# Honors College Student Handbook

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UNCW's Honors College provides opportunities for undergraduates to engage in independent and creative scholarly activity. The Honors College directs the four-year honors curriculum and departmental honors, offers opportunities to develop a global perspective, supports undergraduate research for all UNCW undergraduates, and mentors UNCW students through the application process for national scholarships and fellowships.

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I. ACADEMIC PROGRAM AND REQUIREMENTS

To graduate with University Honors, students must complete the course and seminar requirements [typically in their first two years] and go on to complete Departmental Honors in their majors. They must also graduate with at least a 3.5 GPA.

To graduate with University Honors, a student must earn at least 29 Honors credits*:
- 12 credit hours of University Studies honors sections
- 3 credit hours (1 course) of Honors First Year Seminar (HON 110)
- 2 credit hours (2 courses) of Honors Enrichment Seminar (HON 120 or HON 121)
- 3 credit hours (1 course) of Honors Interdisciplinary Seminar (HON 210, 211 or 212)
- 3 additional honors credits (see below)
- 6 credits hours of Departmental Honors (XXX 499)

*students joining Honors after the first semester do not have to complete HON 110, and 3 credits of honors university studies requirements are waived.

a. HONORS COURSEWORK

Honors University Studies: The Honors Scholars College offers various sections of honors university studies courses to assist students in working toward their university studies requirements. Students entering the program as fall semester freshmen must take at least 12 hours (about 4 courses) of honors university studies sections. The specific honors sections of university studies courses change every semester to meet a wide array of requirements in different subjects. Please refer to the online schedule on the honors website for the specific courses offered each semester.

Honors Interdisciplinary & Enrichment Seminars: A major focus of the honors curriculum is the seminar. Seminars cut across traditional boundaries of academic disciplines, offering students the opportunity to explore issues in depth. In general, honors seminars focus on a specific topic of inquiry. They typically involve students in both in-class and out-of-class activities that enrich their learning experiences. Students typically take an honors seminar in each of their first four semesters—for example, HON 110 in first semester freshman year; HON 210/211/212 in first semester sophomore year, and HON 120/121 in spring semester of both freshman and sophomore years. However, HON 120/121 and HON 210/211/212 sections are offered both fall and spring semesters to accommodate student class scheduling. These seminars are regular credit courses and count toward graduation, as well as toward the grade point average.

Course Descriptions of Honors Seminars:

HON 110 Honors First Year Interdisciplinary Seminar (3 credit hours) Prerequisite: Formal enrollment in the Honors Scholars College or consent of the director. Introduces the honors student to the college experience by direct involvement in research, service and leadership activities. The nature of knowledge; the concept of a university; how a university education changes individuals and affects the future. Includes field experiences, collaborative learning and independent scholarship. Emphasis on discussion;

**HON 120 Honors Enrichment Seminar (1 credit hour)** Prerequisite: Formal enrollment in the Honors Scholars College or consent of the director. Students study a specialty topic and participate in a variety of related enrichment activities on the campus and in the community. By direct contact, students have the opportunity to broaden their educational experience in both traditional and contemporary forums. Discussion and brief written assignments. May be repeated under different subtitles.

**HON 121 Honors Enrichment Seminar: Explorations Beyond the Classroom (1 credit hour)** Prerequisite: Formal enrollment in the Honors Scholars College or consent of the director. Students study a specialty topic and participate in a variety of related enrichment activities outside the classroom. By direct contact, students have the opportunity to broaden their educational experience in forums that emphasize applied learning. May include travel or field site experience as a component. Discussion and brief written assignments, including intentional reflection. May be repeated under different subtitles. Satisfies University Studies V: Explorations Beyond the Classroom/Certified Internship Program.

**HON 210 Honors Topical Interdisciplinary Seminar (3 credit hours)** Prerequisite: Formal enrollment in the Honors Scholars College or consent of the director. An in-depth investigation of a special topic using the approaches of several disciplines; may be team-taught. Topics and approaches vary. Examples are ‘Brain and Behavior’; ‘The Geography of Food’; ‘Nature: Literature and Science’; ‘Issues in Coastal Management.’ May be repeated under different subtitles.

