Administrative Leadership

Scott Huelin (2009). Director of the Honors Community and Professor of English. B.A. and M.A., University of North Carolina; Ph.D., University of Chicago.

Jill Webb (1987). Assistant Director of the Honors Community and Professor of Nursing. B.S.N., Murray State University; M.S.N., University of Evansville; Ph.D., University of Tennessee, Memphis.

Faculty

Justin D. Barnard (2007). Associate Dean for Intellectual Discipleship, Associate Professor of Philosophy, and Associate Professor in the Honors Community. B.A., Palm Beach Atlantic College; M.A. and Ph.D., Florida State University.

Staff


Mission

The Honors Community is a lively intellectual koinonia with transformative effects in its members, and through them, in the University, in the professions, in the church, and in local communities.

What does this mean?

The Honors Community rightly may be called a koinonia, or fellowship, because it is a common bond in a shared endeavor—the ardent pursuit of the truth—and a shared conviction—that all truth leads us to the Truth. As such, our fellowship extends beyond our own place and time to include the Christian intellectual tradition, the collective efforts of the faithful in all places and times to pursue and embrace the Truth wherever it is found.

Two academic programs provide structure and resources for our own participation in this pursuit. General Honors invites faculty and students to inquire rigorously and faithfully into substantial questions of historic and contemporary significance. Discipline-Specific Honors programs help students become confident scholars who can insightfully address crucial and complex questions within their disciplinary fields. The common bond of this koinonia is further nurtured through co-curricular events and extracurricular activities which bring together faculty and students from both programs for mutual enjoyment and edification.

The transformative effects of this koinonia are first seen in its members, in whom our common life nurtures Christian virtues, such as humility and hope, and academic virtues, such as wisdom and wonder. These virtues are most visible in their effects: heightened attentiveness toward the world, eager reciprocity toward one another, humble openness toward difference, and deepened joy in the truth. As members of the Honors Community participate in academic, professional, church, and local communities, they carry with them the virtues and fruits of spirited inquiry as gifts to be shared in and with these other communities.

General Honors

General Honors courses provide freshman and sophomore Honors students with innovative, interdisciplinary, inquiry-based courses which are designed to tackle big questions of long-standing and contemporary relevance. General Honors courses fulfill Honors requirements and some General Core requirements. Admission to the General Honors program requires a successful application in a competitive process. All incoming freshmen who are admitted to Union and have a 3.5 GPA or a 28 on the ACT will be invited to apply to the General Honors program. Incoming freshmen who do not meet this criterion but think they are up to the challenge of Honors work are also welcome to apply. Transfer students and current Union students can be considered for admission to General Honors under certain circumstances. Additional details regarding the Admissions Standards and Procedures as well as the application itself can be found at our website: www.uu.edu/academics/honors/.

General Honors—three courses

I. General Honors Core
   - A. Freshman year: HON 205 and 215
   - B. Sophomore year: HON 225

II. General Honors Electives (optional)
   - A. HON 235 (6 hours)
   - B. Special studies courses (variable credit)
   - C. Scholar-in-Residence tutorial (variable credit)
   - D. Other courses with the HON prefix
   - E. Select study abroad opportunities

Typically, students satisfy the requirements of General Honors through successful completion of three of the four General Honors courses. In certain circumstances, the Directors may approve the substitution of a General Honors elective class for one of the General Honors Core classes.
Discipline-Specific Honors

Discipline-Specific Honors provides an opportunity to pursue high-level, funded research in your major under the direct supervision of a faculty mentor. Students interested in Discipline-Specific Honors typically apply to the program in the spring of the sophomore or fall of the junior year. Eligible students must have a cumulative 3.5 GPA and meet any additional department-specific requirements. To graduate with Discipline-Specific Honors, students must attend four Honors colloquia during their junior year and four Honors colloquia during their senior year, complete 12 hours of Honors contract courses in the major, produce an Honors project/thesis in their major, maintain a 3.5 cumulative GPA, and fulfill any other requirements established by the department. For more information on Discipline-Specific Honors in your major, consult your departmental advisor.

University Honors

Students who satisfactorily complete the requirements for both General Honors and Discipline-Specific Honors earn University Honors, one of Union’s highest accolades.

Course Offerings in Honors (HON)

( ) Hours Credit; F-Fall; W-Winter; S-Spring; Su-Summer

205. Wisdom (6) F
Prerequisite: Admission to General Honors. Wisdom has served, in many civilizations, as the highest goal of education. The Old Testament declares that wisdom “is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her” (Prov. 3:15). We will inquire after the nature of wisdom and seek the means of acquiring it, giving attention to biblical and extrabiblical literature as well as their historical contexts and their elaborations in subsequent traditions. We will consider contemporary applications of these traditions, including reflection upon the purpose and pursuit of contemporary higher education in light of wisdom. Exercises are aimed at developing various dimensions of wisdom within self. Due to the nature and purpose of this course as well as its improvement of student writing, it will satisfy the Gateway and ENG 111 in the General Core.

225. Justice (6) F
Prerequisite: HON 215. While most agree that a healthy society should be based on justice, there has been little agreement as to what justice is. In this course, we will search for an adequate definition—considering biblical and theological resources as well as philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, and Rawls—while looking closely at attempts to bring justice in particular communities and situations, both historical and contemporary. This course incorporates service-learning work and reflection upon it. This course satisfies the General Core Social Science/Humanities requirement and, in light of the historical conflicts over justice, satisfies HIS 102.

Scholar-in-Residence Program

A scholar of national or international reputation is invited each year to deliver a series of lectures at the University. The Scholar-in-Residence tutorial allows students to receive credit for reading, research, and writing under the supervision of the Scholar-in-Residence. Prerequisites: HON 205 and 215.

Student Organization

The Honors Student Association (HSA) advises the Directors and plans co-curricular and extracurricular events for the Honors Community. HSA officers are elected for one-year terms at the beginning of each spring semester. All students currently enrolled in either General or Discipline-Specific Honors, as well as alumni of either program who are still enrolled at Union, automatically enjoy membership in the HSA.
235. Creation (6) S
Prerequisite: HON 225.
This course explores the human relation to the natural world through the history of thought about creation as well as through immersion in the natural world itself. Giving special attention to the governing metaphors—gift, dominion, task, matter, threat, resource—used in various times and places for creation and our relation to it, especially those made dominant in and through the scientific revolution. We will examine how our practices of relating to creation change our perceptions both of ourselves and of nature. The course will seek to overcome the everyday estrangement of most students from the natural world through activities to include field trips to the lab: the natural world itself. This course fulfills the General Core Laboratory Science/Either Group A or B unless the student’s major or minor requires otherwise.

With permission, one or more of the following courses may be chosen to fulfill the requirements of the General Honors program. All are subject to the approval of the HCLC unless otherwise stated in the published schedule of class offerings.

179-279-379-479. External Domestic Study Programs (1-3) As Needed
All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to registering.

180-280-380-480. Study Abroad Programs (1-4) As Needed
All courses and their application must be defined and approved prior to registering.

195-6-7. Special Studies (1-4) As Needed
295-6-7. Special Studies (2 or 3) As Needed
Lower-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

395-6-7. Special Studies (2 or 3) As Needed
Upper level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings. Includes, but not restricted to, offerings of the Scholar-in-Residence Program.

495-6-7. Independent Studies (2-4) On Demand
Individual research under the guidance of a faculty member(s).