The Honors Program does not offer a major, a minor, or a degree. Successful completion of the Honors requirements is noted on students’ permanent transcripts. Honors graduates are given special recognition at commencement and wear the Honors stole with their academic robes.

Some University students have the ability and desire to engage in academic challenges that extend beyond the Liberal Education requirements and their own majors. In the Honors Program, these students take interdisciplinary Honors courses in lieu of Liberal Education offerings and engage in an Honors thesis or project. As members of the Honors community, they collaborate with a faculty advisor and the Honors Council to plan their studies and to manage the responsibilities that correspond with the program’s freedoms.

Eligibility

High school seniors with superior academic records or college students with a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or above are invited to apply. A concise letter stating reasons for interest in becoming a member of the Honors Program should be included with the application form. Such letters should be addressed to the Director, Honors Program, Bemidji State University. Students enrolled at Bemidji State University may personally consult the Director for information.

The quota of Honors Scholars admitted each academic year is determined by the number of qualified applications received. Students are appointed to the program on a competitive basis by the Honors Council. Applicants are notified in writing of their selection as Honors Scholars.

Honors Program Courses

HOPR 1190 Introduction to Honors (1 credit)
Designed to support students’ transition into the Honors Program at BSU, this course establishes the core academic skills, social competencies, and values that enable students to excel within the university and Honors community. The seminar’s goal is to enhance and enrich the student experience so that students may develop a sense of citizenry and derive the maximum benefit from the intellectual and social opportunities of college life. Students will learn to: create an annotated bibliography; find good resources; and identify bias and/or recognize subjectivity. Honors academic advising is highlighted. Required of first-semester Honors Program students.

HOPR 3700 Honors Seminar (3 credits)
Exploration of a single topic from a wide-variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives in a seminar environment. Repeatable (with different topics) for 12 credits for Honors Program students. Prerequisite(s): HOPR 1190 or permission of Honors Director.

HOPR 3899 Capstone Preparation (1 credit)
Each student plans an Honor’s Capstone project, arranges to work with a faculty advisor, develops an annotated bibliography, generates a proposal, and engages in the work of creating and executing the Capstone Project. Proposals are reviewed for approval by the Honors Council. While the timeline may vary depending on the needs of the student and the kind of Capstone Project, the suggested timeline is to enroll in HOPR 3899 within a year of expected graduation date. Prerequisite: Honors Program student, 6-credit hours of HOPR 3700 or permission of Director.

HOPR 4899 Capstone Presentation (1 credit)
Upon completion of the Honors Capstone Project, graduating students meet as a class to prepare and deliver formal presentations to the Honors and campus communities. Prerequisite: Honors Program student, HOPR 3899. Students generally enroll in HOPR 4899 in spring of the senior year.

Career Directions

Business/Leadership
Government Service/Leadership
Law
Medicine

Also: Graduate Study

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