THE MWSU HONORS SURVIVAL GUIDE
THE ULTIMATE GUIDE FOR SHORT-TERM SURVIVAL
2014-2015
# Table of Contents

History of the Honors Program........................................... 3
How did you become an Honors Student? .............................. 4
Important people you should know for ultimate survival........... 5-6
You're in, so why should you stay? .................................... 7
What types of honors can you earn at Western?........................ 8
  Earning General Studies Honors ................................. 8
  Earning Majors Honors........................................... 9
Timeframe for earning General Studies and Majors Honors......... 10
How do you know which Honors courses will be offered?.......... 11
Who is your advisor, and where do you go for help?............... 12
  Your first advisor meeting........................................ 13
Special requirements of a Golden Griffon............................... 14
How do you stay in the Honors Program?.............................. 15
Appeals........................................................................... 16
Lounge and Computer Labs.............................................. 17
Have funds, Will Travel................................................... 18
Honors Clubs and Organizations....................................... 19-20
History of the Honors Program

In 1987, the Missouri Western State College Honors Program was officially established as a service of the Office of Academic Affairs. A proposal for originating the program created by liberal arts and sciences faculty, including Drs. Jerry Zweerink, Phil Mullins and Phil Wann, was submitted to the academic deans and forwarded for approval by the President of Missouri Western State College and the Board of Regents. As a result, the Honors Program was established in the Fall of 1987. The “Plan for an Honors Program” called for administrative support, an adequate budget, utilization of the most qualified faculty, development of an interesting, innovative, challenging and flexible curriculum, and smaller class sizes.

Over the years, the MWSU Honors Program has continued to grow, and now has a director, support staff, an honors committee, and an office suite located in Spratt 202.

History of Honors Directors
(and yes, we are all still alive):

Dr. Gerald Zweerink
Chemistry
1987-1993

Dr. Elizabeth Latosi-Sawin
English
2005-2012

Dr. David Bennett
Music
1993-2005

Dr. Teddi Deka
Psychology
2012 - Present
How did you become an Honors Student?

Of course, you worked hard in high school! Being an honors student, however, is more than just an ACT, GPA or class rank. Most incoming honors students receive the Golden Griffon Scholarship, the President’s Academic Scholarship, or the Provost’s Academic Scholarship. They have a history of excellence in academics, extracurricular activities and community service. The Honors Program supports and enhances the educational experiences of our very best students.

Sometimes, high school students apply to become honors students at the same time they apply to MWSU. Other students are asked to apply during registration if they meet the qualifications for new freshmen, which are:
- 26 or higher ACT
- 3.5 or higher high school GPA

Current students at MWSU, or transfer students, can also apply for the honors program if they have at least 15 hours of college credit with an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher. If these students have more than 32 hours of college credit, they can only pursue Majors Honors (please refer to Types of Honors). Applications are available on the honors homepage (www.missourいwestern.edu/honors). Not all applicants are accepted to the program.

Every year, MWSU welcomes approximately 60 new honors students!
Important people you should know (For ultimate survival)

Dr. Teddi Deka
Honors Program Director

Ms. Patti Adkisson
Honors Program Admin. Assistant

Student Office Staff

Emily Anderson  Ida Haefner  Maggie Lee
Honors Committee

The Honors Committee is composed of individuals who teach, advise and assist honors students across several departments.

Dr. Stacia Bensyl                English, Foreign Languages, Journalism
Dr. John Ellis                  Education
Dr. Shawna Harris               Communication Studies
Heather Kendall, R.N.           Nursing
Dr. Catherine Kendig            Philosophy
J. Neil Lawley                  Art
Dr. Mark Mills                  Biology
James Mulder                    Library
Dr. Jeff Poet                   Computer Science, Math, Physics
Dr. William Russell             Health, Physical Education, Recreation
Dr. Jeff Woodford               Chemistry
You’re in, so why should you stay?

There are many benefits to being in the Honors Program!

Top 10 Reasons to be honors-proud!

