

Montreat College Honors Program

Mission

The mission of the Montreat College Honors Program is to be a community of students and faculty who support and challenge one another's intellectual and spiritual growth. Our curriculum is oriented towards a Christian vision of flourishing, for both humanity and creation. As humans created in the image of God we are called to love God and neighbor. We dedicate ourselves to the flourishing of others because Christ first loved us. We live into this anthropology through the development of our creative, and especially our intellectual, capacities.

Together we explore texts and topics from the Christian, Western, and World traditions from the perspective of multiple disciplines across the arts and sciences asking the big questions of human existence such as what is the nature of the universe, what is truth, how do we know, what is humanity, and what is beauty? We study these texts and topics in relation to the Christian scriptures, creeds, and narrative. We practice a mature posture of humility, empathy, and charity towards one another, towards the authors whose works we study, and towards our larger Montreat community.

Format

The Montreat College Honors Program includes two tracks, the **Honors Scholars** and the **Honors Fellows**. The Scholars curriculum is for students entering the Honors Program during their freshman year and consists of 22 required hours. This curriculum is the more intensive of the two tracks and is the best option for students who desire their entire four-year experience at Montreat to be within the vibrant community of the Honors Program. The Fellows curriculum is designed for motivated students who either transfer into Montreat as sophomores or juniors or for those students who matriculated at Montreat as freshmen and following that year desire to take on the challenge of the Honors Program. The Fellows curriculum is 18 hours. Both tracks supplement Montreat College's general education core.

Method

The Montreat College Honors curriculum has five main components: engagement with texts and topics, formal and informal discussion, mentoring, writing, and co-curricular opportunities.

Texts and Topics

Students and faculty read a rotating set of works of world literature and engage with topics of perennial concern in all honors courses. These classroom discussions are grounded in the big existential questions of life including, what is Truth, how do we know, what is the nature of the universe, what is Beauty

and what is Goodness? The curriculum of the Honors Program is also based in a Christian understanding of reality which is brought into the classroom through discussion of the Christian scriptures, creeds and the theological narrative.

Formal and Informal Discussion

Classes consist of faculty-led discussions of texts and topics. This conversational pedagogy is designed to develop students' confidence in their critical thinking, writing and oral expression. Additionally, the content of the courses as well as the manner of conversation are designed to encourage the community to grow in humility, charity and empathy.

Mentoring

Every student is mentored by the Program Director or an assigned faculty member involved in the Honors Program. This relationship encourages students to think more deeply about their courses, to process their questions and concerns, and to have a faculty member encourage them as they think through vocational possibilities.

Writing

Montreat College's campus-wide emphasis on writing across the curriculum is enhanced in the Honors Program by a series of assignments designed to help students be reflective and articulate. These skills serve students well beyond their years at Montreat College.

Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Opportunities

All Honors Program students also participate in co-curricular activities, such as being given exclusive access to college speakers in a conversational setting. This allows the community to explore ideas more deeply than in a general audience venue. Students also build community through social events and service projects.

Montreat Honors Program Eligibility

- Students must maintain an overall minimum GPA of 3.0 to remain in the Honors Program. (Students earning an overall GPA lower than 3.0 for a particular semester may appeal to the Honors Director to remain in the Honors Program for a probationary semester, after which point the student's status in the Honors Program will be determined by the Program Director.)
- A grade of C+ or below in any Honors Program courses will result in a probationary period of one semester, after which status in the Honors Program will be determined by the Program Director.
- Failing a course in the Honors Program will result in removal from the Honors Program.

Academic dishonesty will result in automatic dismissal from the Honors Program.

Honors Scholars Program (22 credits required)

<u>First Year:</u>	<u>Applicable Courses:</u>	<u>Notes:</u>
First Year Experience	IS 102 Honors Track (1)	Foundations of Faith and Learning
English	EN 103 Honors Track (3)	Replaces EN 101 Requirement
English	EN 104 Honors Track (3)	Replaces EN 102 Requirement

<u>Second Year:</u>	<u>Applicable Courses:</u>	<u>Notes:</u>
History	HS 171 Honors Track (3)	Replaces HS 101 Requirement
History	HS 172 Honors Track (3)	Replaces HS 102 Requirement

<u>Second, Third and Fourth Year:</u>	<u>Applicable Courses:</u>	<u>Notes:</u>
Honors Elective	HN 320 Honors Text Seminar (3)	Humanities credit
Honors Elective	HN 420 Honors Topics Seminar (3)	Humanities credit*

<u>Fourth Year:</u>	<u>Applicable Courses:</u>	<u>Notes:</u>
Senior Year Experience	IS 461 Honors Track (2)	Seminar on Faith and Life

Honors Fellows Program (18 credits required)

<u>First Year:</u>	<u>Applicable Courses:</u>	<u>Notes:</u>
Honors Liberal Arts Seminar	HN 103 Honors Track (1)	Gateway Honors Course

<u>Second, Third and Fourth Year:</u>	<u>Applicable Courses:</u>	<u>Notes:</u>
Fellows must take a <i>minimum</i> of 15 hours of the following courses:		
English	EN 103 Honors Track (3)	Replaces EN 101 Requirement
English	EN 104 Honors Track (3)	Replaces EN 102 Requirement
History	HS 171 Honors Track (3)	Replaces HS 101 Requirement
History	HS 172 Honors Track (3)	Replaces HS 102 Requirement
Honors Elective	HN 320 Honors Text (3)	Humanities credit
Honors Elective	HN 420 Honors Topics (3)	Humanities credit*

<u>Fourth Year:</u>	<u>Applicable Courses:</u>	<u>Notes:</u>
Senior Year Experience	IS 461 Honors Track (2)	Seminar on Faith and Life

*Social Science or Natural Science Gen Ed credit may be given for approved individual courses with the approval of the appropriate department chair(s) and the Honors Director.

HN 320 and HN 420 must each be taken at least once, with the exception of 300-level IS courses or above that may be offered as substitute courses for HN 420 with the coordination and approval of the IS Department Chair and the Honors Director.