**HON 211 Topical Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar: Living in Our Diverse Nation (3 credit hours)** Prerequisite: Formal enrollment in the Honors Scholars College or consent of director. An in-depth investigation of a special topic related to the theme ‘Living in Our Diverse Nation’ using the approaches of several disciplines; may be team-taught. Topics and approaches vary. Examples are ‘The Geography of Race Relations’ and ‘Immigration in the US’. May be repeated under different subtitles. Satisfies University Studies II: Approaches and Perspectives/Living in Our Diverse Nation.

**HON 212 Topical Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar: Living in a Global Society (3 credit hours)** Prerequisite: Formal enrollment in the Honors Scholars College or consent of director. An in-depth investigation of a special topic related to the theme ‘Living in a Global Society’ using the approaches of several disciplines; may be team-taught. Topics and approaches vary. Examples are ‘Brazilian Culture’ and ‘Germs of the World.’ May be repeated under different subtitles. Satisfies University Studies II: Approaches and Perspectives/Living in a Global Society.

b. **HONORS CONTRACT COURSES**

Another way to take an honors level course is to contract with a faculty member in a regular section class. With the mutual agreement of student and faculty (and approval of the department chair and Honors director), any 300 or 400 level departmental course in the student’s major or minor may be taken as an honors experience on a contract basis. The student and the faculty member sign a contract at the beginning of the semester (no later than the end of the drop-add period) detailing how the course will be enhanced as an honors course. This may mean additional in-depth research, projects, scholarly or laboratory work, class presentations, etc. Successful completion of the contract with the student earning at least a B (3.0) in the class will result in the course being designated an honors level course on the student's transcript. This is done after the class is completed. Please see the honors website for a sample Honors Contract Form.
Contract courses are ideal for offering students a chance to have an honors level class experience in their majors (or minors). Completing an honors contract course may be used to help the student to meet the honors credit hours requirement as well. Please contact the Honors director about this.

c. DEPARTMENTAL HONORS:

Departmental Honors at UNCW provides the opportunity for students at the junior-senior level to engage in an advanced individual scholarly project in a specialized area. Departmental Honors work involves independent study under the supervision of a faculty member in the student's major field. This independent study should be outstanding scholarly work, appropriate to the academic standards of the student's major discipline, and should be completed in two 3-credit hour semesters or three 2-credit hour semesters. The results of the honors work are summarized in a paper and presented orally before an examining committee. Generally, students do their work in departmental honors in their last two semesters. However, a student may begin in his or her junior year. Honors Scholars are encouraged to begin planning their Departmental Honors work as soon as possible. It is beneficial to precede the Departmental Honors project by enrolling in Directed Individual Study (491 or 291) for at least one semester. There is also an option to undertake an Honors interdisciplinary project (HON 499) outside the major. All 499 classes satisfy the University Studies Explorations Beyond the Classroom requirement.

The specific project and its content and methods are the choice of the faculty supervisor and student. Research projects are appropriate in all disciplines. Artistic performances, exhibitions, or research applications related to internships or service projects may also be appropriate. The critical feature is that the honors project reflects an in-depth scholarly endeavor relevant to the academic discipline. In all cases, the project should be grounded in a critical review of the literature and place the scholarly question or hypothesis in that academic context. In addition, an oral exam, a written record, e.g., a research paper or project description, and a reflection paper on the experience are always required.

Students may apply to begin departmental honors when they have earned at least 74 semester hours credit with a grade point average of 3.2 or better on all college work attempted (including transfer hours). At least 30 semester hours of work with a 3.2 or better grade point average must have been completed at UNCW. Academic departments or schools may require a higher grade point average for eligibility for Departmental Honors in their disciplines. Consult the booklet, "A Guide to Departmental Honors for Students and Faculty," for more information.

Note: The University Honors distinction requires at least a 3.5 GPA.

d. OTHER WAYS TO EARN HONORS CREDIT

There are additional ways to earn honors credit toward the total hours required for honors. These include: additional HON seminars, additional honors sections of university studies, HON 191, study abroad semester or year, National Student Exchange, honors sections of
upper-level (non-university studies) courses, honors contract class in major or minor, 400/500 cross-listed courses if graduate level requirements are completed, graduate level coursework, and additional honors project in second major.

