

HONORS PROGRAM

The Bellarmine University Honors Program offers undergraduates the opportunity to challenge themselves academically in small seminar classes and to enrich their learning both inside and outside the classroom, culminating with in-depth research opportunities through the Senior Honors Thesis. The program is open to qualified, motivated students of all majors. The Honors Program offers practical, social, cultural, and intellectual benefits, some more tangible than others.

- ▶ *small, discussion-oriented seminars that satisfy general education requirements*
- ▶ *formal and informal cultural and social events ranging from picnics to canoe trips to museum tours*
- ▶ *tickets to plays, concerts, ballets, and operas made available to Honors students at no cost*
- ▶ *opportunities to meet distinguished visiting lecturers in small group discussions*
- ▶ *specialty housing in a study-friendly environment*
- ▶ *the in-depth research and creative experience of the senior honors thesis*
- ▶ *a graduation rate more than double that of the national average for thesis-based honors programs*

In addition to the benefits offered by the extracurricular activities, the small, discussion-oriented classes, and the experience of sharing your undergraduate years with a respected cohort, the capstone experience of the Senior Honors Thesis provides invaluable preparation for future graduate and professional school pursuits, as well as a valuable credential for any career path. The skills and depth of knowledge—knowledge of the subject studied and knowledge of one’s self—gained through the process of the year-and-a-half long research endeavor leads Honors students to describe these projects as among the most valuable experiences of their undergraduate careers. The Bellarmine University Honors Program is a member of the National Collegiate Honors Council and can be found in *Peterson’s Guide to Honors Programs and Colleges*.

Are you Curious?
Ready for a Challenge?
Aim for Excellence!

For more information on the
HONORS PROGRAM

Dr. Kathryn West

Associate Professor of English

Director of the Honors Program

502.452.8210 | kwest@bellarmine.edu



BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY

2001 Newburg Road | Louisville, KY 40205

www.bellarmino.edu/honors

HONORS PROGRAM

Curiosity. Challenge. Excellence.

BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY

HONORS SEMINARS

Honors participants take small, discussion-oriented seminars that satisfy general education courses; these seminars encourage participatory learning through the interchange of ideas between students and professors and among students themselves. A significant benefit of the seminar sequence is the experience of moving through a series of classes with a group of academically motivated peers and the intellectual and social relationships that develop.

Program participants complete a minimum of five honors seminars. Honors seminars do not add extra hours to a schedule, but provide special sections of general education courses required of all Bellarmine students. The following list provides an overview of the typical honors offerings and what each one fulfills; new courses come into rotation frequently.

Honors 100 – Freshman Focus (IDC 100)

Honors 150 – Freshman Seminar (IDC 101)

Honors 151 – A number of options are offered under 151. “Journeys to the Self,” a course on autobiography, fulfills Literature 200. “Darwinism,” “Microbes in the Media” and “Ecology on Campus” fulfill a Natural Science credit. “Music and Math” provides a Mathematics general education course.

Honors 160 – Introduction to Philosophy (Phil. 160)

Honors 200 – Ultimate Questions (Theo. 200)

Honors 251 – US Experience (IDC 200)

Honors 250 – Transcultural Experience (IDC 301)

Honors 301 – Philosophy Ethics (Phil. 301)

Honors 350 – Fine Arts general education requirement

Honors 401 – Senior Seminar (IDC 401)

To aid in flexibility of scheduling, honors students may also elect to offer an Honors Contract Course in place of a seminar by agreeing to do more advanced work in a non-honors course.

SECOND LANGUAGE/ MULTICULTURAL EXPERIENCE

The Honors Program asks participants to show proficiency in a foreign language at the second year college level. Honors students may take foreign language courses, test out of some or all coursework, and offer relevant substitutions. Depending upon major area of study and future goals, students may substitute study abroad, sign language, or, especially in nursing and health science disciplines, fieldwork and a journal of experience with a community unfamiliar to them. Honors program students and those considering the program are strongly encouraged to discuss options with the director.

SENIOR HONORS THESIS

The Senior Honors Thesis is the capstone of the program and truly a crowning achievement for any undergraduate. Honors students work closely with a faculty mentor, with input from two other faculty advisors, on an in-depth scholarly project of their own design. Most students produce a thesis in the discipline in which they are majoring, but some students choose to pursue an interdisciplinary thesis or a thesis in a minor area of study.

Students choose a timetable for their thesis that best accommodates study abroad plans, graduation timing, and other relevant factors. However, the typical pattern begins with developing a committee and a topic during the fall semester of the junior year. Honors students receive three research credit hours during each of the following two semesters as they research and write the thesis. Students present the results of their work at public celebrations.

ADMISSION AND ELIGIBILITY

The Honors Council reviews files of qualified incoming students and issues invitations in the spring before matriculation. Once the invitation is accepted, a place is reserved in the program’s incoming class. No additional application is required. An ACT of 27+ and a strong GPA serve as a baseline. Looking beyond such numbers, however, the program seeks students who demonstrate a love of learning, intellectual curiosity, and a desire to pursue advanced education. Motivated students are encouraged to contact the director with a letter of interest. Transfer students and current students with a strong academic profile may join the program through the sophomore year. Contact the director of the program if you wish to discuss integrating Honors into your Bellarmine curriculum.

HOUSING

Honors students have the opportunity to take advantage of Specialty Housing. Bonaventure Hall has been designated for Honors program participants, providing the opportunity for more out-of-class interaction and a quieter study environment, along with an Honors lounge and meeting room. Honors Housing offers educational and social programming beyond that typical to Residence Life. Students interested in this residential option should complete the university’s housing contract and indicate Honors Housing as their preference.

GRADUATION

Honors graduates wear special regalia, receive a certificate at an awards banquet, and have their achievement recorded in the graduation program and on their permanent transcript. The Honors Thesis is listed in the graduation program and housed in the campus library.