

UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

University Academic Programs

Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies:

Dr. Nele Hempel-Lamer

Director: Dr. Deborah Thien

Assistant Director: Kashima Samuels

Academic Advisor: Lizette Alvarez

Office: Library West (LBW), Room 214

Phone: (562) 985-4706

The University Honors Program provides a select pool of high-achieving students with a unique educational experience through a commitment to academic excellence and undergraduate research, mentorship and professionalism, and meaningful civic engagement both on campus and in local and global communities. These opportunities are supported by a close-knit community of scholars, faculty and staff to ensure students are thoughtfully and rigorously prepared for leadership roles, whether in the pursuit of advanced graduate degrees, and/or in personal and professional pathways in local and global settings. Honors students are eligible for merit-based financial support from President's Scholarships, and receive valuable benefits such as priority registration, small classes, individualized academic advising, and undergraduate research experiences.

University Honors Program offers students the best of a small college experience alongside the opportunities afforded by a comprehensive university setting. Students will be fully immersed in the learning process and therefore must have both the ability and willingness to do intense and often self-directed intellectual work as well as a desire to make the most of all opportunities available at and beyond the University. Students will be prepared to lead their communities with intellectual rigor, transformative vision, and global acumen. Students are expected to make a sustained commitment to excellence.

The University Honors Program offers a special approach to the General Education requirements of the University through a cohesive and unified program of study. The program consists of carefully selected courses and specially designed, multi-disciplinary seminars, most of which are applied toward the 48 units of General Education courses required for graduation of all students.

Program Requirements

Honors Plan I and II students must complete all respective plan requirements, all University-wide graduation requirements, and the requirements for their major. Honors is itself not a major.

1) Honors Plan I (minimum of 21 lower- and upper-division units) is designed for entering freshmen and consists of a minimum of 15 units of lower- and upper-division General Education, major, and/or elective Honors courses and a culminating 6-unit senior thesis/project (UHP 496, Research Participation, and UHP 498, Senior Thesis/Project).

2) Honors Plan II (minimum of 15 upper-division units)

is primarily designed for upper-division transfers from community colleges and continuing CSULB students. Honors Plan II consists of a minimum of 9 units of upper-division General Education, major, and/or elective Honors courses and a culminating 6-unit senior thesis/project (UHP 496, Research Participation, and UHP 498, Senior Thesis/Project).

In addition to completing the number of academic units required for Honors Plan I or II, a student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher in Honors and in all University courses attempted to earn an Honors Certificate. Students who fall below these required minimums are placed on Honors Probation until they have regained a GPA of 3.00 or higher in all GPA calculations. Additionally, students who have failed to enroll in courses for Honors credit for two consecutive semesters are not considered in good standing and will normally be withdrawn from the Program. Demonstrated lack of engagement in the CSULB Honors community or dishonest behavior/plagiarism are also grounds for dismissal from the University Honors Program.

Admissions Requirements

Detailed application guidelines can be found on the website of the University Honors Program at www.csulb.edu/uhp.

Incoming first-year students are invited to apply to Honors I (see website above for detailed admissions criteria). Normally, students should be in the upper ten percent of their high school classes, and have an ACT composite score of at least 24, and/or strong SAT scores, and a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Even if not all criteria are met, under special circumstances, applicants may be evaluated for admissions consideration by the Honors Program Director

Any continuing student who maintains a 3.5 or higher cumulative GPA at California State University, Long Beach and can accommodate 15 units of upper-division Honors coursework into his/her graduation timeline is eligible to apply to Honors II. CSULB students not meeting the designated criteria may petition for admission. These exceptional cases will be reviewed by the Director and the University Honors Program Advisory Board. Students are encouraged to petition if they have a good explanation for not meeting the basic requirements and/or a strong motivation to participate in the Program.

Transfer students may apply to Honors II, provided they have a minimum equivalent of a 3.5 GPA in all coursework at the accredited institution from which they are transferring. Where University Honors transfer agreements have been negotiated with a community college (such as with Long Beach City College), the terms and conditions of these agreements govern admission to the CSULB University Honors Program.

