HONORS PROGRAM
(HON)

The Honors Program at Rochester College provides intellectually curious students with unique preparation for a lifetime of Christian leadership and achievement in professional, academic, and social arenas. The Honors Program encourages students to cultivate all of their God-given talents and is compatible with all of Rochester College’s degree programs and extracurricular opportunities.

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Honors courses bring Rochester College’s most academically gifted students together in one classroom, offering a dynamic learning environment that is characterized by interdisciplinary learning, low student-teacher ratios, and stimulating class discussions.

Honors credit can be earned in three ways: through taking courses that are a part of the honors core (course titles begin with “HON”), by taking honors sections of existing courses (designated by adding “honors” to the course name), and through honors contract work.

Courses in the Honors Core can be taken to fulfill a range of General Education requirements. While most General Education courses offer an overview of a specific discipline, courses in the Honors Core complement this breadth of knowledge by offering an in-depth, interdisciplinary, and thematic approach. Courses in the Honors Core meet and exceed the General Education learning objectives through interdisciplinary approaches.

Honors sections of existing courses bring the dynamic learning environment of honors courses to General Education courses such as REL 1003 Introduction to the Christian Faith and REL 2113 Survey of Biblical Literature.

Honors Contracts allow students to earn honors credit in regular upper-division courses and can be pursued by students who have completed 12 hours of honors coursework and have a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher. Honors students are responsible for initiating honors contracts with their professors and are encouraged to pursue honors contracts within their majors. Benefits of honors contracts include the opportunity for students to form a closer association with a faculty member, investigate topics of interest at a deeper level, and gain guided, practical preparation for graduate school and professional work. Students wishing to pursue an Honors Contract must fill out an application, available at www.rc.edu/honors.

Honors students must maintain a GPA of 3.3 or higher to enroll in any honors course.

ADMISSION

Incoming students with an ACT of 27 or an SAT of 1210 are eligible to enroll in Honors courses and participate in the Honors Program. Students with slightly lower test scores are also encouraged to request permission to enroll in Honors courses by talking to their Academic Advisors or the Honors Program Director. Transfer students and existing students with a GPA of 3.3 or higher are also eligible to enroll in Honors courses and participate in the program. Eligible students are invited to register for Honors Courses; no formal application process is required.

DISTINCTIONS

All Honors coursework will be clearly designated as such on student transcripts. Students who complete the 14-credit Honors Core and earn a cumulative GPA of 3.3 will earn the distinction of “Honors Scholar” upon graduation. Students who complete 20 honors credits (including the Honors Core) and earn a cumulative GPA of 3.3 will earn the distinction of “Distinguished Honors Scholar” upon graduation.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Rochester College’s Honors Program officially launched in the Fall of 2011, and 32 members of the Freshmen Class participated. While personal growth is the primary reason to join the Honors Program, honors program participation is also highly valued by prospective employers and graduate schools.
All Honors coursework will be clearly designated as such on student transcripts. Honors Program participation is open to all eligible Rochester College students and is compatible with all degree programs and extracurricular activities. However, all Honors coursework is offered through the traditional program.

More information about the Honors Program can be obtained by visiting www.rc.edu/honors or by e-mailing honors@rc.edu.

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**HON 1002/3 INTRODUCTION TO HONORS**

Summer course for high school students. Introduces students to various academic programs at Rochester College and encourages interdisciplinary approaches to classic human questions and contemporary issues. Theme varies by year. Variable Credit. An online component, including a research project, is required of students who wish to earn three hours of credit. All credits are applicable to a college degree as electives. Enrollment into this program is separate from enrollment at Rochester College.

**HON 2014 COMMUNICATION AND CRITICAL THINKING**

Develops skills in critical thinking and enhances skills in both written and oral communication. Theme varies annually. Satisfies INF 1011. Hours may also be applied to either the English Composition or Communication and Speech requirements in the General Education Program. PR: ACT of 27+ for incoming freshmen and transfer students; GPA of 3.3 for existing students.

**HON 2113 THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE**

Considers the history, political structures, social systems, literature, and art of America within the context of Western society. Theme varies by year. Hours may be applied to one of the following General Education requirements: Western Heritage, American Experience, Literature, or Fine Arts Appreciation. PR: ACT of 27+ for incoming freshmen and transfer students; GPA of 3.3 for existing students.

**HON 2213 GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP**

Considers America’s interactions with Western and non-Western countries. Includes a comparative study of international philosophies, social systems, and economies, as well as trans-national interactions. Theme varies by year. Hours may be applied to one of the following General Education requirements: Moral and Philosophical Reasoning, Non-Western Studies and Diversity, or Human Institutions and Behavior. PR: ACT of 27+ for incoming freshmen and transfer students; GPA of 3.3 for existing students.

**HON 2314 SCIENCE AS A HUMAN ENTERPRISE**

Topics may explore science’s impact on humanity and humanity’s impact on the natural world and/or the historical development of the major theories in the various branches of science and how the philosophy of science influences their development. The course has a laboratory component. Qualitative and quantitative applications are utilized. Hours may be applied to one of the following General Education requirements: Critical Thinking and Mathematical Competency, Laboratory Science, or Human Institutions and Behavior. PR: ACT of 27+ for incoming freshmen and transfer students; GPA of 3.3 for existing students.

**HON 2413 SPECIAL TOPICS**

Allows for academic exploration of a specific topic. Content varies. Offered for elective credit. PR: ACT of 27+ for incoming freshmen and transfer students; GPA of 3.3 for existing students.