* Early registration (senior status)
* Use of Honors Lounge
* Attentive Honors Staff
* Dedicated Honors Committee
* Honors sections of General Studies classes
* Exclusive Colloquium seminars
* Honors achievements on transcript
* Opportunity to engage in Honors Independent Research
* Student Honors Organization (SHO) membership
* Honors housing on Academic Achievement Floor
What types of honors can you earn at Western?

MWSU offers two honors recognitions, General Studies Honors and Majors Honors. General Studies Honors encourages breadth of understanding, while Majors Honors encourages depth of understanding within the major.

Earning General Studies Honors

Minimum requirements:

* 6 General Studies CLASSES with honors designation
* 6 Colloquium CREDIT HOURS
* Grade of A or B earned in these classes
* Overall GPA of 3.2 (Freshmen) or 3.5 (non-Freshmen)
* All honors courses completed at MWSU

Each semester, departments across campus offer a variety of general studies honors courses and colloquium courses designed for 10 to 20 students.

Students fulfilling General Studies Honors will have this designation placed on their transcript.
Earning Majors Honors

To earn Majors Honors, students work closely with a professor to complete an honors thesis or creative work, generally across two semesters.

Minimum requirements:

* Completion of a major research project or creative work under the guidance of a professor within the major, and approval of the chair and the honors director
* 6 credit hours of designated honors work within the major
* 6 colloquium credit hours at 300+ level
  o This requirement is reduced to 4 credit hours for those completing both General Studies and Majors Honors for a total of 10 Colloquium credit hours (instead of 12).
* Grade of A or B earned in these classes
* Overall GPA of 3.5
* Honors thesis with presentation at a regional/national venue or submitted for publication

Approval:

Students must obtain approval of their Majors Honors plan by:

1. Obtaining the support of a faculty member to supervise the research or creative work, and
2. Completing and submitting the Majors Honors Approval Form to the honors office. This form is available on the Honors Webpage, [www.missouriwestern.edu/honors](http://www.missouriwestern.edu/honors), under the “forms” link.

After approval by the department and the Honors Program, students complete their planned program, submit a Majors Honors Progress Report, and a copy of their completed research project that has been (or will be) presented at a regional/national venue or submitted for publication.

Students who complete Majors Honors will have this designation placed on their transcript and the title of their thesis project.
Time Frame for Earning Honors

You may be wondering, “Just how long is it going to take for me to complete Honors?” The answer to this is anywhere from four to eight semesters. For those trying for General Studies Honors AND Majors Honors, it will take you about eight semesters. For those trying for either General Studies Honors OR Majors Honors we recommend a two-to-four-semester time frame for each.

For General Studies Honors, the Honors Office recommends taking two general studies honors classes and one colloquium every semester until completed. If following this recommendation, General Studies Honors would be completed in three semesters. Keep in mind that you must receive an A or B in each of these classes in order for it to count as honors credit. AT MINIMUM, the Honors Office recommends taking at least one class pertaining to General Studies Honors every semester until completed.

For Majors Honors, the Honors Office recommends choosing two semesters, either the fall and spring of senior year, or the spring of junior year and the fall of senior year, to complete the requirements and project. Please review the requirements for Majors Honors in the previous section. A word to the wise: Plan on your project in advance! Students wishing to pursue Majors Honors must have the support of a faculty sponsor to provide guidance for the project. You may find it beneficial to work with a faculty member on his or her research a semester or two before asking for sponsorship.
How do you know which honors courses will be offered?

General Studies Courses:

The Honors Program and other departments determine the General Studies rotation for the academic year. This rotation is printed in the University Catalog. Generally speaking, the rotation does not alter from year to year. However, sometimes changes occur due to student usage and faculty availability.

Honors By Contract (HBC):
Occasionally, students need to take one of the general studies courses that is normally offered as honors, when the course is not offered in the rotation or because of schedule restraints. Students wishing to do so must meet with the professor and fill out an Honors by Contract Form (available under ‘forms’ on the honors program website), which specifies additional coursework to be completed to achieve honors status. An HBC form must be completed and accepted before the start date of the course. A professor, department chair, or the Honors Director, has the right to refuse an HBC.

