The mission of Southwestern Adventist University’s Honors Program is to enrich educational opportunities for high-achieving students and to increase cultural appreciation.

Admission and Retention

Entering freshmen with a cumulative high school GPA of at least 3.4 or an SAT composite score (critical reading and math) of at least 1050 (or a minimum ACT composite score of 24 plus) are invited to apply for admission to the Honors Program. Currently enrolled SWAU students and transfer students with a GPA of at least 3.4 on all their college courses may apply for admission to the Honors Program. Upon acceptance into the Honors Program a student will be designated an Honors Student. In order to remain in the Honors Program as an Honors Student, a student must maintain an overall GPA of at least 3.4.

Requirements and Procedures

In order to earn the designation Honors Graduate upon completing a bachelor’s degree, an Honors Student must fulfill the following requirements:

A. File an application form with the Honors Committee.
B. Complete 9 hours from the following:
   HNRS 104, HNRS 204 or 206, HNRS 304, HNRS 404
C. Complete 3 hours of HNRS 250 and/or 450.
D. Complete 3 hours of HNRS 480.
E. Complete 1 hour of HNRS 481
F. The Honors Committee will vote the student an Honors Graduate upon satisfactory completion of all requirements.

COURSES

HNRS 104 Human Communication 3 hours
This course emphasizes the theory and technique of effective oral communication through public speaking, group discussion, and oral interpretation. The class satisfies general education requirements for communication. Students taking this course should not take COMM 111, Fundamentals of Speech. (Spring)

HNRS 204 Advanced American History 3 hours
This course provides a detailed study of American history from Reconstruction to the present, charting the United States’ rise from a frontier nation to a world power. The course covers the turbulent days of post-Civil War Reconstruction and the settlement of the west, booming industrialism, Populism and Progressivism, the United States in World Wars I & II, the Cold War, and the distrust of the post-Watergate era. Students will become acquainted with trends in American historiography and practice the skills of historical interpretation and writing. The class satisfies general education requirements for history. It is required for history/social science majors. Students taking this course should not take HIST 112, American History, 1866-Present. (Spring)

HNRS 206 Advanced Western Civilization, early times to 1500 3 hours
A study of key issues, events, and transformations that form the basis for pre-modern western civilization and established the foundations for early modern and modern western history, including the Agricultural Revolution, the development of Hebrew monotheism, classical Greek social ideas, the rise and fall of the Roman empire, and barbarian and medieval Europe. Students taking this course should not take HIST 211, History of Western Civilization. (Fall)

HNRS 230, 450 Honors Seminar 1 hour
Prerequisite: Permission of the Honors Committee.
Courses specifically designed for the Honors Program covering a wide range of interests. Topic for the semester chosen by the faculty member in charge. (Fall, Spring)

HNRS 250, 450 Honors Seminar 1 hour
Prerequisite: Permission of the Honors Committee.
Courses specifically designed for the Honors Program covering a wide range of interests. Topic for the semester chosen by the faculty member in charge. (Fall, Spring)

HNRS 304 Discovering the Universe 4 hours
This course presents a study of modern and historical astronomy, what we know about the universe and how we know it. Topics include planets and the solar system, stellar evolution, galaxies and cosmology. The class satisfies general education requirements for a lab science. Students taking this course should not take PHYS 112, Introductory Astronomy. 3 hours lecture, 3 hours lab. (Spring, odd years)

HNRS 404 The Bible and Human Understanding 3 hours
This course explores Biblical approaches to the human search for our relationship to self, society, nature, and God. The class satisfies general education requirements for a Bible-content class. (Spring)

HNRS 480 Honors Thesis 1-3 hours
Prerequisite: Permission of the Honors Committee and an acceptable thesis proposal.
The student will work with a faculty advisor on a scholarly work of mutual interest. This course is open to Honors Students only. The course may be repeated for a total of 5 hours; 3 hours are required for Honors graduation. (Fall, Spring)

HNRS 481 Honors Thesis Forum 1 hour
Co-requisite: HNRS 480.
The student will submit the Honors thesis in publishable form and present it in an open forum. (Fall, Spring)