



Grand Valley State University

Frederik Meijer Honors College Handbook



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Grand Valley State University's Frederik Meijer Honors College. We are delighted you chose to join us. Our faculty and staff look forward to working with you as you undertake this exciting new adventure: pursuing your undergraduate degree. In the process of seeking your dreams for the future, you will learn a great deal about the world and much about yourself too. As you rise to meet each new challenge, you will develop more advanced skills, expand your horizons, and build a solid foundation that will serve you well for the future, wherever it takes you.

This handbook provides information about the requirements of the Frederik Meijer Honors College, as well as recommendations for how you can get the most out of your Meijer Honors College education.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

The Frederik Meijer Honors College is an intellectually vibrant academic community, promoting a culture of academic excellence inside and outside the classroom. We offer a liberal arts education that challenges students to set high expectations for themselves. Consistent with our small college environment, professors give students a great deal of individualized attention. Not only will you benefit from student-faculty interaction but also from working with others like you, students who have demonstrated exceptional intelligence, motivation, creativity, and achievement.

Our graduates report that they have been well prepared for graduate and professional programs because they developed high levels of proficiency in research, writing, critical thinking, synthesizing material from multiple disciplines, and applying analytical skills to primary sources. Whether your major is in the arts or in the sciences, these skills are essential for your success. This high quality liberal arts education serves our graduates well anywhere,

even in (as one of our graduates described her medical school program) “a sea of Ivy Leaguers.”

Honors students have the opportunity to challenge themselves to excel in their classes. Students are not graded on a curved scale, and thus have the same opportunity to excel. The Frederik Meijer Honors College has traditionally valued a collaborative environment characterized by cooperation and community, rather than by cut-throat competition.

We offer an exceptional education, but it is up to you to seize these opportunities. As with much in life, the more you put into your academic career, the more you will get out of it. Education is much more than chalking up credits toward a degree. Promise yourself that you will be an active participant shaping your own learning, inside and outside of the classroom. Speak up in class, indulge your intellectual curiosity, look for opportunities to learn more, look for new challenges; stretch yourself by opting for something new and different, even if doing that takes some courage. Look for ways to exercise leadership in the Meijer Honors College, in the community. Get involved—it's **your** education!

FACULTY ADVISING

Typically, Honors faculty are tenured in departments throughout the University, teaching in Honors in addition to working in their home units. Several faculty members have full time appointments with the Frederik Meijer Honors College. All faculty, whether teaching full time or part time, hold office hours for Honors students.

Your professors will include information about office hours on the course syllabus. Sometimes faculty will be in their offices at other times, but these official office hours are when you can be sure to find them available to meet with you. Faculty also will make an appointment to meet with you at another time if you have classes during office hours. When faculty members are not in their offices, they may be teaching, serving on departmental or University

committees, conducting research, writing, grading papers, or preparing for class sessions.

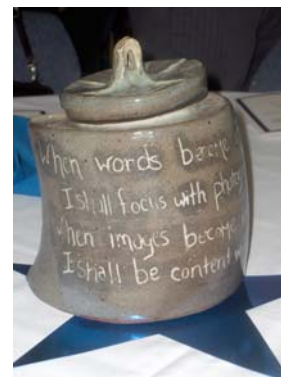
You should feel free to visit a professor whether you want to discuss a specific assignment, follow up on something in a class discussion that intrigued you, or talk about your future. Faculty members enjoy helping students. If you are inquiring about a specific assignment, you may find that professors are quite adept at getting you to think through your own ideas, rather than giving you a step-by-step “how to.” This is because we want you to become skillful independent thinkers who can tackle a task with confidence in the future when you will not have professors to oversee your work. For assignments, think in terms of “what can I do here” rather than “what do you want me to do.” Try to make every assignment meaningful by figuring out what interests you. If you are willing to explore, you are bound to find any topic fascinating, even one that you hold little interest in. This is only possible if you are open to new ideas and intellectually curious (a quality that is like a zest for life!).

If you would like to speak with a faculty member from your major or field of interest, you can consult the listing of Honors faculty and their interests. Even if you do not know an Honors faculty member through a course, they will welcome you. It is a very good idea to begin building relationships with faculty in Honors and in your major early on. We are your links to the future! We can suggest research projects you might undertake with faculty, scholarships, or internship possibilities. Eventually, you will want to ask some of us for letters of recommendation. A professor can only write an impressive letter for a student who has made a strong impression on them and whom they know well.

