

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN HONORS STUDENT?

BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR



HONORS STUDENTS AT BELLARMINE . . .

1) Take Honors Courses

Honors courses offer an honors-quality track for satisfying general education courses required for all students. For instance, while all Bellarmine students take a freshman seminar, Honors students choose a specially designated honors section of the freshman seminar. In addition to the freshman seminar, students in the program may earn general education credits in literature, science, theology, and philosophy, as well in U.S.

Experience, Transcultural Experience, and Senior seminars. These honors courses offer small, discussion-oriented sections and are taught by full-time faculty with a demonstrated record of excellence in the classroom. A significant benefit of the seminar sequence is the experience of moving through a series of classes with a group of

academically motivated peers, people you will come to know and often cherish, both intellectually and socially.

Honors courses differ from regular courses on a qualitative rather than quantitative basis. In other words, Honors work involves less memorization and more critical thinking and writing, less lecturing and note taking, more interaction and discussion. Thus, we aim to encourage participatory learning through the interchange of ideas between students and professors and among students themselves. While you are required to take a minimum of five Honors courses, there is no reason to stop at the minimum. Take as many as you can fit into your schedule, and you'll get the very most out of your educational experience at Bellarmine.

2) Cultivate Intercultural Awareness

Honors students graduate from Bellarmine with an enhanced sense of intercultural awareness that equips them for success in our increasingly interconnected global society.

Honors students meet this program-specific learning objective in a variety of ways:

- Demonstrating foreign language proficiency through the 202 level
- Studying abroad for a full fall or spring semester
- Demonstrating foreign language proficiency through the 102 level and studying abroad for a shorter period in the summer or over winter break as part of a program-approved course
- Taking four semesters of sign language
- Performing four semesters of appropriate field work

- Completing some appropriate combination of the above (see the director for details)

3) Strive for Academic Excellence

Honors students hold themselves to high standards, challenging themselves and each other to achieve their very best. In practical terms, that means that Honors students must maintain a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students failing to maintain this standard are placed on honors probation and given one semester for improvement.

4) Research and Write an Original Culminating Project in Their Chosen Field of Study

Honors students receive a total of seven credits (in HONR 353, HONR 450, and HONR 451) in their junior and senior years for researching and writing an original culminating project that makes a meaningful contribution to their chosen field of study. Before turning in a final written version of this project, students present what they have learned to an audience of their peers, professors, and members of the community.