HBCs can only be granted for general studies courses that are typically offered with honors sections, and with the approval noted above. There are no HBCs for colloquia (HON195, HON395).

Colloquia:
The Honors Program asks faculty to propose colloquia centered on special topics or themes. All colloquia encourage creative and critical thinking, enrichment within the topic, and camaraderie among honors students. In Fall semesters, the Honors Program offers both HON195 (incoming Freshmen only) and HON395 colloquia. In Spring semester, only HON395 colloquia are offered. Three to five colloquia are offered each semester.
Who is your advisor, and where do you go for help?

You are assigned an Academic Advisor based on your intended major. You can look up your Academic Advisor by going to Goldlink, clicking on Student Academics, and reviewing the box “Academic Profile” in the lower left-hand corner.

The Honors Office provides each department with a list of honors students within their major or intended major every semester. Most departments have an individual who is designated as the honors advisor, or have a faculty member that is on the honors committee. If you are assigned another advisor within the department, you may request a change of advisor to the the honors advisor, honors committee member, or chairperson within your area of study. You can also remain with your assigned advisor!

Your advisor will assist you in planning which courses to take. He or she will also assist you with fulfilling your honors requirements. Make sure, however, that your advisor knows you are an honors student!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Honors Committee</th>
<th>Chairperson</th>
<th>Department Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Neil Lawley</td>
<td>Peter Hriso</td>
<td>4282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Dr. Mark Mills</td>
<td>Dr. Todd Eckdahl</td>
<td>4379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Michael Lane</td>
<td>4338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Dr. Jeff Woodford</td>
<td>Dr. Michael Ducey</td>
<td>4393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Studies</td>
<td>Dr. Shawna Harris</td>
<td>Dr. Marilyn Hunt</td>
<td>4490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comp Sci, Math, Phys.</td>
<td>Dr. Jeff Poet</td>
<td>Dr. Michael Ottinger</td>
<td>4288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crim Jst, Legal, Soc Wk</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. David Tushaus</td>
<td>4293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Econ, Pol Sci, Sociol</td>
<td>Dr. John Courington</td>
<td></td>
<td>5870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Dr. John Ellis</td>
<td>Dr. Brenda Blessing</td>
<td>5951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering Technology</td>
<td>Dr. George Yang</td>
<td></td>
<td>5820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engl, Foreign Lang, Jou</td>
<td>Dr. Stacia Bensyl</td>
<td>Dr. Mike Cadden</td>
<td>4577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health, Phys Ed, Rec</td>
<td>Dr. William Russell</td>
<td></td>
<td>4491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History &amp; Geography</td>
<td>Dr. Steven Greiert</td>
<td></td>
<td>5686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Science</td>
<td>J. Shay Howard</td>
<td></td>
<td>4541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Dr. Lee Harrelson</td>
<td></td>
<td>4421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing, Allied Health</td>
<td>Heather Kendall, R.N.</td>
<td>4415</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy &amp; Religion</td>
<td>Dr. Catherine Kendig</td>
<td></td>
<td>5686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Dr. Teddi Deka</td>
<td>Dr. Brian Cronk</td>
<td>4444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theatre &amp; Cinema</td>
<td></td>
<td>Don Lillie</td>
<td>5664</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Colleges**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Deans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences</td>
<td>Dr. Murray Nabors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>Dr. Robert Willenbrink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Studies</td>
<td>Dr. Kathleen O'Connor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Business</td>
<td>Dr. Michael Lane</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Administration**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VP Academic Affairs</td>
<td>Dr. Cindy Heider</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Honors Office**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honors Director</td>
<td>Dr. Teddi Deka</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Your first advisor meeting

Most students meet their advisor for the first time during the middle of their first semester, right before pre-registration begins for the Spring semester. Of course, you can meet your advisor beforehand, and perhaps that is a good idea, just to say hello and introduce yourself.

Pre-Advisement: Right after midterm grades come out, all advisors will begin posting charts on their doors for advisee meetings. Sign up as soon as possible, because you will be able to register with the seniors and need to obtain advisement and your PIN number to register.

