Honors Program in Engagement & Scholarship (HOPES)

Honors Program Mission
The Honors Program in Engagement & Scholarship (HOPES) will empower student scholarship and encourage active citizenship, leadership, and devotion to the common good.

Honors Program Description
The Honors Program in Engagement & Scholarship (HOPES) is a concentration or minor program that encourages motivated students to explore challenging and interdisciplinary curricula. Coursework emphasizes critical thinking, an interdisciplinary attitude, a broad worldview, and a commitment to serving others.

Honors Program Goals
Goal 1: To promote critical, reflective & independent thinking
Goal 2: To ensure a commitment to community awareness, involvement, and service
Goal 3: To foster excellence in verbal and written communication skills
Goal 4: To cultivate awareness of global issues and cultural diversity

Honors Program Outcomes
- Study current and historical international issues and aspects of global culture
- Develop the ability to read and interpret primary texts across disciplines
- Cultivate intellectual curiosity
- Learn to participate actively in substantive discussion
- Acquire the skills, knowledge, and perspectives necessary to collaborate and participate actively with diverse local and global partners
- Learn to articulate point of view and research findings clearly and effectively

Additional Outcomes for the Honors Minor:
- Acquire foreign language proficiency at an intermediate level
- Conduct independent & ethical research for the Honors Thesis/Project course
- Demonstrate firmly established written and verbal skills in the Honors Thesis/Project course

Admission and Retention
To be eligible for admission, first-year students must have a high school GPA of 3.50 or higher (on a 4.00 scale) -or- a minimum composite ACT score of 25 -or- a total SAT score of 1200 or higher. Students seeking admission after at least one academic term at a college/university must have a cumulative GPA of 3.30 or higher. The program is open only to baccalaureate students taking eight or more credits each term.

To be retained in the Honors Program, students must have a minimum 3.00 GPA in Honors courses and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.30 or higher. Students whose Honors or cumulative GPA falls below the required minimum will be placed on probation status. Students whose GPA falls below the required minimum for two consecutive semesters will be dropped from the program. Students must meet minimum GPA requirements and complete Honors Thesis/Project (HON 451H) with a grade of B or above in order to fulfill the requirements of the minor and graduate with the Honors Program designation.

The Honors Program is an opportunity for students to earn an interdisciplinary minor or concentration. A minor in Honors requires the completion of 26-30 semester hours within the program. Course requirements for most majors permit enough “open” electives to accommodate the addition of Honors coursework.

Students participating in the Honors Minor engage in lively seminar discussions, conduct independent study and research, produce and present an advanced-level writing project, participate in community service projects, and earn public recognition for their achievements.
## Honors Program Required Coursework - Minor

Two honors ("H") classes that satisfy general education or diversity requirements.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HON 191H</td>
<td>The Honors Community</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HON 250H</td>
<td>Foundations of Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HON 252H</td>
<td>Visionaries of the Past</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HON 264H</td>
<td>Thinking Outside the Box</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Study Abroad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HON 351H</td>
<td>Integrity &amp; The Examined Life</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HON 391H</td>
<td>Community Problem-Solving</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HON 395H</td>
<td>Citizenship and Service</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### An Honors Elective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HON 391H</td>
<td>Community Problem-Solving</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HON 395H</td>
<td>Citizenship and Service</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Hours

26-30

1 Some academic majors may require completion of specific General Education or Diversity courses and may not be able to accept Honors Program substitutions. Students should routinely consult with their academic advisors.

The Honors Program is an opportunity for students to earn an interdisciplinary minor or concentration. A concentration in Honors requires the completion of 15-16 semester hours within the program. Course requirements for most majors permit enough “open” electives to accommodate the addition of Honors coursework.

Students participating in the Honors concentration engage in lively seminar discussions, conduct independent study and research, participate in community service projects, and earn public recognition for their achievements.

## Honors Program Required Coursework - Concentration

### Required Core:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HON 191H</td>
<td>The Honors Community</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HON 351H</td>
<td>Integrity &amp; The Examined Life</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HON 391H</td>
<td>Community Problem-Solving</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

or HON 395H

### Choose 8-9 credits from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HON 250H</td>
<td>Foundations of Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HON 251H</td>
<td>Culinary Arts &amp; Entertaining</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HON 252H</td>
<td>Visionaries of the Past</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HON 264H</td>
<td>Thinking Outside the Box</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HON 391H</td>
<td>Community Problem-Solving</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HON 395H</td>
<td>Citizenship and Service</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Hours

15-16

*A course can only be used once to fulfill requirements for a single category*

## Courses

### HON 191H. The Honors Community. 1 Hour.

This course introduces students to the MSU honors program. Informal conversations with MSU faculty, administrators, honors students, staff, and community leaders will familiarize students with the university, the community, the honors approach to learning. Students also investigate or discover new or existing passions through student-created learning experiences (SCLE), created in consultation with the instructor. Students present, evaluate, and reflect on their learning and experiences related to the SCLE. Prerequisite: Student must be admitted to the honors program before enrolling in this course.

