Welcome to the IPFW Honors Program!

The IPFW Honors program is an interdisciplinary undergraduate certificate-granting program that encourages high-achieving, talented, students to pursue various pathways to excellence including research and creative endeavors, international studies, service, and community engagement.

The program is designed for motivated students who want to make the most of their higher education through an enriched academic experience.

Visit the New Honors Center

Helmke Library, 2nd Floor

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ipfw.edu/honors
www.facebook.com/HonorsProgramAtIpfw

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Why Join the Honors Program?

• Academics

The Honors Program is a place where talented students and faculty energize the university’s academic life through the sharing of ideas and engagement in scholarly debate. Small classes with similarly motivated students, taught by outstanding faculty, encourage creative interaction within an active learning environment.

The heart of the IPFW Honors Program is the intellectually challenging curriculum. Many Honors courses are designed to fulfill General Education outcomes. Honors courses encourage experiential learning, independent learning opportunities, and the ability to personalize the curriculum. Through honors course work, students will hone the skills that can help them achieve success in professional and academic environments.

Students who take advantage of pursuing undergraduate research and creative endeavors under the guidance of a faculty mentor or pursue independent research, have a distinct advantage in the competitive process for admission to graduate schools. With guidance from discipline-specific faculty members, all of our honors students pursuing an honors certificate are required to complete a senior capstone research or creative endeavor project before graduation.

The Honors Senior Project offers students the opportunity to engage in advanced research in their own discipline or develop an interdisciplinary research project or creative endeavor under the direction of expert faculty mentors. Students present their findings at an annual Honors Showcase and are encouraged to prepare their work for publication in discipline-appropriate venues. The completion of the capstone project distinguishes our students and prepares them for real-world application in their respective fields.

• Community

One of the most rewarding aspects of participating in the Honors Program is developing connections with fellow students, faculty members, and visiting scholars. Honors students are invited to a variety of cultural and social events and special honors program events and receptions. The frequent intellectual and social interactions with other motivated honors students and faculty help build a “feeling of belonging” to the IPFW academic community and foster lifelong relationships with honors students from other majors and programs.

Honors student Haley Hunter posing with her Faculty Mentor, Dr. Rachel Rayburn and her Honors Program Council Liaison, Susan Anderson after the successful presentation of her Honors Project “Inmate Dog-Training Program.”
• Advising

The Honors Program offers comprehensive, one-on-one advising provided from both discipline-specific faculty and honors program staff, with personalized attention to student needs and academic interests.

• Scholarships

In addition to the general and merit scholarships offered by the University, the IPFW Honors Program offers additional opportunities for academic scholarship. Students are eligible to apply for funds to support honors research and creative endeavor projects, summer research grants, international travel and study abroad, conference travel to present research at regional, national, and international professional conferences, internships, and other academic enrichment opportunities.

• Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Honors students have the opportunity to engage in community service, undergraduate research and creative endeavors, Honors Program sponsored events, cultural and social events, and special events hosted by the Chancellor. Among the unique leadership opportunities available to Honors students is the ability to serve as student representatives on the faculty Honors Program Council.

• Other Benefits

- Priority registration which allows for wider selection of course offerings
- Extended library check out privileges
- Unique opportunities for social interaction with distinguished faculty members
- Distinctive transcript notations
- Assistance in applying for prestigious scholarships
- Acknowledgement at commencement

Honors student Rachel Habegger presenting her Honors Project “Comparison of Fertilizers on Turfgrass” at the 2014 Honors Showcase.

Honors student Hallel Paraiso presenting his poster “Analyzing the Efficiency of GP10 Insertion into a Planar Bilayer Membrane Doped with a Carboxylated Lipid” at the 17th Annual Student Research & Creative Endeavor Symposium.
Eligibility

If you are an incoming student, you need to meet one of the following requirements:

- Top 10 percent of your high school class
- 650 SAT score in one of the following: writing, critical thinking, OR mathematics
- 1800 combined SAT score
- 27 ACT score

As a current student, you can join the Honors Program with a 3.3 cumulative GPA after you have accumulated 12 credit hours with GPA-related grades.