**HON 191- Introduction to Research and Discovery** is a one credit class designed for first, and sometimes second, year students who want to jump start their engagement in research and scholarly work in their likely major area. HON 191 is open to all UNCW students, and is typically offered in the spring semester. The focus of the class is to refine library and other research-related skills, develop a resume, seek out faculty who may become mentors, and interview juniors and seniors engaged in undergraduate research already.

"Spoon feeding in the long run teaches us nothing but the shape of the spoon."
--E. M. Forster

**II. FACULTY MENTORS**

Faculty mentors in a variety of academic disciplines participate in teaching honors courses. Others are available for discussion and assistance on special projects and issues. On occasion, the Honors Scholars College has also been able to match students to mentors in the community in fields such as medicine, business, veterinary medicine, or civic leadership. Please see the Honors director for information about mentors.

**III. ADVISING**

Academic advising for honors students is the responsibility of the Director and Associate Director of the Honors Program and the designated faculty honors advisors, Ms. Michelle Britt, Drs. Arthur Frampton, Diane Dodd, and Bill Atwill. The honors advisors are trained as University College advisors and are familiar with the requirements for honors as well as those of university studies and the various majors.

The advisors will set up individual appointments with each of you to assist in your course selection and program planning, as well as to address any other questions about your academic progress. Students typically meet with their advisors at least once a semester to discuss their academic progress and arrange their schedules for the following term. Students are welcome to make appointments with their advisors at any time they have questions or issues to discuss. Once students officially declare a major – typically sometime in the second year – they will be assigned an advisor in the major department. Be sure to let her or him know you're an honors student. The Honors College will continue to be available for advising questions related to honors requirements.
IV. PRIORITY REGISTRATION

A major benefit of the Honors College is priority registration. Honors students pre-register for classes at the beginning of the regular pre-registration period each semester, before the majority of students; this permits them greater choice and availability of courses. They usually get the courses and instructors they want, when they want them. We use the SEANET registration system, with honors students having a special code which allows them access to honors courses. Your honors advisors will assist you in planning your academic career, selecting courses, and working through the registration process.

V. SCHOLARSHIPS / WORK ASSISTANCE

Each year, the Honors College offers opportunities for outstanding honors students to earn merit-based scholarships on a competitive basis. At most, these may be equivalent to in-state tuition and fees, and are awarded one year at a time. Formal requirements and procedures may be obtained from the Honors director. Students not offered an honors merit scholarship their first year are encouraged to continue working hard because scholarships become available every year and can be awarded at any time. Students may also be eligible for a scholarship increase. Students must be in good standing in Honors to be considered for honors merit scholarships.

The Honors College also distributes information and administers applications for several national scholarships and fellowships. These scholarships and fellowships are very competitive, and offer large awards to students in specific fields, usually for their junior/senior years and for graduate study. Students interested in competing for these awards need to begin early and set their goals high. A list of the national scholarships handled by our office is available on the CSURF website.

The Wilmington Fellows are Honors College students who make a commitment to engage in activities during the academic year and summers to make themselves competitive for national fellowships, undergraduate research, study abroad, and graduate study. They make this commitment when they begin their freshman year, and participate in special mentoring activities to help them reach this goal. There may be spots open in the sophomore year for students who have excelled at UNCW coursework in the first year. See Dr. Bruce if you have questions about the Wilmington Fellows program.

Many Honors students are also interested in work study and work assist positions on campus. In many cases, students are able to work in faculty laboratories, the Learning Center, or other locations on campus. These positions can add to your experience and knowledge. You can contact Honors, Career Services, or the academic department offices for more information. Students must be in good standing in Honors to work in the Honors office via work assist.
VI. RESIDENCE LIFE -- The Honors House and other Honors Housing

A university education occurs not only in classes, but in every aspect of the academic community. One's living situation can add significantly to the learning process by developing skills for personal growth, social interaction, and leadership. For this reason, honors students who live on campus have the opportunity to reside together, and this is required for first year students who live on campus.