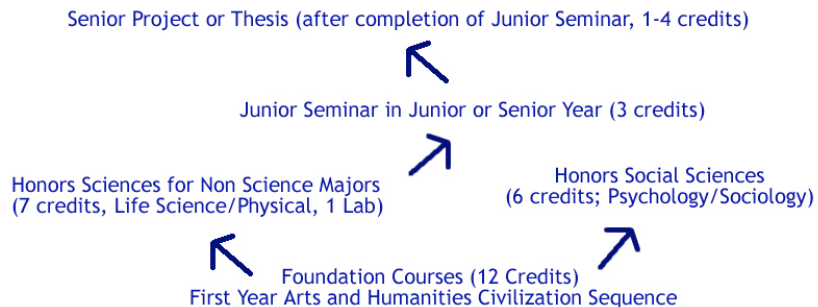
If at any time you have questions about the Honors curriculum, please ask an Honors faculty member, inquire in the Honors office, or contact Dr. J, the director. **Do Not** rely only on the advice of other students. That inclination has been treacherous for some students in the past.

CURRICULUM

The Honors curriculum, with its emphasis on interdisciplinary learning, offers a distinctive way to fulfill most general education requirements. Frederik Meijer Honors College courses, normally limited to twenty students, are designed to enhance and integrate the intellectual curiosity of students and to enlarge their world-view and personal development. Sharing specially designed classes with other students of outstanding potential and motivation creates a special atmosphere in which important questions and student ideas are treated seriously. Uniquely qualified and carefully selected faculty drawn from all disciplines teach Honors courses; in fact, many classes are team-taught, offering students even more individualized attention. As a senior you will work with a faculty mentor to design and complete an independent project.



The following schematic represents the sequence of honors courses (beginning at the bottom of the diagram):



Honors Curriculum Requirements

The requirements listed in each box must be completed in order to graduate with the Frederik Meijer Honors College designation. This is to be used as a guide only. It is not a substitute for advising. Completion of the Meijer Honors College satisfies the General Education requirements of the university, including the upper level theme.

Arts and Humanities – Complete Freshman Year

---EITHER complete **one** sequence, 12 credits over two semesters---

Fulfills: Arts, History, Philosophy & Literature, SWS

Stay in same section all year:

American Civilization

HNR 213/214 Fall - HNR 223/224 Winter
Also Fulfills: U.S. Diversity, HST 205, HST 206, ENG 225, ENG 226

Classical World

HNR 211/212 Fall - HNR 221/222 Winter
Also Fulfills: World Perspectives, HST 203

European Civilization

HNR 215/216 Fall - HNR 225/226 Winter
Also Fulfills: World Perspectives, HST 204, ENG 221

Stay in same sequence all year:

African Civilization

HNR 280-03/04 Fall & Winter
Also Fulfills: World Perspectives

East Asian Civilization

HNR 280-01/02 Fall & Winter
Also Fulfills: World Perspectives

Latin American Civilization

HNR 280-05/06 Fall & Winter
Also Fulfills: World Perspectives

History of Science

HNR 280-07/08 Fall & Winter
Also Fulfills: World Perspectives

---OR complete the following sequence, 12 credits over four semesters---

(suggested for Engineering majors and those whose majors require many hours freshman year)

Making of Europe

HNR 217 (Fall, 1st semester); HNR 218 (Winter, 2nd semester);
 HNR 227 (Fall, 3rd semester); HNR 228 (Winter, 4th semester)
Also Fulfills: World Perspectives, HST 203, ENG 220

Social Science Courses

Suggested Completion Sophomore Year

---EITHER complete **two**, 3 credits each---

The Holocaust HNR 231

Trauma, Culture, Memory HNR 232

Democracy & Political Thinking HNR 235
 Fulfills: U.S. Diversity

Cultural Anthropology ANT 204-05
 Fulfills: World Perspectives
 Honors section Winter semester

Introductory Psychology PSY 101-19
 Honors section Winter Semester

Introductory Macroeconomics* ECO 210-11
 Honors section Fall Semester

Introductory Microeconomics* ECO 211-5
 Honors section Fall Semester

** Because the Economic courses are from one discipline, only one ECO course can be used to fulfill the social science requirement.*

---OR complete **one** sequence, 6 credits---

Society & Self HNR 233/234 must be taken concurrently and the same section.
 Fulfills: U.S. Diversity, PSY 101, SOC 201

Citizenship and Education HNR 280
 sections 11 and 12 must be taken concurrently.
 Fulfills: U.S. Diversity

Junior Seminar

Complete **one** of the following courses, 3 credits

HNR 300 **Junior Seminar**
 (World Perspectives)

HNR 311 **Junior Seminar**
 (World Perspectives)

HNR 312 **Junior Seminar** (U.S. Diversity)

HNR 313 **Junior Seminar**

HNR 324 **Worlds of Late Antiquity**

HNR 331 **Culture & the Holocaust**
 (World Perspectives)

Science Courses

Suggested Completion Sophomore Year

---EITHER complete **one** Life Science, 3 credits and on Physical Science, 4 credits---

Life Sciences

Plants & People HNR 242

Microbes & Society HNR 245

Molecules of Life HNR 247

Physical Sciences

Earth: A Global View HNR 241

Chemistry in Perspective HNR 246

---OR complete the following sequence---

Human Body in Motion HNR 243/244

NOTE: Students majoring in the sciences will not take these courses. Any substitutions must be approved by the Honors Director.

