University Honors

http://www.coastal.edu/honors/

## Mission Statement

Honors at Coastal Carolina University provides a dynamic learning environment that fosters the intellectual curiosity and creativity of highly motivated, academically-gifted students by creating a framework in which they can pursue self-determined personal and professional aspirations. Honors students are given the foundation to become thoughtful leaders able to solve problems of contemporary life, building upon historical and global perspectives. Honors provides a challenging and well-structured curriculum that incorporates interdisciplinary collaboration among members of the university community who serve as models for successful lifelong learning. Honors also promotes active involvement in the life of the University and service to the community. Community engagement and mentored, collaborative research assists students in developing the skills necessary to become professional and academic leaders.

## Honors College Admission

Admission to the Honors College is by invitation of the Director of Honors in consultation with the Office of Admissions. Admission is based on evidence of exceptional academic achievement, motivation, leadership and service. Students may apply to the Honors College during the University application process, or they may apply during their first year at the University. Transfer students are also eligible to apply and should contact the Director of Honors for information.

## Academics

Honors College students complete an enhanced academic curriculum including smaller honors sections of core curriculum courses, enriched courses within majors, and advanced interdisciplinary courses and seminars for juniors and seniors. Reflecting the College's emphasis on original research and creative expression, honors students complete a senior thesis project and present this work in a public forum.

Honors students are required to demonstrate regular progress toward the successful completion of a minimum of 24 credit hours of honors coursework, including ~~four honors only~~ nine credit hours of honors-only courses (with the HONR prefix or selected honors-only classes from other academic departments), at least three credit hours of which will be at the 300-level. ~~All students will also complete honors requirements in their major program, including an honors thesis equivalent course.~~ ~~Only nine credit hours of 300-level and above regular section coursework may be requested for conversion to honors level coursework through an "Honors by Special Arrangement" process.~~ Other courses may be requested for conversion to honors level coursework through an "Honors by Special Arrangement" process. All students will also complete an honors thesis or equivalent project and present the work in a public forum. Only honors classes in which students receive a grade of 'B' or better will count toward the completion of the program's 24 credit hours of honors coursework requirement. Restrictions and exemptions apply; please contact the Director of Honors for additional information.

Students who transfer in 45 or more credits from another institution and students who are exempt from having to meet Core Curriculum requirements are required to complete only three credit hours of honors-only courses as part of their 24 credit hours of honors coursework.

To remain in good academic standing within the Honors College, students must maintain the following standards: After completing 30 credit hours, a student must have a minimum 3.3 cumulative GPA and have completed at least 3 honors credit hours. After completing 60 credit hours, a student must have a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA and have completed at least 9 honors credit hours. After completing 90 credit hours, a student must have a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA and have completed at least 15 honors credit hours.

## Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the HTC Honors College should be able to:

1. Critically examine their identity and beliefs and take responsibility for the intentional construction of their personal value system and relationships.
2. Analyze cultural assumptions in the context of the world's diverse values, traditions, and belief systems.
3. Develop and share ideas logically and effectively in order to effectively communicate with diverse individuals and groups.
4. Analyze new problems and situations to formulate informed arguments, conclusions and solutions.
5. Analyze ideas, issues and creative works from a variety of perspectives and recognize how alternative approaches influence one another.
6. Integrate knowledge through disciplinary or multidisciplinary methodologies culminating in a research-based, scholarly or creative capstone work.
7. Address real-world problems and find and participate in ethical solutions for individuals and society.

## Recognition

All graduating students who successfully complete the requirements of the Honors College are recognized during Honors Convocation and at commencement. Honors students have the seal of the program affixed to their diploma. Additionally, the designation of Honors College Graduate is placed on their official transcripts by the Registrar.