

University College

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University College brings together existing and planned programs focused on increasing student achievement and engagement across the university. The College coordinates and guides programs from both academic affairs and student affairs, honing the focus across disciplines to ensure that all Winthrop students, regardless of their ultimate degree goals, have a common academic foundation as they commence a major course of study. Students who have not declared majors are advised through University College's Pre-Major Advising Center.

University College brings together Winthrop's General Education program, the first year experience course (ACAD 101: Principles of the Learning Academy), the Honors program, academic theme floors in residence halls, and the activities and opportunities available through the International Center. The Teaching and Learning Center, which provides professional development opportunities for faculty and works with faculty who are new to Winthrop, is also a key component of University College. An overarching focus for all of the dynamic elements of University College is enhancing the freshman-year experience and student retention.

In addition to the programs listed above, the College works with student orientation, the Service Learning Center, the Model United Nations, and the Office of Cultural Events. Programs presently in development include leadership studies, civic engagement opportunities, and student academic success centers.

Programs for Superior Students--Honors Program

Honors Mission Statement. Winthrop University's Honors Program is designed to enrich the college experience for highly talented and motivated students. Through interactions with outstanding faculty and peers, a vital community of scholars is created that embraces the pursuit of knowledge for the enhancement of intellectual and personal growth.

Distinguishing Features. The Winthrop Honors Program has evolved into one of the university's most exciting offerings. During the first semester of the freshman year, students are invited to take honors courses based on their high school grade point average and ACT/SAT score. The program requires completion of at least 23 hours of honors courses and a service learning course/project. To receive honors credit for a course, the student must complete the course with minimum grade of B. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.30 is required to enroll in honors courses.

Winthrop's Honors Program courses include:

- **Symposia** that bring together talented students and exceptional teachers in a small group setting.
- **Interdisciplinary Seminars** that integrate information from different areas of study.
- **Instructional alternatives** such as team-teaching, guest lectures, or visits to sites or events associated with the subject of study.
- **Learning enrichment** through multicultural and international studies.
- **Civic engagement and service learning** in independent and cooperative settings.
- **Special privileges** including extended library checkout during honors thesis work, honors advising, and honors residence hall accommodations.

Requirements for the Honors Program Degree:

- **General Education Component:** HMXP 102H, CRTW 201H (6 credit hours).
- **Coursework Component:** Completion of 15 credit hours of honors coursework with a minimum of 6 credit hours in the major and 3 credit hours outside the major.
- **Cultural Component:** One honors symposium must be completed (1 credit hour).
- **Independent Study Component:** A senior thesis/project must be completed in the major (may count as 3 credit hours in the major or as HONR 450H - Honors Thesis for 3 credit hours) and completion of HONR 451H - Thesis Symposium (1 credit hour) at the time the thesis is written.
- **Service Learning Component:** A service learning class/project must be completed.

In addition to the Honors Program Degree, Winthrop encourages honors students to participate in international study abroad opportunities by offering an Honors Program Degree with International Experience.

Requirements for the Honors Program Degree with International Experience:

- Same **Components** as for the Honors Program Degree above.
- **International Experience:** Completion of an extended experience outside the U. S. in a learning environment. A semester of study abroad in an exchange program, or other university program, is the best and most common way to meet this requirement. The equivalent of a semester abroad, comprised of several short international experiences of at least three weeks each, will also meet this requirement.

Honors Course Categories

Honors sections of regular courses are smaller, more selective versions of standard courses. For example, instead of a lecture class with standardized tests, honors sections may consist of 15 students graded on the basis of in-depth essays and contributions to class discussions.

Special topics courses are generally interdisciplinary in nature, sometimes taught by two faculty from different disciplines. Food and Power: Politics, Public Policy and Hunger; The Arthurian Tradition; and The Films of Orson Welles are examples of recent special topics courses. Such courses make it possible to cover subjects of particular interest to current honors students.

