

HONORS PROGRAM

The Roosevelt University Honors Program (<https://www.roosevelt.edu/honors-program/>) is an undergraduate academic program for students who want to dig deep and broaden and enrich their intellectual inquiry in and out of the classroom. We offer small, unique seminars across a diversity of disciplines, where approaches to learning are creative, challenging, and focused on your curiosity. Members complete Honors coursework and a senior capstone project, and earn an "RU Honors Program" transcript distinction upon graduation.

In Honors, you will:

- Inquire, analyze, and synthesize using multiple disciplinary perspectives
- Design, conduct, and present original research and/or creative projects
- Apply coursework to an issue of civic importance
- Collaborate effectively with multiple constituencies

Members who complete the Honors Program receive an Honors Program transcript designation upon graduation.

Curriculum

Each semester, the Honors Program offers courses in a variety of subject areas. These seminar-style courses, which range from 100-level CORE to boutique 200- and 300-level, provide Honors students unique active learning experiences. A hallmark of all these courses is academic rigor; they also offer opportunities like travel, interdisciplinary projects, community-based learning, and more. Students take these courses to fulfill general education, major and/or minor, and general elective requirements. Honors courses are offered in the Fall and Spring semesters, at the Chicago campus, and in person.

Curricular Options

We provide a focused curriculum in several areas:

Honors Tracks

Honors Tracks are fixed curricula managed by departmental faculty and advisors, requiring an application for admission. Contact department(s) for application materials.

- **Finance:** This two-year, 18-credit hour program provides undergraduate Finance students the resources, tools and guidance needed to reach their career goals successfully. It is a cohort-based, lock-step program. For more information, please see the program page (<https://www.roosevelt.edu/colleges/business/cccf/>).
- **Musical Arts:** The Honors Bachelor of Musical Arts degree is a flexible interdisciplinary program in which CCPA Music Conservatory students combine the study of music with another field. It is individualized according to students' interests and culminates with a senior project that melds students' work in music with the second discipline. For more information, please see the program page (<https://www.roosevelt.edu/academics/programs/bachelors-in-musical-arts-bma/>).

Honors Pathways

Honors Pathways are not fixed curricula but must be constructed in consultation with departmental and Honors faculty and advisors.

- **Biological, Physical, & Health Sciences:** Honors science majors are permitted to take 50% of their pre-thesis required Honors credits in Honors seminars and 50% (contracts) in science core and supporting sequence courses.
- **Psychology:** Honors Psychology majors may benefit from pursuing a recommended intensive Psychology Honors course sequence recommended by the Psychology department. Interested students should consult with their Honors and Psychology advisors.

Application and Admission

Incoming and current students are welcome to apply; the application link is at the Honors Program website (<https://www.roosevelt.edu/current-students/academics/honors-program/>). Honors-ready students are curious and motivated, have strong academic records, and submit excellent Honors application materials. Applicants must have at least three more semesters to complete at RU. Honors courses are offered at the Chicago campus only.

Students interested in the **Honors Bachelor's of Musical Arts Program** in the Chicago College of Performing Arts should visit and apply here (<https://www.roosevelt.edu/academics/programs/bachelors-in-musical-arts-bma/>). Students interested in the **Honors Finance Track** in the Heller College of Business should visit and apply here (<https://www.roosevelt.edu/colleges/business/cccf/>).

Honors Continuous (Course) Enrollment Curriculum Requirement

All students, starting the semester of their admission to the Honors Program, must enroll in one 3-credit Honors course each term they're enrolled*, except for their penultimate semester, when they'll register for 4 Honors credits (HON 398: Honors Research Proseminar, 1 credit** + Honors seminar course, 3 credits). Any exceptions will be explored and approved as part of a member's required Honors advising. When a member does not meet the continuous enrollment requirement, but is still making adequate progress (see section below), they must register for any missed continuous enrollment credits in subsequent semesters, in consultation with their Honors advisor.

Bachelor of Musical Arts (<https://catalog.roosevelt.edu/undergraduate/performing-arts/musical-arts-bma/>) and Honors Finance (<https://catalog.roosevelt.edu/undergraduate/business/finance-honors/>) students must also meet their programs' requirements, which can be found at their respective catalog pages.

*Students are permitted to utilize a limited number of contracts for credit (see below) after successfully completing their first Honors seminar.

**Students in the Honors Finance Track are exempt from the HON 398 thesis requirement.

Ways to Earn Honors Credits

All curriculum requirements can be fulfilled with Honors seminar credits; contracts are optional. Students with 75 or more hours must petition for an exception at the time of application.

Required Courses & Seminars

All Honors students must successfully complete an Honors seminar their first semester following acceptance into the program, and every semester thereafter, leading to the Honors Thesis sequence in their final two semesters:

Honors Research Pro-Seminar (HON 398, 1 credit): A research seminar required for students the semester prior to enrolling in HON 399: Honors Senior Thesis (or capstone equivalent), this course develops

and improves research skills. In addition, students design a research proposal.

