

UMW HONORS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Honors Program at UMW is a unique interdisciplinary learning opportunity for students. Students will be enrolled in challenging learning experiences but will also be part of a community of learners. Through coursework, students will learn to analyze their own and others' assumptions and to apply critical reading, writing, speaking, problem solving, and thinking skills that incorporate information literacy, and an appreciation of audience. In addition, participation in co-curricular activities will create an academic community that is dedicated in promoting good ethical behavior and citizenship.

Requirements of the Honors Program:

- Honors designated coursework – 12 credits (could include FSEM 100HN).
- Honors Service Learning – HONR 201 – 1 credit
- Completion of Honors Program mentoring program and leadership requirement or fulfillment of the UMW Horizons program requirements
- Completion of a capstone research project – a minimum of 3 credits of independent study (491 or 492) completed during the last year of study at UMW and presentation of the project at one of the two Honors Program Symposia
- Project/Research Design Seminar – fulfilled with either Honors Interdisciplinary Research Seminar – an approved discipline specific course (see list for approved courses) – or an approved experience (requires approval by the Honors Program Committee)
- Maintain an honors portfolio, complete 8 co-curricular events, and maintain the required GPA

Benefits for students enrolled in the program

- Priority registration for courses, including non-honors courses
- Access to a honors student lounge/computer pod
- Guaranteed financial support for undergraduate research project
- Flexibility for interdisciplinary learning
- Opportunities for social and academic enrichment

Points of Entry into Honors Program

Most students entering the Honors program will do so upon admission to the university. Students are admitted to the Honors Program based on screenings by the admissions office including consideration of high school GPA, standardized test scores, and rigor of high school curriculum. However, others may apply for acceptance after matriculation, during their first year. Applications will be accepted each year in May. Students who have completed at least 36 credits beyond high school are ineligible to apply. Students who completed the fall semester (their first semester) at UMW with at least a 3.2 GPA can be contacted and encouraged to consider enrolling in an HN designated course for the spring

semester to prepare them for application in May of that academic year. Such students must have a 3.2 overall UMW GPA or higher at the conclusion of the spring semester, a letter of application, and one letter of recommendation from UMW faculty. Students entering after matriculation will be required to successfully complete 12 credits of honors designated coursework, the Honors Interdisciplinary Research Seminar, the Capstone research project, the mentored service project, and leadership and mentoring requirements in order to be awarded University Honors. The 6 credit per year requirement and minimum of 8 co-curricular events before graduation will also apply to these students for those semesters in which they are part of the Honors program. Exceptions to these policies can be made by the Honors committee/director in extraordinary circumstances.

Student Learning Outcomes for the University Honors Program

At graduation from the honors program, students will demonstrate competence in:

- **Self-directed learning**
 - Students will make choices to be active agents in their own ongoing education
- **Written and oral communication skills**
 - Students will employ an understanding of audience, purpose and context to communicate effectively to various audiences
- **Ethical maturity and good citizenship**
 - Students will articulate the potential ethical ramifications for given situations and reflect on how ethics apply to themselves as local, national, and global citizens
- **Context-driven research skills**
 - Students will demonstrate the ability to perform applied research in various contexts and use research conventions and technologies suitable to their research question and purpose
- **Inter-disciplinary synthesis**
 - Students will apply the benefits of a liberal arts education by demonstrating that they are able to view topics through the lens of more than one discipline
- **Active participation in the UMW community**
 - Students will actively participate in the extra-curricular life of UMW, demonstrating service and creating community within both UMW and the larger Fredericksburg area
- **Active Meta-analysis of self and others**
 - Students will actively engage in self-reflection, using meta-analysis as a tool for personal growth and general problem solving and reflection.

UMW HONORS PROGRAM APPLICATION

Students are admitted to the UMW Honors Program upon acceptance to UMW. Space permitting, first-year students will be invited to apply to the program at the conclusion of their first year at UMW. Students who have completed at least 36 credits beyond high school are ineligible to apply. Applications will be screened by the Honors Program Committee and a limited number of students will be admitted to the program. Application materials should be submitted to Dr. Kelli Slunt, Director of the Honors Program, electronically by February 1, 2017.

Name: _____

Intended Graduation Date: _____

Fall 2016 UMW GPA: _____

Anticipated Cumulative UMW GPA (after the spring 2017 semester): _____

List the HN designated courses or courses that fulfill honors program requirements that you completed or will complete during the 2016-2017 academic year:

NOTE – you are required to complete a minimum of 6 credits of honors program

In two or three paragraphs, clearly articulate your interest in and reasons for wanting to participate in the Honors Program at UMW. Review the lists of learning objectives for the Honors Program. Identify three of the learning objectives and include in your reflective essay, your confidence, familiarity, abilities in these areas. How do you think the Honors Program will help you achieve these learning outcomes?

In addition, each applicant needs to arrange to have a letter of recommendation from a UMW faculty member sent to Dr. Slunt by February 1, 2017. It is highly recommended that your letter or letters of support come from faculty teaching HN designated courses.