

Missouri Valley College Honors Program Handbook 2016-2017

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Mission

The MVC Honors Program promotes intellectual inquiry and advanced study for outstanding students who seek additional academic challenge.

Description

Students take Honors seminars in which they engage with primary texts as a means of understanding the historical development of significant movements in thought. As a means of acquiring multicultural knowledge, students take a foreign language or study abroad. The program also encourages deeper exploration of particular disciplines through “contract” classes, service learning, and an Honors thesis in the student’s major.

Honors Program Overview:

- HN 100: Intro to Honors (1 credit)
- 5 Honors seminars (to replace 5 core courses)
- 2 contract classes in the major
- Study abroad/ 6-credits foreign language
- HN 400: Independent study/thesis proposal (1 credit)
- HN 485: Honors thesis (1 credit)

Student Learning Outcomes--Program

1. Demonstrate effective communication skills
2. Implement effective information literacy skills
3. Compare and articulate multicultural perspectives
4. Articulate the impact of informed and engaged citizenship
5. Demonstrate connections between ethical frameworks and practical issues
6. Identify and apply basic concepts of science
7. Demonstrate critical understanding of perspectives on what it means to be human.
8. Analyze historical facts and interpretations
9. Articulate the significance of artistic expression and the creative process within society.

Admission requirements:

First-time Freshmen

Applicants should have earned a minimum combined ACT score of 24 or a combined Critical Reading and Math SAT score of 1090*.

Transfer and Current Students

Students who have completed 15-30 hours of coursework with a GPA of 3.5 or above at any accredited college or university are also invited to apply for admission. These students can complete the program in three years by condensing the last two years of coursework into one year, or they may choose to stay another year. The program is designed for four years.

Eligible students, in addition to completing the MVC application for admission and separate application form for the Honors Program, must also write a 300-400 word essay that explains why they are interested in the Honors Program and submit it to schmidtc@moval.edu.

Applications will be reviewed January 15, May 1, and August 1 for the following academic year. *If the minimum ACT or SAT score is not met, students can petition the Honors Program Director for admission. In addition to the application essay, these students should provide evidence that they will succeed in Honors (e.g. high g.p.a., rigor of high school courses, letters of recommendation from teachers, a personal statement).

Advantages of Participation

- Small classes designed and taught by Honors faculty
- Opportunities to enhance and refine writing skills by working closely with faculty
- Professional development opportunities with visiting scholars
- Field trips and hands-on learning opportunities
- Workshops for conference proposals, internship applications, and graduate school applications
- Service learning opportunities
- Special recognition at graduation and convocation
- Priority housing beginning sophomore year
- 25% scholarship for study abroad (maximum of \$1500)
- Priority registration for courses each semester
- One coffee card per semester (worth \$5.00 toward hot drinks in the library)
- Overdue fines waived for Murrell Library materials (does not apply to items borrowed through Quest or MOBIUS, and charges for items not returned at the end of the semester cannot be waived)

Faculty

Faculty who teach Honors Program seminars have terminal degrees.

Curriculum

1. Introduction (1 course)

- **HN 100 Introduction to the Honors Program:** (1 credit) This course teaches students approaches to critical thinking and writing in preparation for Honors Seminars. Fall.

2. Honors Seminars: A sequence of five 3-credit Writing Intensive*, interdisciplinary classes in which students read primary texts. These courses replace 15 hours of General Education course requirements as specified below.

- **HN 190: Honors Humanities I: The Ancient World to the Baroque Age:** The first course in the Honors sequence intensively examines the arts in Western civilization from the ancient world through the Baroque period using primary texts. Focus will be on art, architecture, and literature; course includes discussion of social conditions and philosophy. Spring.
- **HN 290: Revolutions in Scientific Thought:** The second course in the Honors sequence emphasizes scientific revolutions that occurred from 1600 to the present through primary texts. Fall.
- **HN 291: Honors Humanities II: The Age of Reason to the Modern Era** The third course in the Honors sequence intensively examines the arts in Western civilization from the Age of Reason through the modern era using primary texts. Focus will be on art, architecture, and literature; course includes discussion of social conditions and philosophy. Spring.
- **HN 390: The Self, Human Nature, Freedom, and Society:** The fourth course in the Honors sequence analyzes primary texts in psychology, sociology, and political science. Fall.
- **HN 490: Philosophy and Ethics:** The culminating course in the Honors sequence analyzes primary texts in moral philosophy from ancient through modern times. Spring.

