

Whatcom Community College Honors Program

Thank you for your interest in the Honors Program. New program students frequently have a number of questions regarding the program. We would like to address the most frequently asked questions in this information sheet. If you have any further questions, we encourage you to contact a current program student, or program coordinator Tony Will.

What is the Honors Program?

The Honors Program is an opportunity for academically talented students to study a subject in more depth than a regular class allows. Each quarter approximately four Honors seminars are offered in a variety of disciplines in the broad areas of Humanities, Social Sciences, Math/Sciences, and Basic Skills.

May I take seminars only in the subject that is my major area of interest?

No. Whatcom's program is designed to fit into distribution and skills requirements rather than reflect your major. Each quarter different seminars are offered in the distribution and skills areas. For example, the seminars offered during one quarter might be English, art, physics and history. A student also has the opportunity to develop a creative Honors Project based on previously acquired knowledge. Please ask the program coordinator for further information regarding the project.

Do I get credits for participating in the seminars?

Yes, students receive two credits for each seminar. Seminars may be taken concurrently with a particular course or, if you have previously taken the regular course, you may simply take the two credit seminar. The two credits are in addition to the regular course credits.

How much work am I expected to do for the two credits?

The amount of work varies from class to class, but about four hours of work per week, in addition to class time, is the average.

When do I take the seminar, and for how long?

The times the seminars are offered vary from class to class. The seminar may take place directly before or after the class it is linked to, or on a day the class is not normally scheduled. Each seminar meets for two hours per week.

How often am I expected to take an Honors seminar in order to stay in the program?

After entering the program, Honors students may participate in as many seminars as they'd like. A minimum of two seminars/projects must be completed in order to graduate in the Honors Program.

What is "graduating with Honors?"

The Honors Program designation is printed on your transcript and noted in the commencement program. Program students have the honor of wearing a silver stole at the commencement ceremony. Students may also graduate from the college with honors based on G.P.A.

May I continue in the Honors Program when I transfer to Western Washington University?

There is an Honors Program at WWU, but it is not affiliated with the WCC program. The criteria for program admission is also different. Please call WWU for more information.

Is the Honors Program the same as the Honor Society?

The Honors Program is a separate organization from the Honor Society. The Honor Society is Alpha Xi Nu, which is the local chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society of two year colleges. For more information, please contact the student center.

What benefits will I receive if I participate in the Honors Program?

- **Early registration:** You have probably already heard about “early registration.” Honors students register early to assure them access to the courses they need to take in conjunction with the Honors seminars. Current Honors students receive advising and registration information directly from the Honors Program. Newly accepted Honors students will receive a letter canceling their usual advising/registration appointment, and informing them of the earlier dates for Honors Program registration. Honors advising usually takes place during the week before early registration. A list of available Honors seminars can be picked up from the Division Support Office in Cascade Hall 145.
- **Seminars:** Another benefit that Honors students enjoy is the opportunity to interact with other program students, who, like yourself, are interested in exploring the subject in more depth than regular class time allows. The seminar also reinforces what you are learning during the regular class. The small size of the seminar classes often leads to exciting class discussion, and an opportunity to work more closely with the instructor. Students often form study groups, and get together informally both in and out of school.
- **Other benefits:** Participation in the Honors Program can be listed on scholarship applications and applications to four year colleges. There are personal benefits as well. You are encouraged to talk to other program students to find out how they feel participation in the program has benefited them personally.

How can I find out more about participating in the Honors Program?

You may contact the program coordinator, Tony Will. His office is located on the first floor of Cascade Hall, room 155; his telephone number is 383-3567. His email is awill@whatcom.edu.

We thank you for your interest in the program.

“As a human being, you share the birthright of intelligence, curiosity and, above all the ability to learn. However, these gifts are not free. By your very nature, you can not only learn, you are compelled to learn if you are to remain happy and fulfilled.” (Hahn, Harley. *The Complete Reference*. Berkeley: McGraw-Hill, 1994.)

The opportunity is here; it is the individual’s responsibility to participate.