

**VSYOU**

Honors College

**Interdisciplinary  
Program Guide**

# What is Honors?

The University Honors College offers special courses and activities designed to help qualified students realize their full intellectual potential and to provide them the best possible preparation for their major degree programs. It does so through a wide range of special classes, activities, and interdisciplinary seminars supported by departments and faculty across campus. The University Honors College is an interdisciplinary program with courses leading to a certificate of completion in University Honors.



Reade Hall - Honors Residence

## WHAT DOES 'INTERDISCIPLINARY' MEAN?

Put simply, interdisciplinary means 'combining subjects together in new ways.' Literally, interdisciplinary means 'working between different academic disciplines.' (UCL, 2016)

## WHY IS INTERDISCIPLINARITY IMPORTANT?

Many of the world's great problems require an interdisciplinary approach in order to solve them. This is true of problems in the 'real world' – e.g. problems to do with health, politics, engineering or cities – but also important intellectual problems – e.g. the relation between reasoning and emotion, the study of culture and identity, the link between music and learning. (UCL, 2016)

## WHAT IS THE LINK BETWEEN INTERDISCIPLINARITY & CREATIVE THINKING?

Much research has shown that the most creative thinkers are those people who can make links between different areas of study, thought, commerce, arts, etc. For example, Professor Sir Ken Robinson says, 'Creativity depends on interactions between feeling and thinking, and across different disciplinary boundaries and fields of ideas' (Robinson, Ken; 2011; Out of Our Minds; Capstone).





## What is the Mission of the Interdisciplinary Program?

The Honors College encourages meaningful connections between disciplines, innovative and unusual approaches to subject matter, and reliance upon experiential learning and global awareness that are fully integrated into the course content and lead to opportunities for strong undergraduate research and creative endeavors.

The Honors College also provides extra-curricular opportunities for students to broaden themselves through lectures, service opportunities, and other forms of activity that relate to their education. Finally, the mission of the Honors College is to attract the best students to Valdosta State, and to assist in retaining those students through all four years of their undergraduate experience. In this way Honors College students will make a visible and positive impact on the entire university community, thereby enriching the diversity of the Valdosta State University community as a whole.

## Who Should Enroll in the Interdisciplinary Program?

The Honors Interdisciplinary program serves students who wish to attend graduate school or profession programs. Students entering the program are advised to consider their career and long-term objectives in developing a program of study. The Honors College provides advisors to assist with these important decisions and to successfully guide students in completing the Honors certificate.

# What are the Outcomes for the Interdisciplinary Program?

1. Students will learn the arts of inquiry and conversation, culminating in structured research and creative endeavors, academic writing, oral presentations, and creative production.
2. Students will practice the organizational skills of collaboration, planning, and assessment, and the personal skills of self-discipline and task management, culminating in the capacity to guide or direct group-based work.
3. Students will understand the importance of civic involvement and giving back to the larger community, culminating in occasions of service that draw upon scholarship, creativity, and leadership capacities.
4. Students will incorporate an understanding of diverse global and cultural perspectives in their scholarly or creative inquiry, culminating in an international exchange of ideas and activities.
5. Students will incorporate an understanding of diverse disciplinary perspectives in their scholarly/creative inquiry, culminating in a collaborative, interdisciplinary project.





# What are the Admission Requirements?

Admission into the Honors College is based on a composite score. The composite is factored using SAT or ACT scores, high school GPA, and a writing sample from the Honors application. The minimum requirements for acceptance are SAT 1170 (CR + M) or ACT composite of 26 or higher; high school GPA of 3.3. Current students who achieve a 3.3 GPA or better may be considered. Provisional acceptance for admission into the Honors College is granted to students meeting the high school GPA requirement with an acceptable writing sample. Provisionally accepted students must maintain a GPA of a 3.3 in their first year of course work.



The mission of the Honors College at Valdosta State University is to provide for the stimulation of academically motivated students so that they achieve their full academic potential, while at the same time providing recognition for such students' endeavors. The Honors College encourages meaningful connections between disciplines, innovative and unusual approaches to subject matter, and reliance upon experiential learning and global awareness that are fully integrated into the course content and lead to opportunities for strong undergraduate research and creative endeavors.”