All first year honors housing is in the Tri-House area. Most first year honors students live in Honors House. There are study rooms and lounges on each floor, a kitchen on the upper floor, and a laundry room. Each bedroom is equipped with computer hook-ups. There is wireless access throughout the residence hall, as well as the campus.

We also have honors housing in Cornerstone Hall. Honors House, International House, and Cornerstone Hall make up the Tri-house residence area.

Honors Resident Assistants reside in the Honors House, and along with the Honors Mentors, conduct special programs and assist in the adjustment of students to university life. The Tri-House area is a vibrant community, and honors students who live in the honors section of International House and Cornerstone can have key-card access to Honors House as well if requested.

Many second year students live in the Honors section of Seahawk Crossing. This residence area is located immediately behind International House, and is part of the honors living-learning community.

VII. CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Experiences outside of class add significantly to a student’s education and development. Honors Scholars are encouraged to take advantage of as many campus and community activities as possible to enrich their learning. Co-curricular activities are often incorporated into the classroom experience. Virtually every day in the academic calendar is filled with campus events. These are an enriching component of your university education. The Wilmington community also has ample cultural and intellectual activities, often free or at little expense to students.

*Remember to check the Honors website for updated listings of co-curricular events.*

**CULTURAL AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:**

In the freshman year, Honors Scholars are required to participate in and report on a minimum of five different co-curricular and cultural activities (3 in the fall and 2 in the spring) to remain in good standing in Honors. This will be discussed in your HON 110 seminar. Students who
join Honors in the spring are required to participate in and report on at least two cultural activities.

In the first year, we expect that you will become involved in several ways- for example:
1) Plan to join at least one campus group and become an active member by the end of the year. Examples are: varsity or intramural sports, student government, campus newspaper, campus service organizations, Honors Scholars Association, etc.
2) Attend campus events each semester. Examples are lectures, concerts, plays etc.
3) Attend off-campus cultural events each semester, such as concerts, Cinematique film series, public lectures at the Cameron Art Museum, or the aquarium.

The Honors College has some funding to assist in the purchase of tickets for required events. See the website!

SERVICE:

In the fall semester of freshman total, Honors Scholars are required to participate in two service activities for a minimum duration of 4 hours. This will be discussed in your Honors 110 first year seminar. We hope that you will continue in the spring semester and beyond although this is not a requirement for good standing in honors.

Service Opportunities at UNCW: Honors students are fortunate in their talent and ability to learn, and in the special opportunities they receive on our campus. As a way to share this good fortune with the wider university community, Honors Scholars are encouraged to become active in service and volunteer opportunities on campus. Be sure to check out the Campus Activities Fair!

Service Opportunities Off-campus: Honors Scholars are encouraged to volunteer their services for a charitable or service group in the Wilmington-New Hanover County community. Some students may accomplish this in conjunction with a project for the first year interdisciplinary seminar, or with the Honors Scholars Association. One-time "service plunges" are easy and fun ways to make a difference.
VIII. STUDENT RESEARCH, TRAVEL, AND CONFERENCES

As an honors student, you will have many opportunities to work in close association with faculty members in research. Often this involves presenting the results of your research at professional meetings or symposia. Through CSURF (The Center for the Support of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships) the Honors College has funds to assist with student travel and registration at professional meetings. Both the North Carolina Colleges, Universities and the members of the Colonial Athletic Alliance sponsor annual undergraduate research symposia. In addition, students are often invited to attend honors conferences sponsored by the National Collegiate Honors Council, the Southern Regional Honors Council, and the North Carolina Honors Association.

