

HONORS PROGRAM POLICIES

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Honors Program is to provide unique, rigorous, and rewarding educational experiences for academically high-achieving students through both curricular and co-curricular offerings, and to enhance the intellectual culture of the College.

HONORS PROGRAM ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

First-time, bachelor degree seeking students who apply to Villa Maria College and have at least a 90% academic average in high school are eligible to apply to the Honors Program. For admission into the Honors Program, students must graduate from a traditional high school with a 90 or above GPA, and may be asked to write a separate essay explaining their academic goals, provide examples of their written or creative work, and meet with an Admissions Counselor or the Honors Program Director for an interview. Only first-time, first-year students in bachelor degree programs who graduate from traditional high schools are eligible for the Honors Program.

HONORS PROGRAM POLICIES

1. To participate in the Honors Program, all eligible students must sign a contract of commitment by Orientation of their freshman year.
2. Students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average in order to remain in good standing in the Honors Program.
 - a. If a student's cumulative GPA drops below 3.0, the student is placed on probation for one semester.
 - b. If the student's cumulative GPA does not return to the required level by the end of the probationary semester, the student is dismissed from the Honors Program.
3. Students must take COR 101 H and five additional Honors designated courses, at least two of which must be at the 300 level or above.
4. Of the five additional Honors designated courses, two must be in the liberal arts and sciences and two must be in the student's major. Honors Learning Contracts must be completed for these courses prior to the start of the semester in which they are taken.
5. Students must register for and complete the Honors Seminar (for 0 credit hours) each semester the student is in good standing and present on campus. If a student fails an Honors Seminar, the student is dismissed from the Honors Program.
6. At the conclusion of their final semester, before graduation, Honors students will participate in an Honors Symposium, presenting an original research or creative project.
7. At least one service learning experience will be completed through a required Honors Seminar (HON 101 – HON 108).
8. A student's financial aid status may be adjusted if the student voluntarily leaves or is dismissed from the Honors Program.

HONORS PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who successfully complete the Honors Program will graduate having:

1. Demonstrated a greater depth of subject matter understanding through honors-designated courses in both the liberal arts and their program major;
2. Engaged in and reflected upon service learning and cultural activities that apply to the College mission and Core Curriculum; and
3. Integrated original research or creative work into a professional presentation appropriate to an academic setting.

NACE COMPETENCIES SATISFIED BY THE HONORS PROGRAM

The National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) has established eight competencies for a career-ready workforce. These are:

1. Career and self-development;
2. Communication;
3. Critical thinking;
4. Equity and inclusion;
5. Leadership;
6. Professionalism;
7. Teamwork; and
8. Technology.

The Honors Program satisfies all of these competencies through the various activities and experiences in which students engage while participating in the Program.