Diversity Courses

All GVSU students are required to fulfill two diversity requirements: **U.S. Diversity** and **World Perspectives**.

These requirements are easily fulfilled through certain honors civilization sequences, junior seminars, or Social Science courses, but may alternatively be fulfilled by general education courses.

Courses that fulfill either requirement will be noted in the course description.

IMPORTANT MATTERS

- **Communication.** The Meijer Honors Office, director, and faculty will most often communicate with you via e-mail. It is extremely important, therefore, that you keep an updated e-mail address listed in Banner, and preferable that you use and check your GVSU e-mail account, because other ones are not always reliable. If you are not reachable through e-mail, you may miss vital information and great opportunities.
- **News and Updates.** Most information about Honors is readily accessible through the Honors website, www.gvsu.edu/honors. If you have questions about the curriculum, events, or opportunities, check the website first. In addition, the Frederik Meijer Honors College maintains a Blackboard page that will be accessible to you as an Honors student. This may also be used for communication.
- **The Meijer Honors Office.** The Meijer Honors Office is there for you, and you are always welcome to stop by when you have questions or just to chat. The office is located in Glenn A. Niemeyer Learning and Living Center, room 120. You can reach the office by e-mailing honors@gvsu.edu or calling 616-331-3219.

OPPORTUNITIES

Competitive National Fellowships

If you are an exemplary student interested in applying for competitive national fellowships, such as Fulbright, Truman, Goldwater, Udall, Mitchell, or Rhodes Scholarships, please tell the Honors Director or a faculty member so that we can help you early on to develop your application materials. You can find out more about competitive national fellowships on the Honors website at <http://www.gvsu.edu/honors>, then go to Scholarships, then Current Students, and look through the categories in which you are most interested.

The McNair Scholars Program

You can apply for a McNair if you are interested in pursuing a Ph.D. and are either a first-generation college student (neither parent has attained a baccalaureate degree) whose household meets the income guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Education; or are a member of a group that is underrepresented in graduate education. The U.S. Government currently defines "underrepresented groups" specifically as Native American, Native Alaskan, Hispanic, or African-American.

Most students begin the program as juniors. During the academic year before their summer internships, McNair Scholars develop relationships with faculty members and choose an internship mentor. Students attend monthly meetings to develop community within the program and share information relevant to the pursuit of a Ph.D.

During the summer before their final year of program participation, McNair Scholars conduct their Research Internship with the guidance of a faculty mentor. Upon completion of their research, scholars present their papers at regional and national conferences and submit their findings for publication.

You can learn more at <http://www.gvsu.edu/mcnair/>

Trips

Various Honors courses offer low-cost opportunities to travel to a variety of places (such as Chicago, Detroit, Toledo, or Stratford, Ontario) to visit museums, sample culture, attend performances, etc. These are wonderful opportunities, and not to be missed. In addition, special trips are sometimes offered, and will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

Study Abroad

The Frederik Meijer Honors College sponsors study abroad trips to places such as Russia, Rome, Paris, Mexico, and Germany. In addition, the Padnos International Center, located in 130 Lake Ontario Hall, features a wide variety of study abroad options, ranging from short summer trips to year-long expeditions. The Padnos Center also administers very generous scholarships for year long study abroad (up to \$10,000). Meijer Honors College students have been quite successful in winning these awards.



Germany and Poland, 2006

Presentation Opportunities

The Frederik Meijer Honors College strongly encourages students to present research papers on campus at Student Scholarship Day, and off-campus at a variety of Honors and disciplinary conferences. Opportunities are available for all students, and Honors can often assist with conference fees or travel expenses. See the Honors website and click the tab for Research/Conference Opportunities for updated lists.

Honors Student Council

This group of Honors students works to promote the Frederik Meijer Honors College throughout the University and surrounding community, engaging in a variety of activities. The Student Council works closely with the director and has a very important leadership role within the College. It assists in Meijer Honors College governance, represents Honors to the University community and beyond, supervises the peer mentor program, develops co- and extra-curricular activities and events, and coordinates service activities. Members are elected annually, early in the Fall semester. All students in good standing in Honors are eligible. The Honors Student Council can be reached at hnrscouncil@gvsu.edu.

