



Honors

The Honors Program at Gonzaga is a diverse, dynamic community of students and scholars dedicated to understanding and improving our new and changing world. Honors students embrace experiential learning, probe the toughest problems in their fields of interest, and draw from the University's mission to become people for others. The Honors Program provides students with innovative and immersive educational experiences designed to empower them to lead lives of meaning, service, and leadership into the future.

ACADEMICS

The Gonzaga Honors education begins with a three-day immersion experience, in which students meet each other and begin to bond as a cohort, as well as learning to orient themselves in Spokane, at Gonzaga, and as Honors students. Students then take the Honors First Year Block, a rich, integrated, and interdisciplinary set of courses shared by all students entering the Honors Program. In these courses, students are introduced to the complex structures and problems of contemporary society while also honing the foundational academic skills of critical reasoning, analysis, and communication.

Throughout their time at Gonzaga, Honors students have reserved seats in innovative and exciting Honors Designated courses taught by award-winning faculty. In addition, Honors students convene in collaboratively taught and interdisciplinary Honors Colloquia to discuss complex, timely, and urgent topics in the context of a global society. Examples of Honors Colloquia topics include climate change; race and representation; gender and justice; and wealth inequality.

Finally, Honors students complete their undergraduate career with the Honors Capstone experience. Students imagine and then design a personalized project that synthesizes their Gonzaga undergraduate education and encourages practical, career-focused experiential learning. Students design their own senior projects based on their goals, passions, and strengths.

ADMISSION

Admission to Gonzaga's Honors Program is highly competitive. Acceptance is based on academic achievement, extracurricular and service experiences, creativity, and evidence of being people for and with others. Because we are looking for well-rounded students, our admission process asks students to present a video or electronic portfolio that illustrates what they can bring to Gonzaga and the Honors program community. **Honors applications should be submitted electronically no later than January 1. Notification of acceptance into the Honors Program is sent by the beginning of March. All students who apply to the Honors Program must also submit a regular Gonzaga University Common Application for admission by December 1.** Acceptance to the Honors Program presupposes a complete and successful application to the University itself.

HONORS COURSES

First-Year Experience

Explore Gonzaga and Spokane while honing foundational skills in critical reasoning, writing, and communication.

Honors Colloquia

Focus on complex, timely, and urgent topics facing our global society in team-taught, interdisciplinary classes.

Designated Courses

Reserve your place in innovative, interactive, and exciting courses as you work towards completing your core and your chosen field of study.

Honors Capstone

Imagine, design, and complete a personalized project that integrates your knowledge, your career, and your passion.

“Vocation is where your deep gladness meets the deep hunger of the world.”

– Frederick Buechner





STUDY ABROAD

Honors students are encouraged to study abroad for at least a semester, and typically 75% of Honors students complete an academic term abroad. Some of the options available to Honors students include studying literature in London, human anatomy in Glasgow, engineering in Auckland, and nursing in Jordan.

THE COMMUNITY

Honors is a diverse and welcoming community. In addition to working together in the high-impact courses offered by the Honors Program, students get to know each other through program retreats, and events. Some Honors students live in the First-Year Living Learning Community (LLC) in Coughlin Hall, and all Honors students have access to the lounge spaces in the hall and other locations on campus. Peer mentoring programs ensure students make connections with students from other classes, providing lots of opportunity for help, advice, and friendship.

Honors students often take on leadership roles within Honors and the larger Gonzaga community, serving as Admission Ambassadors, Resident Assistants, Newman Scholars, and members of the Honors Student Advisory Board. They are often highly involved in student government, music, theater, dance, sports, the visual arts, and a wide range of student clubs across campus.

LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Gonzaga Honors students have found meaningful and fulfilling careers in a wide variety of fields all over the world. Gonzaga Honors alumni are teachers, nurses, scientists, doctors, engineers, business leaders, poets, and musicians. The Honors Program guides students to find their vocation and supports them as they achieve their goals.

Those who have chosen to pursue advanced degrees have been accepted into the top programs in their areas of interest, including Columbia University, Emory University, Lund University (Sweden), Stanford University, and University of Michigan, and are now working as professionals across the country and as academics in prestigious institutions. As an example of student success, 97% of Honors graduates in the last fifteen years who have applied to medical school have been accepted into a program within twelve months of graduation.

Many students decide to pursue a post-baccalaureate service program such as Teach for America, Jesuit Volunteer Corps, and the Peace Corps. Others have received prestigious post-baccalaureate scholarships, including one Marshall Fellowship, four Rhodes Scholarship finalists, and six Fulbright Scholarship offers in the past decade.



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