Honors Senior Thesis (HON 399, 3 credits): The Honors Senior Thesis, a 3-credit course that students register for in their final semester, is dedicated to the craft and execution of students' capstone research projects. In consultation with their faculty mentors, students create a substantial scholarly text consistent with the content and methods of their academic major and/or minor. The Honors Senior Thesis is a distinct, stand-alone project containing new (not repurposed) writing. In addition to completing the written project, students participate in an oral defense for the RU community.

Some programs and tracks offer or require a capstone course that fulfills the Honors Thesis requirement. Students in these majors and/or minors who use this option may still take HON 398 and adhere to HON 399 syllabus guidelines and thesis expectations, including the thesis defense.

Curricular and Co-Curricular Contracts

Contracts permit students the opportunity to earn Honors credit outside the standard Honors seminar structure. All contracts and their resulting work must demonstrate advanced rigor and inquiry, consistent with Honors Program outcomes. All contracts must be reviewed and approved by the Honors Program by our stated deadlines. After one invalid or incomplete contract, students cannot earn any more contract credits. Students are eligible to complete contracts after they have successfully completed at least 1 Honors seminar.

Curricular: Must be completed in courses in a student's major and/or minor at the 200-level and higher. These contracts, designed by the student and approved by their professor(s), should demonstrate significant student effort and challenge to produce high-quality work and a deepened understanding of course material, consistent with Honors Program outcomes. Courses of record will be converted to Honors courses for degree and program credit. Contracts are valid if the course grade is a B or higher.

Co-curricular: Allow students to earn Honors credit independent of coursework, where they engage in projects and activities that support and enhance co-curricular learning consistent with Honors Program outcomes. All co-curricular contracts should be submitted prior to beginning the activity, and must result in a culminating project submitted for review and approval by the Honors Program. These can only be attached to activities for which students are not receiving credit or compensation. Co-curricular credits count toward Honors requirements, and cannot count for course credit.

Additionally, the Honors Program often offers other co-curricular opportunities for which students earn credit toward Honors requirements, not course credit.

Adequate Progress

Students must take their first Honors seminar the semester following admission to the Honors Program, or they will be deactivated from the program. In order to maintain Honors membership, students must remain active in the program, defined by enrolling in and completing Honors courses (earning B or higher), and seeking Honors advising, each semester.

Any Honors courses in which a student earns below B (including Incompletes) will not count toward adequate Honors progress. Honors seminar and/or contract courses in which students earn below B may

count toward graduation requirements, but cannot count toward Honors requirements.

As part of their adequate progress, most incoming first and second semester Honors freshman students will take: Honors 101; English 102 (Honors); and an Honors Ideas course (9 credits total).

All deactivated students, including students who have left the university, who seek to re-join the Honors Program must re-apply.

Grades and Performance

Students must also, for adequate progress:

- Earn B or higher in all Honors coursework (any grades lower than a B may count toward other degree requirements, but cannot count as Honors credit). Honors courses cannot be audited, or taken for P/F grades.
- Maintain 3.0 or higher institutional overall GPA.
- Be able to achieve a 3.0 institutional overall GPA upon graduation.

Incomplete Grades in Honors

The Honors Program strictly complies with the university's Incomplete Policy (<https://catalog.roosevelt.edu/undergraduate/policies/course-and-credit/>). In alignment with this policy, Honors students who request Incomplete grades in their Honors courses:

- Must understand and meet the university's criteria for Incomplete grades.
- Must consult with the Honors Program, and the faculty of record, along with any other student support services offices, to create a reasonable timeline for the completion of all work.
- Must understand that if they extend their timeline beyond 3-6 weeks, they may not receive the Honors credit required to make adequate progress in the program, and must consult with their Honors advisor. Students who are unable to adhere to the 3-6 week timeline must consult with the Honors Program and relevant student support services.
- May not receive the Honors Program designation if they request Incomplete grades in Honors courses during their final semester.

Honors Probation Policy

Honors student probation occurs when a student's overall GPA falls below 3.0 (B):

- Once on probation, a student has up to two terms to achieve an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher, or earn a term GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- A student on probation must consult with the Honors Program about their probation status and demonstrate, with documentation, efforts to improve by using university student support services (advising, tutoring, etc.).
- Honors probation, distinct from RU Academic Standing, does not appear on a student's transcript.
- Honors students who are on university probation are permitted one semester of Honors probation before deactivation from the Honors Program. Honors students on academic suspension will be deactivated from the Honors Program and must re-apply if they seek to re-join.

Advising

Honors students are required to receive Honors Program advising every semester; assigned academic, faculty, or program advisors will provide advising as it relates to all degree requirements (except for Honors).

Graduating from the Honors Program

In order to receive the Honors Program transcript designation, a student must:

- Be admitted to the Honors Program, complete their designated number of Honors credits, and maintain adequate progress as defined above.
- Earn B grades or higher in Honors coursework.
- Earn an institutional overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Complete and present an Honors Senior Thesis.

The Honors Program reserves the right to implement probation and/or dismiss students from Honors who have been found in violation of university policies (<https://www.roosevelt.edu/policies/>).

Exceptions to Honors Program policies are made at the discretion of Honors Program staff.