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>2016 North Carolina Honors Association Meeting</td>
<td>University of North Carolina at Greensboro</td>
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<td>Greensboro- October 7-8, 2016</td>
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<td>51st Annual National Collegiate Honors Council Conference</td>
<td>Seattle- October 13-16, 2016</td>
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<td>Southern Regional Honors Council Conference</td>
<td>Spring 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium</td>
<td>SNCURCS- North Carolina Central University- November 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAA Undergraduate Research Symposium</td>
<td>Spring 2017</td>
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IX. FIELD TRIPS AND STUDY ABROAD

Learning can be most meaningful when it is first-hand. For this reason, the Honors College will include several chances to participate in the world around us through study off campus, group field trips and study abroad. Each fall, a *Lyceum* experience is planned to offer scholars an opportunity for travel and learning off campus. This year, we will go to Washington, D.C. during Fall Break. The cost of this trip is partially subsidized by the university. Students will be asked to pay a small amount to help cover expenses. Information about signing up will be available in your HON 110 seminars and on the website.

**Honors Fall Lyceum 2016**  
October 6-10, Washington, D.C

All honors students are encouraged to take advantage of the many study abroad opportunities at UNCW. There are lots of ways to participate in study abroad - during spring break, a summer, a semester, or a year abroad. For example, during spring breaks, students enrolled in HON 120/121 have participated in week-long trips to The Mediterranean, Cuba, Paris, and Ecuador as part of honors seminars. We call these spring break seminars Honors International Splashes. Some HON 120/121 incorporate travel in May. Some HON 210/212 seminars include study abroad travel.

We also encourage you to check out the National Student Exchange web site. Through this program you are able to enroll for a semester at another campus in the United States. Ask Dr. Bruce for more information.

We offer an honors study abroad semester to the University of Swansea in Wales during the spring semester. Plus the International Programs Office at UNCW organizes many exciting study abroad experiences. All are welcome to participate in these programs.
**SPRING 2017 HONORS SEMESTER IN WALES**

UNCW will once again be hosting an honors study abroad semester at the University of Swansea in Wales in spring 2017. Students can earn a full semester's credit, including honors seminar and university studies course credit, while living and studying at the Swansea campus situated on the beautiful Welsh coast. Students from any major are welcome. Dr. Randall Cottrell (Health and Applied Human Sciences) will be the Faculty Director for the spring semester. University of Swansea recently received a “best university” recognition!

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**X. HONORS GLOBAL CITIZEN RECOGNITION**

The Honors Global Citizen Recognition is an option for students completing University or Departmental Honors that encourages students to make global discoveries on campus and abroad. It is supported by a partnership between the Office of International Programs and the Honors College. To qualify for this distinction, students must develop an honors project that shows active engagement with global issues, such as an increased awareness of international issues, understanding of global interdependence, or demonstration of global citizenship. In addition, students must earn at least 6 student credit hours in a UNCW-approved education abroad program, complete at least the 202 level, or equivalent, of a foreign language with a C or better grade, complete at least one HON seminar with global content, and complete nine additional hours of 3-credit hour courses with global content with a C or better in each. More information is on the Honors website.

**XI. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

In addition to a wide variety of programs and events open to all UNCW students, several very special opportunities are available to Honors Scholars.

*Student-faculty:* Many students say that social interaction with faculty is among the most satisfying aspects of their college experience. As Honors Scholars, you will have the opportunity to meet and socialize with faculty in many situations: accompany a faculty member to lunch, come by and have tea and conversation in the Honors Office, attend a “Pizza with Professors” or “Honors Tea” event in the Honors Office, be invited to faculty members’ houses for small get-togethers, join with faculty at receptions, and other special events.

*Student-student:* The Honors Scholars Association and the Student Honors Advisory Council are planning several activities for the Fall semester. The officers will contact you with more information on these events. In addition, the Honors Mentor Program serves to incorporate new students as stronger members in the Honors and University communities. An Honors Mentor will be matched with each HON 110 class and will be available to you for assistance.
XII. HONORS SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION:

The community of honors scholars has a distinctive place not just in the classroom, but in its own student organization, the Honors Scholars Association. This is a student-run group officially recognized by the student government association at UNCW with its own constitution and elected officers. The HSA organizes activities, service projects, and social events. This year's HSA Officers are:

Emily McLamb, President  efm5103@uncw.edu
Lindsey Bockover, Vice President/Cultural Events llb9400@uncw.edu
Katie Billig, Vice President/Service kjb8931@uncw.edu
Kelly Trawick, Treasurer ket5672@uncw.edu
Hope Larosa, Secretary hjl6812@uncw.edu
Sarah Brewster, Historian sb2341@uncw.edu

XIII. FRESHMAN HONOR SOCIETY

Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society is a nationally-recognized college honor society for freshmen. Its goal is to encourage and reward high scholastic achievement. Students are invited to join when, at the end of their first academic year, they have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better with no grade lower than "C" on thirty hours or more course work at UNCW. Dr. John Brennan in political science is the faculty advisor.

