

Honors Program

The award-winning Honors Program at Kennesaw State University has two very important incarnations. For recently matriculated or currently enrolled undergraduates, the Undergraduate Honors Program offers a flexible array of excellent Honors experiences designed to challenge exceptional students. For high school juniors or seniors who want to complete college courses for dual credit, the Joint Enrollment Honors Program (JEHP) provides extensive academic support designed to make the transition to university life as smooth as possible. Both programs provide honors students with exciting academic challenges, intense mentoring relationships with faculty, connection to the student honors community, and applied learning that reflects the students' level of accomplishment.

The Undergraduate Honors Program

Admission Criteria

Students who consistently exceed the expectations of their instructors, and therefore need and want the challenge of academic experiences qualitatively different from those provided in most existing courses, can find a home in the outstanding KSU Undergraduate Honors Program. Those admitted to the program will need to match one of the following profiles:

- Students who have recently graduated from high school, are entering Kennesaw State as first-year students, have a high school grade point average of 3.7 or better in their academic courses, and have made a composite score of 1100 or better on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (equivalent ACT scores also accepted)
- Currently enrolled students (including those who have transferred from other

institutions) who have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.7 or better in no fewer than 30 hours and no more than 60 hours of KSU course work

The Honors Director may waive these eligibility criteria for candidates who can present a convincing and substantive case of their motivation and potential to succeed in the Undergraduate Honors Program.

Students identified as Honors prospects should receive an invitation to join the program. Others should contact the Honors Director at (770) 423-6116 if they think they are eligible and have not received any communication from the Honors Office. This is an outstanding, competitive program and we encourage you to submit materials early!

Fundamentals

The Undergraduate Honors Program is organized around three fundamentals providing students with a rounded academic experience: Honors Faculty mentorship, formal Honors Experiences, and the Honors Colloquium.

- **Fundamental One:** Honors students are carefully matched with individual faculty mentors who are chosen from the ranks of the Honors Faculty and share their advisees' academic interests and professional objectives. Honors mentors are more than academic advisors (though they play that role, too). The active intellectual exchange between mentors and their students is designed to foster a peer relationship that helps the students to achieve their potential as well as gain a faculty advocate.
- **Fundamental Two:** Honors students must complete four Honors Experiences.
 1. Honors Experience I is based in traditional course work. Students may fulfill this requirement by taking an Honors Seminar (Honors 2290 or 4490) with other Honors students; by establishing an Honors contract in a non-Honors course; or by completing the requirements of an Honors Directed Study (Honors 4400) with one faculty member.

2. Honors Experience II has an applied focus, in which students use the knowledge and skills they have learned in their major academic disciplines in contexts that model the laboratory or workplace. This experience may be conducted on or off campus and must be qualitatively different from similar experiences already offered in the major. Students especially enjoy having the opportunity to work closely with individuals in their discipline in a "hands on" environment.
 3. Honors Experience II may be a second course work or applied learning experience. Again, students gain an extensive experience in their major by going deeper into an area of their choice.
 4. Honors Experience IV is the Senior Capstone Experience, an original research project growing out of the student's major concentration; a project based in applied research that provides new insights into that discipline; an original synthesis of information or research already available in the discipline; or an extensive service learning project for which the student is the primary coordinator.
- **Fundamental Three:** Honors students must successfully complete two Honors Colloquia or one Honors Colloquium and one Honors Seminar. Honors 3000, the Honors Colloquium, is a one-hour course in which Honors students interact with each other and with members of the Honors Faculty in an informal setting designed to build and nurture an Honors community exploring an interdisciplinary topic. Honors 2290 or 4490 (more formal three-hour Honors courses) may be substituted for one Honors Colloquium.

To help students develop a perspective on their work that will be useful in employment after graduation, all Honors students are required to keep the products of their Honors Experiences and Honors Colloquia (research papers, journals, documentation of exhibits, etc.) in an Honors Portfolio. To be designated an Honors Scholar, a student must complete all four Honors Experiences

with an A or a B; must complete each Honors Colloquium with a “Satisfactory” or “Unsatisfactory”; and must receive the Honors Council’s approval for both the Senior Capstone project and the Honors Portfolio. The Honors Portfolio serves not only as a marker of the students’ accomplishments, but is also an outstanding resource after graduation.

Students in KSU’s Undergraduate Honors Program receive advanced priority registration as long as they maintain a cumulative g.p.a. of 3.7 or better; see their Honors mentors at least once a semester; and perform satisfactorily in their Honors Experiences and Honors Colloquia. Each semester, Honors students have the opportunity to participate in special Honors events. Honors Scholars receive a special designation on their transcripts and diplomas and are recognized at graduation. We are proud of our Honors Program and believe it provides students the opportunity to advance their learning in an applied, individualized context.

The Joint Enrollment Honors Program

Admission Criteria

Rising high school juniors and seniors are eligible for the Joint Enrollment Honors Program if they:

- have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better in their academic course work and are on track to complete the College Preparatory requirements

and

- have a composite score of 1100 on the SAT, with minimum subparts of 530 verbal and 530 math; or an ACT score of at least 25 composite with subpart minimums of 24 English and 24 math.

Fundamentals

- Students admitted to the Joint Enrollment Honors Program at Kennesaw State may

attend full-time (taking 12-15 hours of course work, or 4-5 courses) or part-time (taking fewer than 12 hours of course work, or 1-3 courses).

- To complete the final units of college preparatory English, mathematics, and social science required for high school graduation, JEHP students must take two college courses in these subject areas. Special Honors courses are offered in each area but are not required for participation in the program. JEHP students are also eligible to take most 1000- or 2000-level courses listed in the undergraduate catalog if they satisfy course pre-requisites and receive the approval of both their high school counselors and their KSU Honors advisors.
- JEHP students who attend public high schools may be able to take advantage of the Post-Secondary Options (PSO) Tuition Grant waiver, which, to date, has partially or completely subsidized tuition for program participants. Please note, however, that PSO funding is a special subsidy awarded at the pleasure of the state legislature. If the legislature withdraws this funding, students may be required to pay full tuition and fees for their Joint Enrollment experience.
- JEHP students who complete their application files by the appropriate deadlines will receive a host of advantages, including advanced priority registration, special advising services, priority enrollment in Joint-Enrollment Honors classes, and a guaranteed space in regular KSU classes if they enroll at their appointed registration time.
- Throughout the year, JEHP students may participate in special Honors events, including a dedicated summer orientation.

For Honors Program information, students should contact Dr. Liza Davis, the Honors director, at (770) 423-6116. For information regarding admission to the Joint Enrollment Honors Program, they should contact Ms. Nicole McGehee the Office of Admissions at (770) 423-6300.

