

Inquire. Connect. Transform. Share.

Why join the Honors Program?

The Honors Program hosts an intellectually challenging, supportive environment that features interdisciplinary active learning and a dynamic curriculum with academic rigor. Faculty and students work together to share insights and examine perspectives to gain new understandings and interests, engage in dialog, analyze ideas, and practice creative and unconventional thinking.

[The Honors Program is an alternative path to complete liberal education courses at BSU and replaces the Liberal Education sequence of classes.](#)

- Honors courses typically feature unique (often current) topics, small class sizes, and one-on-one support from the Program faculty and staff.
- Honors Program students have the opportunity to **attend and present at regional and national conferences** and **engage in research/scholarship with faculty members** from across the University.
- Honors Program students are **eligible for early registration**, so Program students generally get the courses they want to take when they want to take them.
- Honors Program students have **ample leadership opportunities**. In fact, this year, **BSU Honors is hosting the Upper Midwest Honors Conference** with colleges and universities from across 7 states attending. We will need students from all majors to pitch in and come together to share how special BSU Honors is with our peer institutions!
- All Honors Program students are eligible to live in the **Honors living learning community** in one of the campus dormitories. It's a great opportunity to share ideas with other ambitious students!
- Sophomores – senior students are eligible to apply for a **full housing scholarship** to live in Laurel House, which is a sustainable living learning community that hosts four Honors Program students annually.
- Studies show that Honors Program students are **more likely to complete college** and are **sought after by employers** due to the ideals that Honors promotes: critical and creative thinking, innovation, the ability to take calculated risks, strong independent research skills, leadership skills, written and oral communication skills, and the ability to collaborate.

Who is eligible?

Honors application packages are evaluated holistically. This means that we do not have minimum requirements. Instead, community members are selected based on the combination of all pieces of the application: GPA, percentage of high school class, testing scores, and so forth. Thus, *the letter of interest is a crucial component of your application* because it shows us why you'd like to learn with us and what you believe you can contribute Honors.

How to apply:

- Complete the Honors Program application. <https://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/honors/prospective-students/application-process/>
- Letter of Interest: in two to three paragraphs, outline why do you want to join a community whose focus is on making interdisciplinary connections, championing academic excellence, and serving as future leaders in our communities across the region. What might you offer to this community and how do you believe the community might help you grow as a citizen-scholar. You may copy and past the statement into the online application or you may submit the statement via e-mail to honors@bemidjistate.edu.

Program and Course Requirements

Liberal Education Requirements

Honors Program students will complete liberal education goal areas 1 – 6 within the Liberal Education Program.

Many potential Honors Program students enter BSU with this requirement partially completed due to PSEO, AP classes, and similar programs.

Honors Program Requirements

The following requirements replace liberal education goal areas 7 – 11 for students accepted into the Honors Program.

HOPR 1190 INTRODUCTION TO HONORS (1 CREDIT, 1 class)

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 (9 credits required, 3 classes)

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 Honor's Program students. Prerequisite(s): HOPR 1190 or permission of Honors Director.

3000 or 4000 elective, outside of your major OR additional HOPR 3700 Course (3 credits, 1 class)

You will take one 3-credit upper level elective of your choice. Please choose an elective outside your major requirements. If you have questions, consult with the Honors Program Director before registration. Prerequisite(s): Prerequisites may vary depending on the elective you choose. ALTERNATIVE: You may take one additional HOPR 3700 class with a different topic instead of the elective.

HOPR 3899 Capstone Preparation (1 credit, Independent study)

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 Honor's 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, In person class or independent study)

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.