Looking ahead - in your junior and senior years, you may receive an invitation to another national Honors Society, Phi Kappa Phi. This is an honor based on excellent GPA.

XIV. HONORS ADVISORY COUNCILS

We have an active Student Honors Advisory Council (SHAC) that meets to discuss issues regarding the Honors College courses and requirements along with the program directors. This group includes representation from each class year, Honors Mentors, Honors RAs, as well as the officers of HSA. Please see Dr. Bruce or Dr. Horan if you are interested in learning more about this group.

Lucy Keller, President  llk2661@uncw.edu
Rebecca Flaugher, President  rnf3718@uncw.edu
MaryKate Ryan, Secretary  mhr9188@uncw.edu

There is also a Faculty Honors Advisory Council whose purpose is to advise the directors on matters related to the Honors College curriculum and policies.
XV. HONORS STUDENT MEDIA BOARD

We also have an active Honors Student Media Board who write, edit, and publish our honors newsletter, *Periplus*, and a creative arts journal, *Second Story*, which publishes poetry, fiction, essays, and photography of honors students. The Honors Media Board also helps with graphic design, video displays, and our Honors College Facebook page. If you are interested in writing, editing, photography, film editing, layout and design, or social media, please see Dr. Bruce or contact the current Media Board editors:

Holly McGrory, Editor of *Periplus*          hm8567@uncw.edu
Caroline Orth, Editor of *Second Story*    ceo2567@uncw.edu

XVI. REFERENCE SOURCES

For information concerning academic programs, offerings, and regulations, please see the *University of North Carolina Wilmington Undergraduate Catalogue 2016-2017* edition. The course catalogue is available on the web under the publications section of the current student page of the UNCW website.

For information about student life, rules for conduct and other official matters, see the *UNCW Code of Student Life, 2016-2017* edition. The Code of Student Life is available on the web under the publications section of the current student page of the UNCW website.

For information about the requirements and procedures for completing departmental honors, please consult *A Guide to Departmental Honors for Students and Faculty*, available from the Honors Office.

Visit the Honors Scholars College on the Web at [http://www.uncw.edu/honors/](http://www.uncw.edu/honors/)
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT HONORS

What are honors classes like?

All honors classes are small (generally no more than 20 students) allowing for greater discussion and interaction. The courses are designed to allow students to take responsibility for their own learning, to work collaboratively, and to encourage experiential learning. Some classes may move faster or go into more depth than regular courses. All are intended to foster creative and critical thinking skills. Active participation and shared inquiry are encouraged.

The instructors selected for honors courses reflect the primary mission of UNCW – excellence in undergraduate teaching. Many have won awards for their teaching accomplishments.

Are honors courses harder than regular university courses?

The answer will vary with each course. Honors courses are not intended to be harder than regular courses—“just to be harder,” but rather they are expected to challenge students in appropriate ways. You are more likely to be expected to practice critical thinking skills, engage in abstraction and synthesis, and work independently. Perhaps the instructor will go into more depth or use more primary sources. We advise the instructors that honors courses should be designed to challenge the Honors Scholars and that the students can be counted on to actively participate in class each day. For these reasons, they may be viewed as harder than “regular” courses by non-honors students. However, many honors students note that they enjoy the honors class format more than regular style classes!

Will my grades drop as a result of taking honors courses?

Experience indicates that the answer is no. Actually, many students do their best work in honors courses. Your grades, of course, depend on your own motivation, study habits and interest.

Is there a different grading scale in honors courses?

There is no predetermined "curve" in honors classes (or any classes). Theoretically it is possible for all students in an honors course to earn a grade of "A". Honors courses count the same as all other courses in figuring a student's grade point average (GPA). That is, they are not weighted in figuring the GPA.

