



Honors Program

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA UPSTATE

The goal of the Honors program at USC Upstate is to offer students the opportunity to become part of a learning community that goes beyond the classroom. The program provides a comfortable setting within the larger university, a home that is friendly and supportive, and extracurricular activities that are designed to help students connect and network with other students, faculty, and administrators.

Why join?

- Priority registration – secure classes before everyone else!
- Honors program designation in the graduation program, on diploma and on transcript
- Honors program stole for graduation regalia
- Resume enhancer
- Opportunities for experiential and service learning beyond the classroom
- Special parties, events, networking opportunities and excursions
- Scholarship money for study abroad opportunities
- Smaller class sizes in HONS courses
- Helps prepare for grad school or that first job
- It is free – there is no extra cost to be part of the program

Eligibility

Incoming students, current Upstate students and transfers are eligible for admittance in the Honors Program upon application review and approval by the Director of the Honors Program.

A **first-year student (incoming freshman)** is eligible to apply to the Honors Program if the student meets at least **two** of the following criteria:

- A minimum SAT score of 1100 or ACT of 24
- A ranking in the top 10 percent of high school graduating class
- A cumulative high school GPA of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale
- A Merit Award Program finalist
- A Chancellor, Promise or Valedictorian Scholar
- Evidence of motivation and commitment to academic excellence

A **current** USC Upstate student is eligible to apply with:

- A cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher on a minimum of 30 hours from USC Upstate
- Evidence of motivation and commitment to academic excellence

A **transfer** student is eligible to apply with:

- A cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher from other academic institutions
- Evidence of motivation and commitment to academic excellence



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How to Apply

Are you interested in being part of our Honors program? Stop by our table at an Open House event, download the application from our website, or e-mail the Honors Director to request an application (include the following information: name, cell number, USC ID (if you have this), major, expected graduation date and Upstate email (if you have this)).

Completion Requirements

To complete the Honors Program, honors students must:

- Earn a USC Upstate degree
- Satisfy all major and Honors Program requirements, and remain in good standing throughout their college careers
- Complete four Honors courses (HONS or H-Option)
- Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 each semester and achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.25 at the time of graduation

FAQs

How many credit hours does the program require?

It requires 12 credit hours (four courses) of honors classes.

How do I earn honors credit?

You may choose to take a HONS course that will count as a free elective, or you may opt to take H-option courses for honors credit.

What is a H-OPTION course?

This offers an opportunity to select an upper-level course within the major to become an honors course. The student, honors coordinator and professor discuss and agree on an extra project, experiential learning opportunity, research project, etc. that the student must complete on top of his or her regular coursework. This is detailed in writing and filed with the honors coordinator in your college at the beginning of the semester. An A or B in the course and successful completion of the extra work earns an honors credit for the course.

Honors Program Director: Kim Land, landk@uscupstate.edu, 864-503-7354

College Honors Program Coordinators:

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences: Colby King,
kingcr@uscupstate.edu, 864-503-5760

College of Business: Kim Land, landk@uscupstate.edu, 864-503-7354

College of Education/Ex. Sci: Pat Saracino, saracinp@uscupstate.edu, 864-503-7752

College of Nursing: Rhonda Coffey, coffeyrm@uscupstate.edu, 864-503-5469

College of Science and Technology: Jonathan Storm, stormj@uscupstate.edu,
864-503-5753

