

Honors College



Why do students join the Honors College?

The Honors College is like a small liberal arts college nestled within a large research university, allowing the University of Illinois at Chicago to offer the best of both worlds to honors students and faculty. The Honors College is a home for students seeking extra intellectual challenges as well as campus and community engagement. It is also a home for faculty members seeking collaboration with some of the most motivated students on campus.



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Look to the Future!

Our graduating seniors tell us that the greatest benefit of having participated in the Honors College is the satisfaction they have from knowing they've applied themselves and worked as hard as they could. In return, they reap the rewards of having excelled as undergraduates. The Honors College keeps students focused on the future: a competitive edge for graduate school, professional school, and the best jobs after graduation. Prospective employers and admissions committees know that Honors College graduates are motivated self-starters who go beyond minimum requirements. The Honors College provides a community of motivated students whose mutual support helps them meet their goals.

Scholarships and Awards

The Honors College offers scholarships and tuition waivers for incoming freshmen and continuing students. Other awards support undergraduate research, study abroad, and civic engagement.

Honors College students compete for prestigious national and international scholarships such as the Rhodes, Marshall, Gates-Cambridge, Fulbright, Truman, and Goldwater Scholarships. These awards fund undergraduate study, graduate school, or study abroad and give students significant distinction.

UIC's Office of Special Scholarship Programs helps students prepare every aspect of these applications.



Faculty and Professional Advisors

One of the most important benefits of membership in the Honors College is dedicated mentoring by UIC faculty members. At the end of the first year, each student is assigned an Honors College Fellow—a faculty mentor who is a leader in the student's field.

These mentoring relationships translate into the best advice about graduate or professional school, strong letters of recommendation, research assistantships, internships, and employment.

In addition, the Honors College professional advising staff ensures that students understand the requirements of their college majors and honors work and address students' questions.



... the advantages of a small college with the opportunities of a large research university

Undergraduate Research

Honors College students have the opportunity to participate in faculty-sponsored research. Research allows students to engage in hands-on learning and form close working relationships with UIC's outstanding faculty members. The wide range of research activity includes all disciplines, from health sciences and engineering to literature and the arts.



Academic Opportunities

The Honors College provides students a nurturing and collaborative educational environment to explore issues in-depth through special projects and classes. Every semester, Honors College students engage in an honors activity, designed to enhance academic growth and independence. First-year students take a year-long honors interdisciplinary general education course sequence. Each class is limited to 25 students who stay together throughout their first year and get to know each other well intellectually and socially.

Beyond the first year, honors activity options broaden. For example, students may participate in undergraduate research, complete in-depth supplementary work in a regular course, participate in community service, or study abroad.

During their senior year, students design and complete an Honors Capstone Project, which represents advanced academic work done with a faculty advisor. Students present their work at the annual campus Student Research Forum.

Leadership

Honors College students are leaders in many campus student organizations. The Honors College supports more than a dozen such groups that fit within its mission. These include:

- Honors College Advisory Board (HCAB)
- Honors College String Ensemble
- Honors Ambassadors
- Society of Future Physicians
- Donate by Design
- Project ESTEEM
- The Ampersand
- Red Shoes Review
- Journal of Pre-Health Affiliated Students
- UIC OneWorld



Facilities

All Honors students have a home in Burnham Hall to anchor their academic experience. They have full use of a dedicated computer lab, quiet study library, a lounge for study and social interaction, rooms for meetings and classes, and a kitchenette.

Residential students may live in special honors housing in James Stukel Towers, UIC's state-of-the-art residential facility. There, Honors College students create a community of like-minded students who live, study, and socialize together. Advanced students become natural mentors for newer students.

Admissions and Campus Visits

Students admitted to UIC—incoming freshmen, transfer students, or currently enrolled UIC students—may apply to the Honors College. Honors College students may pursue any undergraduate major.

Incoming freshmen who have strong academic records as well as extracurricular or leadership experience are encouraged to apply. Applicants submit three letters of recommendation and a high school transcript in addition to the application form. The Honors College invites selected applicants to campus for the second phase of the application process, including a one-on-one interview and impromptu essay.



Transfer students who have earned a minimum 3.4 grade point average are also encouraged to apply to the Honors College, as well as current UIC students who have earned a minimum 3.4 UIC grade point average and have at least three semesters left before graduation.

Prospective students considering UIC and the Honors College are invited to come to campus and stay overnight with Honors College students in the residence halls. They can attend classes, speak with current students and faculty, and meet with an Honors College advisor while on campus.

For more information about admission to the Honors College, including the online application, please visit our website at: www.uic.edu/honors or call us at 312/413-2260.

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