Contracted honors courses allow honors students to earn honors credit in subjects for which no formal honors courses are available. Any course is eligible, provided the student contracts with the professor to do work of sufficient sophistication, either in place of, or in addition to, the regular requirements of the course. A written agreement must be drawn up within the first few days of the semester and approved by the Honors Director.

Honors symposia are 1 credit hour special interest courses generated by faculty with expertise in a specific area. Recent Honors Symposia include: Breast Cancer, Women and Society; Nontraditional Conflict in the 21st Century; and The Individual and Community: Sources of the Sacred in American Culture.

Independent study, in the form of research or creative work, is required for an Honors Program degree at Winthrop. Prior to the beginning of the semester in which the work is to be undertaken, a prospectus must be approved by the faculty project director, the appropriate department chair and dean, and the Honors Director. Student researchers are encouraged to submit their findings to the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, a meeting which brings together scholars from honors programs throughout the United States, or to the Southern Regional Honors Council Conference, a meeting of scholars from honors programs in the southeast.

Sample Timetables

Freshman: WRIT 101H (if needed), HMXP 102H, honors course in major
 Sophomore: CRTW 201H, honors course, international experience*
 Junior: honors course, honors symposium, service learning course
 Senior: honors thesis, HONR 451H

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 Sophomore: CRTW 201H, honors course, international experience*
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*required only for students who desire an Honors Program Degree with International Experience.

Degree with Recognition - Transfer Students

Transfer students to Winthrop can pursue an Honors Program Degree or a Degree with Recognition. Students who have participated in an honors program at an accredited four-year college or university are encouraged to continue in the Winthrop Honors Program. These students may receive honors credit for honors study completed at the other institution. With the approval of the Honors Director, students who transfer to Winthrop as sophomores may receive up to six hours of honors credit. Students transferring as juniors may receive up to nine hours of honors credit, and senior transfer students may receive up to twelve hours of honors credit.

A student who transfers to Winthrop with no previous honors hours and a minimum number of hours left to earn the degree may choose to pursue a Degree with Recognition. The Degree with Recognition Program is restricted to transfer students entering with and maintaining a 3.3 GPA, receiving transfer credit for at least 60 hours, and needing 75 hours or fewer at Winthrop. If more than 75 hours are taken at Winthrop, the student should choose to pursue an Honors Program Degree.

Requirements for a Degree with Recognition

In addition to meeting the eligibility requirements described in the above paragraph, a student will attain a Degree with Recognition through satisfactorily completing at least 13 credit hours of honors courses while maintaining a 3.3 GPA based on his or her total course work. Honors courses must be completed with a B or better to be accepted as honors credit. The following requirements must be adhered to:

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- **General Education Component:** HMXP 102H, CRTW 201H (6 credit hours).
- **Major Component:** 6 credit hours of honors courses in the major.
- **Independent Study Component:** A senior thesis/project must be completed in the major (may count as part of the 6 credit hours in the major or as HONR 450H – Honors Thesis for 3 credit hours) and completion of HONR 451H – Thesis Symposium (1 credit hour) at the time the thesis is written.
- **Service Learning Component:** A service learning class/project must be completed.

For more information, contact: Kathy A. Lyon, PhD.
Honors Program Director
139 Bancroft Hall
803/323-2320 or lyonk@winthrop.edu

Project REACH (REtention and ACHievement)

Project REACH promotes student retention by developing and implementing programs that encourage students to seek their potential and enable them to reach academic and professional goals. REACH projects include a Faculty-Student Mentoring Program as well as studies designed to understand the types of student support services that will best serve student needs. A Student Guide to Success on the REACH website (www.winthrop.edu/retention/students.htm) helps students identify obstacles to success and offers strategies for overcoming these difficulties.

Cultural Events

Winthrop University strives to offer its students a setting in which they can mature culturally, as well as intellectually. In an effort to provide a well-rounded education, the Winthrop faculty has approved a cultural events policy. The purpose of the cultural events requirement is to establish and foster a life-enriching pattern of cultural involvement. A record of student attendance at cultural events can be accessed through Wingspan.