

**CHARLESTON SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR
MANUAL OF ACADEMIC POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

TITLE	NUMBER	PAGE	DATE OF INCEPTION
HONORS PROGRAM	R-54	1 of 1	April 30, 1999

Purpose: To establish guidelines for the Honors Program.

The Honors Program, designed to challenge and encourage the most academically distinguished students at CSU, combines academics with a variety of cultural and social activities. The program is open to new students each year and candidates normally enter as freshmen, though current students and transfer students whose transcripts indicate progress and performance consistent with CSU Honors Program standards are eligible to apply. The notation of successful completion of the Honors Program on a transcript often provides an advantage for both employment and graduate school application.

Incoming students with a redesigned SAT score of 1270 or higher (or an ACT score of 27 or higher) and a high school GPA of 3.5 may be eligible for participation in the Honors Program. Current students and transfer students are encouraged to apply if they have not completed more than their freshman year, and their college transcripts show evidence of sustained academic excellence (a 3.5 GPA earned in no more than 30 hours of coursework, including credit for English 111 and 112 and the Math core requirement).

During the freshman year students must successfully complete the Honors Seminar offered in the fall semester and at least two honors liberal arts courses. The first-year Honors Seminar (HNRS 111-01) requirement may be waived for students who enter the program after their freshman year. During the sophomore year students should successfully complete the Honors Leadership Seminar offered in the spring semester, some majors may have to take it another year. In addition, students must complete another 22 credit hours of honors-specific courses designed to encourage students to explore topics in ways traditional courses cannot. The student will complete a Senior Honors Project during the senior year. Students must earn a B or above in any honors-specific course to receive credit toward the completion of the Honors Program. To remain in the Honors Program students must successfully complete a minimum of 15 credit hours per semester, unless the Honors Program Council grants an exception, and maintain high academic standing with the university as evidenced by their cumulative GPA. The GPA requirements are as follows:

<u>Hours attempted</u>	<u>Cumulative GPA</u>
30	3.2
60	3.3
90	3.4
125	3.5

All admissions to the program are based on the decision of the Honors Program Council, who will notify candidates of their acceptance into the program. Eligible students will be invited to apply for the Honors Program during the admissions process and may do so as directed by Enrollment Services.

Each student in the Honors Program will have the following benefits:

1. Small sections in selected core courses taught by the best faculty.
2. Special sections of the Honors Freshman Seminar.
3. Specifically designated faculty advisors within their major department.
4. Priority in registration for courses.
5. Permission to take 19 – 21 semester hours at no extra tuition charge.
6. Invitation to take general CLEP exams at no charge.

7. Permission to take Challenge Exams at no charge. (Challenge Exams are subject to departmental approval.)
8. Inclusion in selected University special events.
9. Notation of Honors Program completion on the student's transcript when graduates.
10. Recognition at academic awards ceremonies and at commencement.

Approved by action of the Academic Council. Revised by Faculty Senate March 22, 2011. Revised by the Executive Director for Enrollment Services October 2016. Revised by the Director of the Honors Program March 2021.