



MISSOURI  
VALLEY  
COLLEGE

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HONORS PROGRAM



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The MVC Honors Program is designed for high-achieving students in all majors who want to get the most out of their education. The program is reserved for exceptional students who demonstrate intelligence, accountability, and initiative in fulfilling requirements beyond those asked of others. Honors courses develop students' ability to learn and think independently; sharpen their analytical, research and discussion skills; and develop their writing. Participation in the Honors Program enhances day-to-day academic and social life. It also adds distinction to degrees and helps students stand out from the crowd. Graduate and professional schools and prospective employers pay attention to such marks of excellence.

# PROGRAM BENEFITS

## Priority housing

(beginning sophomore year)

## Priority class registration

## Enhanced classrooms

## Scholarship for study abroad

## Extended library check-out times

## Guest speakers

## Graduation honors

## Professional development resources

## Supportive cohort of motivated colleagues

## Additional printing funds

Honors students attend the True/False Film Festival in Columbia, Mo



Graduating from the Honors Program adds distinction to your degree!



# THE FULL 4 - YEAR PROGRAM

The Honors Program curriculum includes an introduction to critical reading and writing, five writing intensive interdisciplinary seminars, faculty guidance for a research proposal, and an Honors thesis.

**1 credit of Honors 100:** the introduction to Honors. This course teaches students approaches to critical thinking and writing in preparation for Honors Seminars.

**15 credits of Honors Seminars:** a series of five Writing Intensive, interdisciplinary classes in which students read primary texts from the ancient through the modern eras.

**6 credits** of foreign language OR study abroad. (*Counts Toward Core 2A*)

**1 credit of Honors 400:** students work independently with a faculty member in their major to develop and write a proposal for an Honors Thesis.

**6 credits of contract classes:** within their major students will choose two courses (junior or senior level) to complete additional work under "contract" with the faculty member.

**Honors Thesis:** 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.

## TWO-YEAR HONORS PROGRAM FOR AA-TRANSFER/JUNIOR START:

**One credit of Honors 300**

**Six credits of Honors seminars of the student's choice**

**Six credits of foreign language or study abroad**

**One credit of Honors 400: Thesis Research**

**Six credits of contract courses**

**One credit of Honors 485: Honors Thesis**

### LOREN C. GRUBER HONORS AWARD

This monetary award is given annually to a student in good academic standing who has completed an Honors Program thesis. Jurors will choose the thesis with superior clarity of expression, evidentiary support, originality of thought, and insight.

## ADMISSION

**New Freshmen** - In addition to applying for admission to MVC, students must submit the online application form and write a 300-400 word personal statement explaining why they are interested in the Honors Program. The personal statement should be submitted to [honors@moval.edu](mailto:honors@moval.edu).

**Transfer and Current Students** - Current MVC students or students transferring with an Associate of Arts degree with a GPA of 3.5 or above at any accredited college or university are also invited to apply for admission into a 2-year abbreviated version of Missouri Valley Honors. Students must submit the online application form and write a 300-400-word personal statement explaining their interest in the Honors Program. This personal statement should be submitted to [honors@moval.edu](mailto:honors@moval.edu).

Motivated students who do not meet the admissions criteria may petition the Honors Program Director for provisional admission. To do so, students should submit the application essay, along with two letters of recommendation from teachers.

**Questions? Want to schedule a visit? Please contact Honors Program Director Dr. Claire Schmidt at [schmidt@moval.edu](mailto:schmidt@moval.edu) or 660-831-4223.**

## SEMINARS \*FULFILL 15 HOURS OF GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

### 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; includes discussion of social conditions and philosophy. Spring (*Replaces EN160*)

#### 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 (*Counts Toward Core 3C*)

#### The Self, Human Nature, Freedom, and Society

The fourth course in the Honors sequence analyzes primary texts in psychology, sociology, and political science. Fall (*Counts Toward Core 3B*)

### 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; includes discussion of social conditions and philosophy. Spring (*Counts Toward Core 3D*)

#### Philosophy and Ethics

The culminating course in the Honors sequence analyzes primary texts in moral philosophy from ancient through modern times. Spring (*Counts Toward Core 2D*)

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: Do you have to take a lot of extra classes?**

**A:** No, you just take different classes. Each Honors seminar replaces a core General Education class. You only take 3 additional credit hours--one credit for HN 100 or HN 300 Intro to Honors, one credit for HN 400 Research (for your senior Honors thesis), and one credit for HN 485, Honors Thesis.

**Q: Does it cost anything to join the Honors Program?**

**A:** No! The Honors Program actually makes you eligible for more financial resources both on and off campus.

**Q: Are the classes really hard?**

**A:** That's a tough question to answer. Honors seminars dig deeper and help students push themselves further. Our expectations are high, and you will rise to meet the challenge. Honors students have the support of their professors and fellow scholars--you're never in this alone.

**Q: Is the Honors Program going to ruin my GPA?**

**A:** No. Law schools, medical schools, and other graduate programs value applicants who challenge themselves and professionalize themselves through Honors education more highly than applicants with a 4.0 made up of safe, "easy" classes.

**Q: I play a sport. Can I still be in the Honors Program?**

**A:** Absolutely! While we expect Honors students to be active participants in the field trips, social events, and service work, we also understand that students have many responsibilities. Nearly half of MVC's Honors students play a sport.

**Q: What are the other students like?**

**A:** Honors students tend to be interested and interesting, ambitious, friendly, funny, hard-working, and goal-oriented. We have Honors students from Africa, the Americas (north, central, and south), Asia, Australia, and Europe, so we're a pretty international bunch. Some students are from big cities, and others are from the deep country. When you graduate, you'll be able to network with Honors colleagues around the country and the world!