Do I have to do all four years of the program?

In order to graduate with University Honors, a student must complete the required hours of honors sections and seminars and departmental honors. Or, a student may enter the program as a junior/senior and graduate with departmental honors only.

How do I get ready for departmental honors?

You should start to think about departmental honors early in your college career, and begin talking with faculty members about their work and your interests. Learn from other students
about the entry process, talk to your honors academic advisor, and get to know the faculty in your major. Although the project is usually undertaken in the senior year, you should begin to prepare well before that. In order to prepare, many students do a directed independent study (491 and, in some majors, 291) course to investigate a topic or perhaps work closely with a professor in a lab or research setting. Watch for workshops on “Preparing for Departmental Honors” each semester. Also consider taking HON 191 your first year.

What do I have to do to remain in the 4-year program? What is “good standing”? To maintain good standing in the Honors College, a student must earn a GPA of at least 3.3 at the completion of 27 hours (or 2 semesters) and reach a GPA of 3.5 or higher at the completion of 58 hours and thereafter. Students must also be making progress on their Honors course requirements. In the senior year, students must be enrolled in 499. It is to a student's advantage to complete all the university honors sections and honors seminar requirements in the first two years, but a student may use later years to finish honors requirements if necessary. In the first year, all required cultural and service activities must be completed.

Good standing is required for a student to register for honors sections and seminars, to receive priority registration, to be awarded honors merit scholarships (including renewal of an honors merit scholarship), and to obtain honors tickets for cultural events.

How is my honors work formally recognized? All honors courses and seminars are indicated as "honors" on your transcript. When students complete all required honors seminars and honors university studies sections, they are recognized with a certificate and a "UNCW Honors Scholar" pin. When students also complete the 499 project requirements, they graduate with “University Honors and honors in the major” which is noted on the transcript, diploma and in the graduation program. They also receive a medallion that they wear to graduation.

CHECKLIST TO GRADUATE WITH UNIVERSITY HONORS

(1) Complete at least 12 credit hours of university studies courses honors sections.* You may take more than 12 hours.

(2) Complete 6 credits of "Interdisciplinary Honors Seminars" (HON 110 and HON 210/211/212)*. You may take an additional HON 210/211/212 seminar to substitute for 3 hours of honors university studies requirements. You may take more than 6 credits.
(3) Complete 2 credits of "Honors Enrichment Seminar" (HON 120 or 121)*
You may take additional HON 120/121 as elective hours toward graduation, that is you may take more than 2 credits.

(4) Complete at least 3 additional hours of Honors credit.
Additional ways to earn Honors hours include: additional HON seminars (including HON 191), additional Honors sections of university studies, study abroad semester or year, National Student Exchange, Honors sections of upper-level courses (e.g. not in university studies), Honors contract class in major or minor, 400/500 cross-listed courses if completing the graduate level work, graduate level coursework, additional Honors project in second major.

(5) Maintain academic eligibility:
At the completion of 27 credit-hours at UNCW, an overall grade point average of 3.30 or higher in all coursework is required. An overall grade point average of 3.50 or higher must be established by the completion of 58 credit-hours and maintained thereafter.

(6) Earn a minimum of a “C” (2.00) in all honors work (“B” (3.00) in 499 and honors contract courses) and have a 3.00 overall GPA in all honors curriculum coursework. If a student earns a grade below a “C” in an honors university studies course, the grade may count toward that student’s university studies requirements but not toward his or her Honors requirements. If that student wishes to complete the Honors requirements for University Honors, he or she must take an additional Honors university studies course and earn no lower than a “C.” Students earning below a “C” in HON 210/211/212 or HON 120/121 must take additional seminars, respectively, and earn no lower than a “C.”

(7) Complete requirements for Departmental Honors
The requirements for Departmental Honors are determined by the academic departments, and always include a 6-credit senior honors project.

*Note: students entering as sophomores or second semester freshmen complete HON 210/211/212 (3 credit class), two credit hours of HON 120/121, at least 9 hours of honors university studies, and 3 additional honors hours or credits. They also complete Departmental Honors.