Honors in the student's major (Departmental Honors) provides additional coursework and/or development of professional capacities with the guidance of faculty mentors in the department. Completing this track earns a diploma distinction.

All honors advanced scholarship tracks include either an applied learning experience and reflection or a thesis or capstone project completed by the end of the senior year.

University Honors

The University Honors minor and diploma notation is awarded to students who complete 24 credits in honors comprised of a General Studies and an Advanced Scholarship Honors track.

Honors Baccalaureate

The Honors Baccalaureate is a unique degree program that gives highly motivated and self-directed students the opportunity to design their own major. As an alternative to traditional majors, the HB allows students to select two or three concentrations in any existing area of study. Students, with the help of faculty advisors, select courses on the basis of a unifying issue, topic or career goal. The HB includes a thesis or capstone project completed by the end of the senior year.

Transfer Students

Students who transfer to WSU having completed all or part of an honors program at another university, college or community college should speak to the Honors College dean or advisor about having those credits counted toward an honors award at WSU.

Degrees and Program Tracks Offered by the Dorothy and Bill Cohen Honors College

- Honors Baccalaureate (<http://catalog.wichita.edu/undergraduate/honors-college/hnrs-baccalaureate/>) (63 credit hours)
- Minor in University Honors (<http://catalog.wichita.edu/undergraduate/honors-college/minor-honors/>) (24 credit hours)

- Honors Track - Departmental (<http://catalog.wichita.edu/undergraduate/honors-college/honors-track-departmental/>)
- Honors Track - Emory Lindquist Honors Scholar (<http://catalog.wichita.edu/undergraduate/honors-college/honors-track-emory-lindquist-honors-scholar/>) (12 credit hours)
- Honors Track - General Interdisciplinary (<http://catalog.wichita.edu/undergraduate/honors-college/honors-track-general-interdisciplinary/>) (12 credit hours)
- Honors Track - Law and Public Policy (<http://catalog.wichita.edu/undergraduate/honors-college/honors-track-law-public-policy/>) (12 credit hours)
- Honors Track - Leadership (<http://catalog.wichita.edu/undergraduate/honors-college/honors-track-leadership/>) (12 credit hours)

Courses in the Dorothy and Bill Cohen Honors College

- Honors (HNRS) (<http://catalog.wichita.edu/undergraduate/courses/hnrs/>)
- WSU First-Year Seminar: Honors (WSUN) (<http://catalog.wichita.edu/undergraduate/courses/wsun/>)

Types of Honors Courses

An ideal Honors course is, at its core, an experiment. It boldly challenges assumptions about what we know and how we learn. It emphasizes rigor along with exploration, creativity and discovery. It should provoke students to engage actively in the learning process. It should empower students to participate in academic dialogue, solve real-world problems through research, and draw creative and compelling connections within and across disciplines.

HNRS general education seminars explore interesting topics and engage students in discussion. These courses are offered by the Cohen Honors College, and topics change each semester. Students in the Cohen Honors College may enroll in these classes, and any student may enroll in one HNRS class (Honors form directory (https://www.wichita.edu/academics/honors_college/forms-directory.php)¹) before applying to be a member of the college. Most HNRS courses fulfill General Education requirements. Exceptions include HNRS 485, HNRS 486, HNRS 481N Internship, HNRS 410 Independent Study and HNRS 398 Travel Seminar.

“H” departmental honors courses fulfill general education, prerequisite or major requirements. They are offered by other academic departments and have the letter “H” following the course number and the word “Honors” in the title of the course. Sometimes these are separate classes designed specifically for students in the Honors College or the departmental honors track, and sometimes these courses are offered as a smaller parallel section within the regular section of the class.

Turn a regular course into an Honors course with an Honors option agreement (https://www.wichita.edu/academics/honors_college/forms-directory.php)¹ form. In any course with a fulltime faculty instructor, you may request to earn Honors credit. Examples of work completed to earn Honors credit include:

- Apply in-class knowledge to real-world experience: Research current labor conditions for stagehands, and volunteer for backstage work in a local performance during a Fine Arts course. Write a research and reflection paper.
- Further studies: Read additional primary source materials, solve additional problems, or extend course material in some way that will contribute to the depth of knowledge about the discipline.

Share the research or application of knowledge with the instructor and the class.

- **Research:** Assist the professor with a small part of current research; learn the skills needed to understand plant morphology or to engage in teacher research; prepare for an application for an undergraduate student research grant.

Honors Research Seminar (HNRS 485 or HNRS 486): The Honors Research Seminars present methods of inquiry and research concepts and provide students with opportunities to design and/or participate directly in research projects. Above all, these courses/experiences are designed to develop skills that will serve professionals in every field and career including asking good questions, working effectively independently and collaboratively, and gathering reliable information to find preliminary answers.

Honors Thesis (HNRS 491) is required for all Honors Baccalaureate students. Any student may choose to complete an Honors Thesis if they have a faculty mentor willing to serve as instructor of record.

Applied Learning: Honors College students are encouraged to engage beyond the classroom in applied learning and may earn honors credit for experiences such as study abroad, service learning and internships. Honors Applied Learning courses include but aren't limited to HNRS 398 Travel Seminar and HNRS 481N Internship.