### HON 199H. Honors Special Topics. 1-4 Hour.

An Honors-level exploration of special topic area determined by participating department. Content will vary.
HON 250H. Foundations of Leadership. 3 Hours.
HON 250H is designed to introduce students to basic components of leadership theory, concepts, and development. Students will engage in activities, assignments, and discussions that will enhance their leadership skills and community involvement.

HON 251H. Culinary Arts & Entertaining. 1 Hour.
A hands-on cuisine from a particular geographical region of the world. Readings on historical, social, economic, and artistic aspects of the relevant culture that pertain to the culinary arts. Applied lessons in menu planning, table setting, and food preparation/presentation. Additional course fee covers food costs. Prerequisite: Student must be admitted into the Honors Program before enrolling in this class.

HON 252H. Visionaries of the Past. 2 Hours.
A thematically organized survey of "Great Works" by noted authors and artists. Literature, art, theatre, film, and music will be included. These works have demonstrated enduring relevance, significant historical or social impact, and/or recognized aesthetic value. Broad themes in any given semester might include, for example, utopia/dystopia, human justice, social conflict, etc. Prerequisite(s): Honors Program admission or permission of instructor.

HON 264H. Thinking Outside the Box. 3 Hours.
A seminar that emphasizes the practice of intellectual inquiry, innovative pedagogies, and/or interdisciplinary connections. The class will rotate between academic colleges and departments. Prerequisite(s): Honors Program Admission or 3.30 cumulative GPA and permission of instructor.

HON 299H. Special Topics. 1-8 Hour.

HON 351H. Integrity & The Examined Life. 3 Hours.
This seminar addresses the two themes of moral integrity and Socrates' claim that only the examined life is truly worth living. The focus is on great works, both written and visual (movies), and the students are challenged to develop their own views on a number of substantive matters. Prerequisite: Students must be admitted to the Honors program or have a cumulative GPA of 3.30 and instructor consent before enrolling in this course.

HON 391H. Community Problem-Solving. 3 Hours.
A seminar in civic engagement. Students will work with a community leader or community agency to identify, understand, and formulate solutions to complex, real-life community challenges. Emphasis on political empowerment, collaborative work with diverse constituencies, research, data analysis, and problem-solving. Prerequisite: Student must be admitted into the Honors Program before enrolling in this class.

HON 395H. Citizenship and Service. 3 Hours.
An interdisciplinary exploration of community-building, social justice, and human liberation that engages students directly in meaningful community service. Study of history, theory, and the local/global realities of community-building; reflection upon characteristics of a just society, individual responsibility, and potential leadership roles. Prerequisite: Student must be admitted to the honors program or have a cumulative GPA of 3.30 and instructor consent before enrolling in this course.

HON 399H. Honors Special Topics. 1-4 Hour.
An Honors-level exploration of special topic area, determined by participating department. Content will vary.

HON 450H. Honors Thesis/Project Proposal. 1 Hour.
The honors thesis/project is the Honors Program's capstone experience. It allows students to explore academic areas of their most passionate interests and engage in the process of discovery and scholarship. In this course, students get a head-start on their thesis/project. They use this time to 1) explore potential thesis/project topics; 2) identify an advisor; 3) review relevant research literature; and 4) develop a comprehensive proposal. Prerequisite: Student must be admitted into the Honors Program before enrolling in this class.

HON 451H. Honors Thesis/Project. 1-3 Hour.
The honors thesis/project is the Honors Program's capstone experience. It allows students to explore academic areas of their most passionate interests and engage in the process of discovery and scholarship under the direction of the Honors Director and faculty advisor. An honors thesis/project can be written in any discipline and may take a variety of forms-from a traditional scholarly paper to a design portfolio; from a business plan to a performance; from a service project to a scientific research project - but always includes a written component, a public presentation, and a defense before a faculty committee. Students will work with the Honors Director to determine the appropriate number of credits needed to complete the requirements of the course. Prerequisites: Student must complete HON 450H and have instructor consent before enrolling.

HON 494H. Honors Independent Study. 1-8 Hour.

HON 499. Special Topics. 1-8 Hour.