1. Make sure your advisor knows you are an honors student.
2. Check the list of available General Studies honors courses and Colloquia you will have received, by e-mail, from the Honors Office.
3. Try to register for two General Studies honors courses and one Colloquia until you meet the requirements to fulfill General Studies Honors (6 GS honors courses + 6 credits of colloquia). At minimum, try for at least one GS honors course or at least one colloquium class per semester until you achieve General Studies Honors.
4. Make sure your advisor keeps track of your progress in honors by filling out the General Studies Honors Progress Report available on the honors homepage (www.missouriwestern.edu/honors).
5. If you have any questions or concerns about your Honors requirements, contact the Honors Office at 271-4535.
6. If you would like supplemental advisement, contact the Honors Office or visit us at Spratt 202. The Honors Director will have a supplemental advisement signup sheet in the honors office. Please note that you will still need to visit your assigned advisor.
Special Requirements of a Golden Griffon

Golden Griffon Scholarship recipients have additional expectations beyond Honors Program requirements to continue receiving their scholarships.

A Golden Griffon Must:

1. Be a student in the Honors Program, working steadily toward completion of General Studies Honors. Steady progress includes taking at least one General Studies Honors course or Colloquium course per semester until General Studies Honors is completed. If the student lapses one semester, he or she will be notified by the Honors Program. Lapses of two semesters will be considered inadequate progress.

2. Maintain an overall GPA of 3.5 every year.

3. Complete Griffon Edge within the first semester at MWSU.

4. Live in one of the Residence Halls on campus for the entire duration of receiving the scholarship. This must be the student’s only residence excluding holidays and summer break.

5. Join and participate in an MWSU club or organization during the first and second year at MWSU, beginning at least by the 2nd semester. The activities may be social, cultural, athletic, intellectual or civic in nature.

The Financial Aid office keeps track of GPA and residence requirements. GPAs are checked after Spring semester to determine continuation of the scholarship. To retain the Golden Griffon, either:

a. Cumulative GPA (institution plus dual-credit) must be 3.50 or higher, or
b. Institution GPA minus dual credit must be 3.50 or higher.

*If you meet condition b, and any dual credit was completed through MWSU, contact the Financial Aid office. Our system will automatically count this credit as ‘institution’ unless overridden by the Financial Aid office staff.

The Honors Program keeps track of your progress and participation requirements. Please consult the Honors Program with any questions regarding your scholarship.
How do you stay in the Honors Program?

**GPA and Grades:** To continue participation in the Honors Program, students must receive a grade of A or B in all honors courses. Additionally, students must achieve the following cumulative GPA at the end of each year: 3.2 (Freshmen) and 3.5 (Sophomores-Seniors)

GPA for the Honors Program is checked per semester. Those falling below expected GPAs will receive:

1. First semester: Notification by e-mail to raise GPA by the next semester.
2. Second semester: If GPA is higher than 3.0, an extension offer by e-mail that must be accepted by the student to maintain honors status. If GPA is lower than 3.0, or extension is not accepted, loss of honors designation.
3. Third semester: If GPA is higher than 3.0, request to meet with the Honors Director to discuss whether it is possible to meet the benchmark before achieving General Studies Honors and to create an agreed-upon plan of action. If student fails to meet with the director at this time, the result will be loss of honors designation. **STUDENTS MUST ACHIEVE THE GPA BENCHMARK TO EARN GENERAL STUDIES HONORS.**

**Progress toward General Studies Honors:** Honors students must demonstrate progress toward General Studies Honors. To maintain status and privileges, honors students should take at least one General Studies Honors class or Colloquium per semester until completing the program. If the student lapses one semester, he or she will be notified by the Honors Program. Lapses of two semesters will be considered inadequate progress, and the student will need to meet with the director to establish a plan of action. Failure to meet with the director after a lapse of two semesters will result in loss of honors designation.

