**Honors Program**

**Director:**
Maureen Connelly, Professor, Departments of Sociology and Social Work

- Students who have demonstrated a high degree of academic skill, creative talent, and motivation have the opportunity to participate in the University's Honors Program.
- Interested students who think they may qualify for the Honors Program should contact the Director at 301/687-4998.

The Honors Program offers a variety of courses specially designed for Honors students. These courses feature content and instructional methods that are challenging, provide a more active role for the student in the learning process, and emphasize understanding more than factual information, and quality of work rather than quantity. These courses seek to magnify problem-solving abilities, effective communications, an awareness of multiple perspectives, and a capacity for independent learning.

Many of the Honors courses are variants of courses included in the University's General Education Program. These variant courses are primarily intended to be taken during a student's first and second years. For juniors and seniors participating in the program, the Honors Seminars, Honors Colloquia, Honors Thesis, and experiential learning projects provide unique environments and opportunities for learning.

In addition to the academic courses, the Honors Program offers a host of co-curricular activities, including the opportunity to reside in Honors/International Housing in Cambridge and Westminster Halls. Ultimately the program seeks to foster within students dignity, self-esteem, and a knowledge of their own potential as human beings.

**Admission Requirements**

Incoming first semester students are invited to join the Honors Program at FSU if they have a high school GPA of 3.5 **and** a combined SAT score of at least 1750 (or an ACT score of at least 26).

Students who do not meet both of these requirements may apply for admission to the Honors Program based on the strength of one of these requirements, either an excellent GPA or an excellent SAT/ACT score. Normally, students will not be admitted without at least a 3.25 GPA or a minimum of 1500 on the combined SAT (23 on the ACT). Exceptions can be made on a case by case basis by the Honors Program.

Students who have completed at least one semester of course work at Frostburg State University or at another institution may apply to the Honors Program if they have a GPA of 3.5 or above.

Students demonstrating considerable creative ability, as evidenced by papers, projects, creative writing, musical composition, art work, or musical performance may also be admitted on an individual basis.

**Summary of Requirements for the Honors Program**

Most students participating in the Honors Program are pursuing the distinction of graduating with “Honors in General Education.” This distinction is awarded to students who complete the following Honors Program requirements:

1. ENGL 111 or ENGL 312
2. 15-17 credit hours of Honors variants of General Education Program courses from an approved list
3. 6 credit hours from the following:
   - IDIS 351 Honors Advanced Colloquium
   - IDIS 491 Honors Seminar
   - IDIS 493 Honors Thesis

Experiential Learning Option: Approved Study Abroad course, Undergraduate Research Project, Internship, Departmental Recital or other experiential learning experience. Three credits will count for the Honors Program requirement on approval of the Honors Program Advisory Group. Pre-approval necessary.

1. Honors students must earn a 3.0 average in all courses applied to meet Honors requirements and have at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average upon graduation.
2. ENGL 111 is required of all students entering the Honors Program as first semester students. Students electing to join this program after their first semester or those who have earned Advanced Placement credit for ENGL 101/111 are required to take ENGL 312.
3. Honors Experiential Learning course work, IDIS 493 Honors thesis and IDIS 491 Honors seminars may, with departmental approval, count towards requirements in the major. IDIS 491 credit hours may, with approval of the Honors Program Advisory Group, substitute for portions of the Modes of Inquiry section of the General Education Program.

**Grade Repeat Option**

Students earning a grade of D,F,FX, or WF in a designated Honors variant course may enroll in the non-honors equivalent and file the grade repeat authorization form requesting that the credit hours attempted and the grade earned in the first, Honors variant course not be used in calculating the cumulative grade point average and cumulative credits. All other regulations concerning the grade repeat option apply (see Course Repetition and Grading in the Academic Standards section of this catalog).

Use of the grade repeat option in this manner constitutes withdrawal from the University's Honors Program.