Please be advised that the University Honors Program offers a distinct Engineering Honors option for students pursuing a major in Engineering. These students must

meet specific application criteria and procedures that are outlined on the website indicated above. Admitted Engineering students follow the requirements of Honors Plan I or II.

Honors in the Major (available in select majors only)

Many CSULB majors provide students with an option to pursue Honors in the Major. Students in General Honors whose major department offers an Honors in the Major option may apply to participate in both programs, in which case the General Honors thesis requirement would be satisfied through the Honors in the Major option. Although Honors in the Major requirements may vary among departments, usually they entail independent study, seminar courses, high levels of performance, and senior projects or theses culminating in a broad knowledge of subject matter. Information concerning Honors in the Major is available in participating departmental offices.

Admission Requirements

Please contact the department office for information regarding admission. Normally, a student must be a declared major, usually with at least sophomore (30 units) standing.

Courses (UHP)

Special Honors sections of regular General Education (GE) courses in various departments as listed on the University Honors Program website at www.csulb.edu/uhp.

LOWER DIVISION

100. Angles of Vision - Honors (3)

Analytical and critical approaches leading to original and creative thinking. Development of seminar skills: preparation of analytical essays and oral presentations, examination of models and techniques of reasoning, conceptualization of research problems, writing documented paper.

101. Art, Community, Place: The LA Interchange - Honors (3)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

Explores cultural products and performances available in the Greater Los Angeles region; considers interdisciplinary understanding of how art enriches individuals and communities; investigates the arts community's interest in sustainability.

Letter grade only (A-F).

150. Exploring a Text - Honors (3)

Prerequisite: ENGL 100 or GE Composition (Area A1).

Close reading of a work (or works) of literature - fiction or non-fiction - exploring issues of personal identity, moral choice, freedom and commitment.

Letter grade only (A-F). May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units with different topics.

201. Sustainability and Technology in Los Angeles - Honors (3)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: One Category B.2 GE Foundation course.

Explores major scientific issues behind our understanding of sustainability such as biodiversity, population, food and water

resources, climate change, energy, public health, and the overall forecast for the environment and the human condition for the next several decades. Laboratory activities include combinations of field-trips, collecting data, and in-class analysis and reporting.

Letter grade only (A-F).

UPPER DIVISION

300. Junior Colloquium - Honors (3)

Studies of selected interdisciplinary topics, problems or issues with a view toward integration of the areas of study involved in lower-division courses.

Letter grade only (A-F). May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units with different topics.

301. Politics and Policy in Los Angeles - Honors (3)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation and upper-division status.

Examines politics and policy in Los Angeles and the surrounding region, including a consideration of governing structures, demographic trends and needs, environmental issues, and growth and development patterns, and relies on service-learning to inform work inside the classroom.

Letter grade only (A-F).

401. The History of Los Angeles: Invention of a City - Honors (3)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation and upper-division status.

Interdisciplinary examination of the history of Los Angeles, one of the most diverse cities in the world. Traces the social, economic, and cultural features of Los Angeles's urban development from the eighteenth century to the present.

Letter grade only (A-F).

490. Selected Topics - Honors (3)

Identification and critical analysis of current problems in selected areas.

Letter grade only (A-F). May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units with different topics.

496. Research Participation - Honors (3)

Prerequisite: Consent of program director and supervising faculty.

Independent research for the UHP senior thesis/project; conducted under the supervision of a faculty mentor and the program director.

Letter grade only (A-F).

497. Directed Studies - Honors (1-3)

Prerequisite: Consent of program director and supervising faculty.

Independent study under supervision of a faculty member.

Letter grade only (A-F). May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units.

498. Senior Thesis/Project - Honors (3)

Prerequisite: Consent of program director and supervising faculty.

Final completion of a thesis or a project; or an exhibit or a performance.

Letter grade only (A-F).