As a transfer student, you can join the Honors Program with a 3.5 transfer GPA, provided that at least 12 credit hours had GPA-related grades.

For those students interested in the Honors Program, who just miss the qualifying requirements, we have an Honors-Provisional status that provides students with the opportunity to participate in the Honors Program as they continue to raise their GPA. If you would like to be considered for Honors-Provisional status, please schedule an appointment to meet with the Honors Program Director.

Joining the Honors Program

The first step is filling out our online application form. The goal of the application is for the Honors Program to learn more about each incoming student.

You are considered an active Honors student once you complete an honors course. To remain in the Honors program, you must maintain a 3.3 GPA or higher.

Some departments at IPFW also have departmental honors, which are not affiliated with the Honors Program, and have their own requirements. There are also a number of Honor Societies on campus that offer their own programming and activities.

The Honors Program is an interdisciplinary, university-wide program open to all majors, and only the Honors Program awards Honors certificates and medals.

Honors Program Requirements

**Honors Pin:** 9 credit hours of honors coursework with at least a 3.3 cumulative GPA.

**Honors Medal and Certificate:**

- 18 credit hours of honors coursework
- Honors coursework representing at least two disciplines
- At least three honors credits in the student’s major
- At least three honors credits at the 300-level or above
- An Honors Project (written component and public presentation)
- 3.5 cumulative GPA and 3.5 Honors GPA by the end of your last semester at IPFW
Honors Program and Your Major

You can earn an Honors Certificate while you are working to complete the requirements for your major. The Honors Program is a value-added educational experience for your time at IPFW.

All of the Fall 2014 three-credit Honors courses fulfill General Education requirements. One of the many reasons you should join the Honors Program as early as possible, is so that you can take advantage of these courses. Once you are done with your General Education courses, you can convert some of your major requirements into honors courses through H-Options. An H-Option is a contract between you and your course instructor that gives you the flexibility to personalize your Honors coursework.

After you meet with your departmental advisor, you are strongly encouraged to meet with an advisor in the Honors Program to decide on the optimal path for you.

Below is a suggested general 4 year plan. See the Honors Program course list for specific Honors courses being offered each semester.

Freshman Year– 7 credits
Honors Freshmen Seminar
Honors General Education courses

Sophomore Year- 6 credits of either
Honors General Education courses or
H-Option courses

Junior Year- 3-6 credits of either
Honors General Education courses or
H-Option courses that include either
300+ level course or course in major
Meet with Honors Program Director to discuss your Honors Project
Submit Honors Project proposal

Senior Year- 3-6 credits of
H-Option courses that include either
300+ level course or course in major
as needed to fulfill remaining requirements
Complete and present Honors Project at the Honors Showcase

Completion of the IPFW Honors Project and its public presentation provide capstone educational experiences for IPFW Honors Program students. Work on the project should offer honors students a satisfying intellectual opportunity that will prepare them for graduate or professional study and provide a significant career credential. Students interested in developing an Honors Project should schedule an appointment with the Honors Program director during their junior year.

The project is completed in the student’s senior year and presented at the Honors Showcase (November or April).
Scholarship Opportunities

Through the Honors Program Endowment Fund, the Honors Program can support Honors students in a number of ways:

- Research or creative endeavor assistantship
- Research or creative endeavor grant
- Teaching assistantship
- Conference travel support
- Study abroad scholarship
- Tuition assistance

Scholarship opportunities for 2014-2015 academic year have been announced and can be found on the Honors Program website at ipfw.edu/honors.

- All Fall 2014 Applications must be received by 5 pm on Friday, October 3.
- All Spring 2015 Applications must be received by 5 pm on Monday, November 17.

All active Honors students are eligible to apply for the scholarships, but preference is given to students working towards their Honors certificate and for funding requests that contribute to the student’s Honors Project.

If you have any questions after you have carefully read the full scholarship announcement on the Honors Program website, please contact Dr. Ann Livschiz, Honors Program Director (livschia@ipfw.edu).