3. Research

- **HN 400: Independent Research:** (1 credit) Students work individually with a faculty member in their major to develop and write a thesis proposal for HN 485. Arranged.
- **HN 485: Honors Thesis:** (1 credit) In conjunction with the Senior Seminar/Thesis in their major, Honors students produce a thesis of publishable quality and formally present it to the campus community. A committee of three professors—the major thesis professor

plus two other faculty (at least one of whom must hold a terminal degree) of the student's choosing—will guide and evaluate the final thesis to determine the final grade for HN 485. Arranged.

**Writing Intensive: The five Honors Seminars follow the MVC Writing across the Curriculum criteria for WI courses. Students will be required to write at least 15 pages /4500 words per semester. Writing assignments should make up at least 50% of the overall grade. Instructors will be required to provide revision help and feedback on at least 5 pages/1500 words. Students should be given time to revise (after instructor feedback) before submitting those 5 pages of written work.*

***General Education substitutions: The following honors curriculum will substitute as general education core curriculum as listed below.*

HN 190 Honors Humanities I for Core I A - EN 160

HN 290 Revolutions in Scientific Thought for Core 3C Historical Knowledge

HN 291 Honors Humanities II for Core 3D Art & Creativity

HN 390 The Self, Human Nature, Freedom, and Society for Core 3B Reflection & Meaning

HN 490 Philosophy and Ethics for Core 2D Ethics

4. Students are required to take 6 credits of foreign language OR complete a study abroad experience worth at least 6 credits.

5. Contract classes (6 credits):

Within their major students will also choose two courses (junior or senior level) to complete additional work under “contract” with the faculty member. Students receive the same amount of credit for the course, but it will be marked on their transcript as an Honors course. To determine if the faculty member wishes to “contract” with the student for Honors credit, the student should meet with the faculty member who will teach the course and request to take the course for Honors credit prior to registration.

The faculty member and the student work together to design the content that will constitute the Honors portion of the course. Any such contract should involve the critical thinking skills that are central to the Honors Program. A course that gives students additional insight, research experience, preparation for graduate work, and writing in the discipline is the aim of the contract course.

Once the content has been designed, the student and faculty member should print and complete the Contract Course form (available on the MVC Honors Program website and as an Appendix to this document) and return a signed copy with a course syllabus to the Honors Director for

approval. The Director should receive the forms by November 1 for spring semester classes and April 15 for fall semester classes.

Continuing in the Program

To continue participation in the MVC Honors Program, students must earn a grade of A or B in all Honors courses. Additionally, students must earn a 3.2 g.p.a. their freshman year and maintain a cumulative 3.5 g.p.a. or higher every year thereafter. Students must remain in good disciplinary standing at Missouri Valley College.

Students who fall below the g.p.a. requirement or who receive a C or lower in an Honors course will be placed on one semester of probation for the Honors Program. A second C, or lower, or failure to raise the g.p.a. to the required minimum in the following semester, will result in dismissal from the Honors Program.

Repeating Honors Program Courses

Students who earn a D or F in an Honors course will be allowed to repeat the course to raise their g.p.a. They can resume the Honors sequence of courses after successfully passing that course. In other words, progress in the Program is halted until the prerequisite course is passed with a C or better. Policies regarding Continuing in the Program still apply.

Contacts

Dr. Claire Schmidt, Director, schmidtc@moval.edu, 660-831-4223

Debbie Coleman, Student Success Director, colemand@moval.edu, 660-831-4170

MVC Honors Program Contract Course Form

Student's Name: _____

Course name and number: _____

Credit hours: _____

Instructor: _____

Semester: _____

The student agrees to perform the work specified below. (Note: the work specified should involve the critical thinking skills and program learning outcomes central to the Honors Program. One additional paper or assignment does not constitute the additional work required for Honors credit. See page 4 of the Honors Handbook.) Attach additional documents if necessary.

Please print and sign form.

Student's signature: _____ Date: _____

Instructor's signature: _____ Date: _____

Honors Program Director's signature: _____