# Program of Study

## Freshman Year

HONS 1990/ 2 hours

Two core Honors courses / 5-8 hours

## Sophomore Year

PERS 2XXX H / 2 hours

One core Honors course or 1 Honors major course / 3-4 hours

## Junior Year

HONS 3999 or HONS 3990/ 3 hours

Two Honors major courses / 6 hours

## Senior Year

HONS 4990 / 3 hours

*Total Hours for the Certificate in University Honors 24-28 hours*

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## Program Requirements

- HONS 1990 Intro Seminar - 2 credit hours
- PERS 2XXX H Perspectives - 2 credit hours
- Honors Core class - 3 credit hours
- Honors Core class - 3 credit hours
- Honors Major class (or Honors Core Class) - 3 credit hours
- Honors Major class - 3 credit hours
- Honors Major class - 3 credit hours
- HONS 3999 Honors Research Methods - 3 credit hours
- HONS 4990 Honors Thesis or Equivalent - 3 credit hours
- GLOBAL EXPERIENCE and UNDERSTANDINGS Requirement

Honors students may substitute an experiential learning project for a major course requirement. The Dean of the Honors College must approve all substitutions. The Honors College provides specific guidelines for semester-long experiential learning projects on the Honors website.

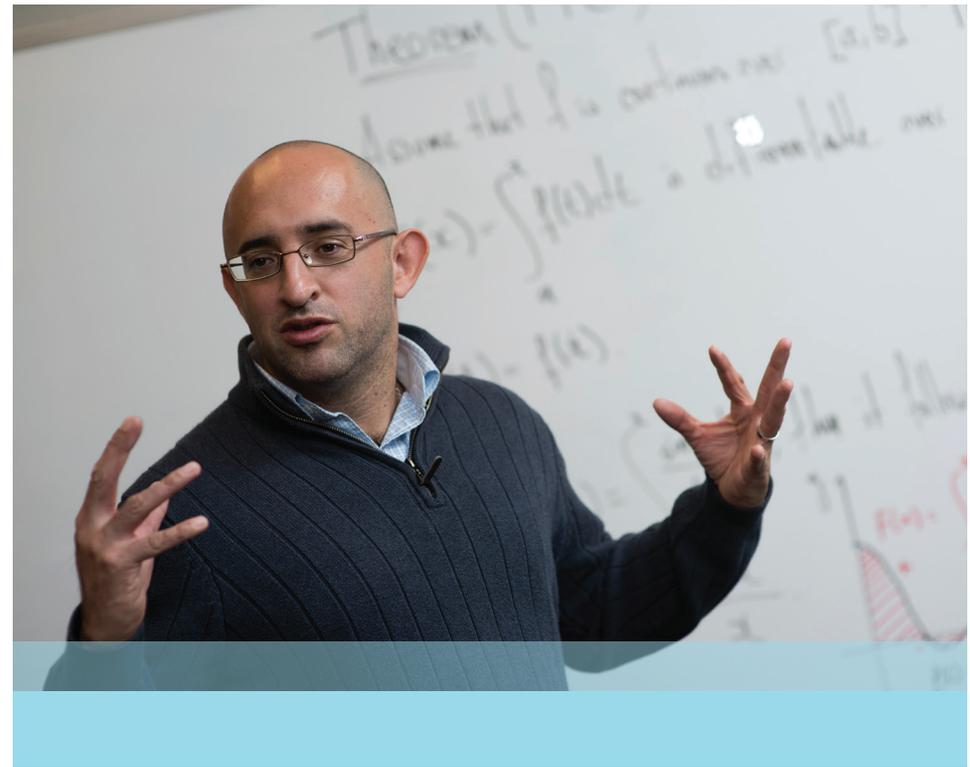


# What is Experiential Learning?

Examples of service learning activities include:

- Community outreach
- Study-abroad or semester exchanges
- Career shadowing and mentoring
- Internships
- Undergraduate research or professional scholarship
- Leadership activities
- Creative activities and performances

The Experiential Learning Program is designed to provide students with enhanced opportunities in applied research and problem solving in a practice setting. The requirements align with successful completion of certifications such as in Nursing and Education fields but also support practice-based disciplines. The outcomes for this program culminate in a series of service learning activities and community outreach.



## What is the Global Experience & Understanding Requirement?

All students in the Honors College must complete the Global Experience and Understanding requirement with an approved research activity, service learning assignment, or field experience.

In the spirit of Honors interdisciplinary approach, research, service, and minor program activities will be considered as fulfillment of the Global Experience and Understanding requirement. As a semester-long commitment, the requirement serves to foster faculty mentoring and an understanding of cultural and global issues. These activities must be approved by the Honors College. More information can be found on the Honors website.

# What is the Honors Option Contract?

Courses not listed as Honors may also be available for Honors credit through the Honors Option. This option allows students to receive Honors credit while enrolled in regular courses by doing different types of assignments approved in advance by the instructor of the course and the Honors College Dean. The Dean of the Honors College must approve honors Options.



Reade Hall - Common Area



**JUST  
SO YOU  
KNOW**

**honors  
contract**

the honors option is designed to enable students to take courses not designated as Honors.



Henry Selph Honors Scholar

[www.valdosta.edu/colleges/honors](http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/honors)  
229.249.4894