Peer Mentors

Frederik Meijer Honors College Freshmen Mentors are returning Honors College upperclassmen who wish to serve as role models/mentors for incoming Honors freshman by assisting Honors Freshmen during their transition into the college environment. Applications are usually due by the middle of the Winter semester for the following year. Applicants must be in good standing with the Meijer Honors College, and mentors are expected to remain in good standing for the duration of their term.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Admission

Applicants must first be accepted to GVSU, and then apply to the Frederik Meijer Honors College. The normal qualifications for the program are a 3.5 high school GPA and ACT score of 28, but other factors (such as quality of essay, paper sample, and honors/leadership activities) are considered for entrance, and all these criteria are weighed to assess academic motivation and potential for success in the program.

Transfer students and those already enrolled at Grand Valley State University who wish to enter the Meijer Honors College may apply for admission if they have a 3.5 college grade point average. The application forms are available at the Honors office at 120 Glenn A. Niemeyer Learning and Living Center or from the web site: (www.gvsu.edu/honors).

Good Standing

Students who have been admitted to the Frederik Meijer Honors College must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.2 in order to remain a member in good standing of the College.

Graduation

In order to graduate from GVSU with the Frederik Meijer Honors College designation, students must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.2 at the time of graduation, and they must have completed the Honors curriculum.

Academic Honesty

The Frederik Meijer Honors College expects students to hold themselves to a high standard of academic honesty. We strictly enforce University regulations in these matters, adhering to the Student Code:

Section 223.00: INTEGRITY OF SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRADES.

Truth and Honesty. The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of teachers and scholars. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor these principles, and in so doing protect the validity of University grades. This means that all academic work will be done by the student to whom it is assigned without unauthorized aid of any kind. Instructors, for their part, will exercise care in the planning and supervision of academic work, so that honest effort will be positively encouraged. Compliance shall include compliance with the following specific rules:

1. No student shall knowingly, without authorization, procure, provide or accept any materials which contain questions or answers to any examination or assignment.
2. No student shall, without authorization, complete, in part or in total, any examination or assignment for another person.
3. No student shall, without authorization, allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, by another person.
4. No student shall knowingly plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his/her own.
5. No student shall submit work that has been previously graded, or is being submitted concurrently to more than one course, without authorization from the instructor(s) of the class(es) to which the student wishes to submit it.

Section 223.01: PLAGIARISM.

Any ideas or material taken from another source for either written or oral presentation must be fully acknowledged. Offering the work of someone else as one's own is plagiarism. The language or ideas taken from another may range from isolated formulas, sentences, or paragraphs to entire articles copied from books, periodicals, speeches or the writings of other students. The offering of materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgment also is considered plagiarism. Any student who fails to give credit in written or oral work for the ideas or materials that have been taken from another is guilty of plagiarism.

Depending on the circumstances surrounding a case of academic dishonesty, a student may face consequences ranging from receiving an "F" for an assignment or for a course to expulsion from the Honors College or the University.

Probation

A student whose cumulative GPA drops below 3.2 but remains above 2.8 will be placed on Frederik Meijer Honors College

probation immediately following the semester in which his/her GPA falls into that range. The student must meet with the Meijer Honors College Director or a faculty member to discuss what went wrong and what the student plans to do to address these problems in the future. The advisor will connect the student with any needed campus resources, as well as help the student decide whether it would be better for her/him to withdraw from Honors or to continue in Honors on a probationary status. If the student remains in Honors, probation shall remain in effect for two regular semesters (fall, winter) with evaluation of the student's progress to occur at the end of each subsequent semester during that time.

A student who has been on probation will be re-admitted to good standing in the Honors College if after one year her/his cumulative GPA has returned to a 3.2 or higher.

A student who has been on probation will be dismissed from the Meijer Honors College if after one year her/his GPA has not returned to 3.2 or higher.

Dismissal

A student who was previously in good standing and whose cumulative GPA falls below 2.8 in any semester will be dismissed from the Frederik Meijer Honors College immediately following the semester in which her/his GPA falls to that point.

Re-Application

A student who has been dismissed from the Meijer Honors College may apply for re-admission after completing two consecutive semesters in which her/his cumulative GPA has been 3.2 or higher.

Honors Housing

Students who are on probation may continue to live in Honors Housing. Students who are dismissed at the end of Fall Semester may remain in Honors Housing through the Winter Semester. Those dismissed at the end of Winter Semester are no longer eligible to live in Honors Housing.

Students who voluntarily withdraw from the Honors College forfeit the right to live in Honors Housing.

Withdrawing from the Frederik Meijer Honors College

If you should decide that Honors is not right for you, you must inform the Meijer Honors College in writing of your wish to drop the program. Students wishing to withdraw from Honors must meet with the Honors College Director or an Honors advisor in order to plan for the completion of the general education program.



The Frederik Meijer Honors College Mission Statement

The Mission of the Frederik Meijer Honors College is to provide a challenging interdisciplinary liberal education in a personal, nurturing living/learning environment. Honors education encourages students to develop high-level skills, knowledge and expertise, and prepares them to be intellectually curious, life-long learners and extraordinarily capable leaders in their communities and the world.

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