HONORS PROGRAM

The Roosevelt Honors Program (https://www.roosevelt.edu/current-students/academics/honors-program/) provides immersive and rigorous academic opportunities for students seeking an enriched undergraduate experience, featuring close faculty mentorship, multi-disciplinary approaches to inquiry and creativity, personalized curriculum, and experiential learning. Students who complete the Honors Program gain tangible distinction and preparation for graduate school, professional success, and life as socially conscious leaders.

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 will receive an Honors Program designation upon graduation.

Curriculum

Every semester, the Honors Program offers courses in a variety of subject areas. These courses, which range from 100-level CORE courses to boutique disciplinary courses at the 200- and 300-levels, provide Honors students seminar-style and learning-centered class experiences. A hallmark of all of 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.

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 CCCF Program: 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/cccfl/).
- Musical Arts: The Honors Bachelor of Musical Arts degree is a flexible interdisciplinary program in which 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.

Applications open February 01 and close July 01. All admitted students begin in the Fall term.

The Honors Program has Honors-specific transfer agreements. Applicants must have a 3.25 or higher GPA; an earned associate’s degree; Phi Theta Kappa membership and/or membership in their college’s honors program; and a completed application to Honors accepted. Students who meet these criteria complete the 4-credit Thesis and 6 credits of Honors coursework.

Students interested in the Honors Bachelor's of Musical Arts 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/cccfl/).

Honors students who are also in the McNair Scholars Program will earn 3 of their required Honors credits upon completion of their McNair requirements.

Minimum Credit Requirements

The number of semester hours a student has applied toward their degree at the time of admission to the Honors Program determines the number of required Honors credits. Exceptions granted to McNair Scholars and students with Honors transfer agreements. All curriculum requirements can be fulfilled with Honors seminar credits; contracts are optional. Students with 75 or more hours are ineligible to join Honors, but can petition for an exception at the time of application.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits applied when admitted to Honors</th>
<th>Required Honors credits</th>
<th>Curricular contract credits (optional)</th>
<th>Co-curricular contract credits (optional)</th>
<th>Required thesis credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>0-14</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3+1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>25</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3+1</td>
</tr>
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<td>30-44</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3+1</td>
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<tr>
<td>45-59</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>3+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-75+</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3 (or)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3+1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students in the Finance Track are exempt from the +1 (HON 398) thesis requirement, which reduces the number of required credits by 1.

Bachelor of Musical Arts (https://catalog.roosevelt.edu/undergraduate/performing-arts/musical-arts-bma/) and CCCF 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.

Ways to Earn Honors Credits

Required Courses & Seminars
All Honors students must complete an Honors seminar their first semester following acceptance into the program, and should aim to complete all their Honors requirements before completing the Honors Thesis sequence in their final two semesters:

Honors Research Pro-Seminar (HON 398, 1 credit): Research seminar required for students 1 or 2 semesters prior to enrolling in HON 399: Honors Senior Thesis (or capstone equivalent). Focus on developing and improving research skills. Specific content topics may vary from term to term, and attend to ongoing learning, expectations, and research goals of Honors students.

Honors Senior Thesis (HON 399, 3 credits): The Honors Senior Thesis, a 3-credit course that students register for with faculty mentors in their final semester, is dedicated to the craft and execution of research. In consultation with their mentors, students articulate research questions, develop and execute research and writing plans, and create a substantial scholarly or creative text. 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 offer or require a capstone course that fulfills the thesis requirement. Students in these majors who use this option must still take HON 398 and adhere to HON 399 syllabus guidelines and thesis expectations, including the thesis presentation.

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 invalid if the work is not complete or course grade is below a B-. Additionally, every year, the Honors Program offers a year-long co-curricular opportunity for which students earn 3 credits toward Honors requirements, not course credit.

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. Attached only to activities for which students are not receiving credit or compensation. Co-curricular credits count 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, all 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 2.7 or higher institutional overall GPA.
- Be able to achieve a 3.0 institutional overall GPA upon graduation.

We expect Honors students to succeed at high levels in their coursework. While the minimum grade permitted for Honors credit is a B-, for a student to earn the Honors Program designation upon graduation, they must earn a 3.0 GPA or higher, demonstrating that they have succeeded beyond the minimum threshold.

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 2.7 (B-):

- Once on probation, student has up to two terms to achieve an overall GPA of 2.7 or higher, or earn a term GPA of 2.75 or higher.
- A student on probation must demonstrate, with evidence, 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 immediately 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 designation, a student must:

- Be admitted to the Honors Program and complete their designated number of Honors credits.
- Receive B- grades or higher in Honors coursework.
- Earn an institutional overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Complete 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.