THOMAS F. FREEMAN HONORS COLLEGE

Honors College Academic Program Overview

The Thomas F. Freeman Honors College provides the following: a cutting-edge academic program that implements strong institutional foundations via core courses with Honors enhancements; Honors credit for upper division courses through course augmentation proposals (CAPs); access to interdisciplinary minors (Legal Studies, Medical Studies, Creative Arts, and Leadership Studies) housed in the Honors College. The Honors experience is designed to stimulate students’ intellectual, personal, and social growth while preparing them for global citizenship and leadership.

Incoming Honors students begin their journey by enrolling in the fall semester in the Introduction to Honors class. In this weekly seminar, Honors students are exposed to Honors Faculty Fellows, some of the most world-renowned faculty on campus. Students are privileged to attend lectures in which the Faculty Fellows provide an overview of the disciplines in which they teach and engage in research. Additionally, Introduction to Honors sensitizes students to the challenges of transitioning from high school to college by providing interactive activities that cover study skills, critical thinking skills, writing skills, financial literacy, technology literacy, effective time management, self-assessment, etc.

General Education “Honors Core” Courses—Honors Enhancements at the Lower Division Level

The institutional foundations come from the general education curriculum of the university. The Honors College makes a special effort to place Honors students with exceptional faculty teaching general education core courses saturated with Honors enhancements in such areas as language, mathematics, science, the arts and humanities, and the social sciences. During the first two years of their undergraduate education, Honors students are fully engaged with award-winning, high profile faculty who work closely with them to negotiate added rigor to the core (lower-division) courses. All Honors students in core courses schedule a special meeting at the beginning of the semester with their professors, inform them of the Honors requirement of added rigor, negotiate a plan to include enhancements, and complete the paperwork with appropriate signatures at both the beginning and the end of the semester.

Upper Division Courses: Petitioning for Honors Credit with CAPs

Honors College juniors and seniors are required to complete a total of four (4) course augmentation proposals (CAPs), which means that in each of the four long (excluding summer) last semesters of their curriculum (one in fall of junior year and one in spring of junior year; one in fall of senior year and one in spring of senior year), Honors students will enter into a contractual agreement with TSU professors who agree to design a rigorous plan of study that exceeds the expectations of other non-Honors College students in the class. Courses found in the student’s regular degree plans are modified and serve to fulfill the CAP requirement.
Upper Division Courses: Petitioning for Honors Credit with CAPs (continued)

The end-of-program activities include a major public presentation that is inextricably linked to the course augmentation proposal courses (CAPs). The Honors students are required to present their reports, research papers/projects, and creative works, etc., which is designed to help them in their pursuits of career opportunities and in their applications for admission into graduate or professional programs.

Honors College Requirements

In order to earn the distinction of graduating from the Thomas F. Freeman Honors College, students must be admitted into the Honors College and meet its academic and other requirements, including maintaining both a semester and cumulative GPA of 3.25 and complete and pass a minimum of 15 semester credit hours in fall and spring of each year.

Core Course Enhancements (CCEs)

- First two (2) years of undergraduate education
  - added rigor to the core (lower-division) courses
  - negotiate a plan with each instructor to include enhancements

Course Augmentation Proposals (CAPs)  Credit Hours

- Two Upper- (300- or 400-) Level Courses within the Major  6
- Two Upper- (300- or 400-) Level Course within the Major  6

Total for Upper Division Courses required to complete CAPs Requirement  12

Lectures

All Honors College students are required each semester to attend a minimum of two Honors-College sponsored lectures (or other approved Honors sponsored events), featuring experts at the university as well as renowned local, regional, national or international scholars or creative artists.
Student Organizations

All Honors College students are required to join and remain active each year in one of the four Honors College student organizations: The Honors College Ambassadors (HCA), the Honors Mentors Association (HMA), and Honors Research and Creative Activities Association (HRCA).

Enrichment

Internships
All students who select one of the minors housed in the Honors College will engage in an internship deemed most beneficial to balancing the theory learned in the coursework to real-world practice in the field.

Study Abroad and Study Away
Students engage in “study abroad” and “study away” programs. “Study abroad” often involves receiving credit for participation in traditional programs that take students to other countries. Another program, the “study away,” involves students going on learning adventures outside of Houston, Texas.

Support for Public Presentations
Another type of enrichment that the Honors College supports is undergraduate research/creative activities. Honors College students may petition for support to attend conferences where they are scheduled to present their research or creative projects and, if funded, students must make a presentation on campus that includes other Honors students and the general campus.