

# Honors Program

The Honors Program at Kennesaw State University has two incarnations. For recently matriculated or currently enrolled undergraduates, the Undergraduate Honors Program offers a flexible array of 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.

## The Undergraduate Honors Program

### Admission Criteria

Students who consistently exceed the expectations of their instructors, and therefore need the challenge of academic experiences qualitatively different from those provided in most existing courses, can find a home in KSU's

Undergraduate Honors Program. Those admitted to the program must match one of the following profiles:

- Students who have recently graduated from high school, are entering Kennesaw State as freshmen, 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.

### Fundamentals

The Undergraduate Honors Program is organized around three fundamentals: 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.
- **Fundamental Two:** Honors students must complete four Honors Experiences.

-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.

-Honors Experience II is an applied learning experience 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.

-Honors Experience III may be a second course work or applied learning experience.

-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. Honors 2290 or 4490 (more formal three-hour Honors courses) may be substituted for one Honors Colloquium.

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.

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. They also have the opportunity, each semester, to participate in special Honors events. Honors Scholars receive a special designation on their transcripts and diplomas and are recognized at graduation.

## 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 can take advantage of the Post-Secondary Options (PSO) Tuition Grant Waiver, which partially or completely subsidizes their tuition.
- 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 in which they enroll.
- 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 Mr. Russell Moore (Office of Admissions) at (770) 423-6300.