**STUDENTS MUST CHECK THEIR MWSU E-MAIL AT LEAST ONCE PER WEEK AS SPECIFIED IN THE STUDENT HANDBOOK OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.** The Honors Program will not be responsible for notification by other means besides your Missouri Western e-mail account.
Appeals

Loss of Scholarship: Appeal for the loss of the Golden Griffon Scholarship due to GPA or residence requirements must occur through the Financial Aid Scholarship Committee. If lost due to GPA, the scholarship may be reinstated after reaching a cumulative GPA of 3.50. Consult with the Financial Aid office for details about reinstatement.

Remain in the Honors Program: Appeal to remain in the Honors Program should be made directly to Honors Director, in writing. The appeal will be discussed in the next Honors Committee Meeting and voted upon by its members.

Requirements and Awarding of General Studies Honors or Majors Honors: Appeal for awarding general studies or majors honors should be made directly to Honors Director, in writing. The appeal will be discussed in the next Honors Committee Meeting and voted upon by its members. After receiving the committee’s decision, the student can further appeal to Admissions and Graduation Committee.

Grades in Colloquia (HON195, HON395) Classes: The Honors Program follows the requirements outlined in the Student Handbook of Rights and Responsibilities. For specific information on the appeals process, contact the Honors Director at 271-4535.
Lounge and computer labs

There are two computers and a lounge area for all honors students who need to take a break or want a quiet place to study. The Honors lounge is equipped with different drinks like varieties of soda, bottled tea and water, and hot cocoa for those cold winter months. There is even a Keurig machine with different kinds of coffee mixes. Of course there is a replacement cost for the use of these, but it’s only $0.50. If you want to bring your own food, we have a microwave for you to make yourself a hot meal!
Have Funds, Will Travel

The Honors Program encourages students to present their research or projects at regional and national conferences. There are several funding sources available for students. Consult the Honors Program for more information if you plan to present your research or project.

1. Student Excellence Fund
   a. Up to $700 to attend or present at a conference.
   b. [https://www.missouriwestern.edu/foundation/student-excellence-fund/](https://www.missouriwestern.edu/foundation/student-excellence-fund/)
   c. Deadlines: October 19 and February 8

2. Blake K. Scanlon Applied Learning Presentation Grant Fund
   a. Up to $1000 to present at a refereed national or international venue
   b. [https://www.missouriwestern.edu/foundation/blake-scanlon/](https://www.missouriwestern.edu/foundation/blake-scanlon/)
   c. Deadlines: October 19 and February 8

3. Honors Program Travel Award
   a. Up to $200 to present or attend an honors-related conference (NCHC, Great Plains)
   b. Applications available in the honors Program office, Spratt 202
   c. Deadlines: One month in advance of the conference

4. Student Government Association Individual Funding
   a. No specific cap to funding.
   c. Must apply far enough in advance so that SGA can meet to vote on application

5. Student Government Association RSO Funding (group funding)
   a. Recognized Student Organizations only – no cap
   c. Deadlines: One month in advance of conference or event

6. Honors Program General Funding
   a. For faculty members to accompany students in group honors travel, or provide additional funding on a case-by-case basis.
   b. Meet with honors program director
   c. Deadlines: One month prior to travel date.
Honors Clubs and Organizations

Honors students are usually eager to join and be involved in extra-curricular activities. To help them jump into campus life, the Missouri Western Honors Program sponsors two organizations: Student Honors Organization (SHO) and Alpha Chi Honor Society.

**Student Honors Organization** is a social club that is open to all honors students. SHO provides friendship, leadership opportunities and community involvement along with exciting activities! In the past, SHO has sponsored movie nights, museum tours, and even a trip to the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Nebraska. Students may join by visiting the Center for Student Engagement website, going to OrgSync, and registering with SHO.

**Alpha Chi Honor Society** is a national college honor society. To become a member of Alpha Chi, students must be ranked in the top 10 percent of juniors, seniors and graduate students. This membership is by invite only, so be sure to keep your grades up during the early parts of your college career if you wish to join. Alpha Chi Honor Society involves its members in all aspects of its operations. They are the officers and representatives on the National Council. They plan and participate in local events, scholarly programs, and regional/national conventions.

Other Organizations: Many majors have other National honors societies. Check with your major department for details!