

18 Frequently Asked Questions about the East Central University Honors Program

1. What does it take to qualify to apply for the Honors Program?

High school applicants must have a 3.5 high school gpa and either: a) an ACT composite score of 24 or higher or b) 12 college credit hours with a 3.5 college gpa. Transfer students and continuing students at ECU must have 3.3 gpa and recommendations from 2 faculty members.

2. How do I apply?

Go to ecok.edu/honorsapp.

3. When are applications due?

We take applications until all seats are taken and all scholarships distributed. We recommend that high-school students apply by the end of October of their senior year and attend an Honors Early Acceptance group interview in November or December, but we usually accept applications throughout the spring.

4. What does it take to stay in the Honors Program?

Maintain a cumulative 3.3 GPA, make steady progress toward fulfilling your Honors requirements each semester, and fulfill community service hour requirements (currently four hours per semester).

5. What is the difference between University Honors and Departmental Honors?

Departmental Honors is designed for students who start the Honors Program during their junior year. University Honors is designed for students who start the Honors program during their first-year in college, but continuing and transfer students can also do University Honors if it fits their course plan.

6. What does it take to graduate with University Honors?

You must complete seven challenges to graduate with University Honors:

- 4 Honors Seminars (these seminars meet general education distribution requirements and are usually taken during the student's first four semesters on campus)
- 2 semesters of upper division research or creative projects (two Honors projects or a single, two-semester Honors thesis)
- 1 off-campus engagement experience (internship, study abroad, Oklahoma Scholar Leaders Enrichment Program, etc.)

It is possible to complete all of these challenges in three years.

7. What does it take to graduate with Departmental Honors?

You must complete three challenges to graduate with Departmental Honors:

- 2 semesters of upper division research or creative projects (two Honors projects or a single, two-semester Honors thesis)

And either 1 Honors Seminar or 1 off-campus engagement experience (see description above)

It is possible to complete all of these challenges in one year.

8. Is there a Program enrollment fee?

First-year students pay a one-time \$75 fee; continuing and transfer students pay a one-time \$50 fee.

9. Are Honors seminars much more difficult than regular General Education courses?

No. We don't tell Honors instructors to make the courses more difficult; we tell them to make the courses discussion-based. Because these courses usually admit no more than fifteen students, it is easier to make the courses more interactive and engaging. Students in Honors seminars usually find that their grades are about the same, and often higher, than those they get in traditional courses.

10. Can I be in the Honors Program while I'm an athlete/a cheerleader/ a band member or while I have a part-time job?

Yes. Several current Honors students and recent graduates have been varsity athletes, cheerleaders, members of the band and choir, and leaders of student government and Greek organizations. Many also hold down part-time jobs, and some complete Honors requirements while raising a family.

11. What if I'm not certain I can handle it?

Try it for a semester. If it's not for you, we can change your coding, and you can continue your studies at ECU as a traditional student without delaying your progress towards graduation. Honors courses fill general education requirements that all students have to meet.

12. Is special scholarship money available especially for Honors students?

Yes. The Honors Program expects to offer incoming first-year applicants four-year scholarships worth \$14,000 (\$1750 per semester as a tuition-fee waiver for up to 8 semesters). Applicants must be Oklahoma residents. First-year applicants who are out-of-state residents are eligible for an in-state tuition waiver.

13. Do Honors students get any housing benefits?

Yes. Both returning and first-year Honors students who choose to live in the Honors housing community can expect to have other Honors students as suitemates and neighbors. Limited availability. First-come, first-served.

15. Is entrance to the Honors Program limited to recipients of Honors tuition waivers?

No. For most of our history at ECU, the Honors Program has been comprised entirely of students who chose Honors for its intrinsic benefits.

16. What kind of trips to Honors students go on?

In recent years, we've taken Honors students to Mexico City, New Orleans, Chicago, Boston, San Francisco, and New York City. Every spring, we also go on "Global Faiths Tours," where we visit a Hindu temple, a Buddhist monastery, an Islamic mosque and a Jewish synagogue.

17. What are the top things students in the Program value about Honors?

The community, the trips, and the discussion-based classes.

18. What if I have more questions?

Call us at 580-559-5877.

Email us at honors@ecok.edu.

Or drop by the Honors Center at Faust 155 (we're open most afternoons when school is in session during the fall and spring semesters; hours will be posted on the door or you can call in advance to confirm that we'll be here when you come).