Undergraduate Honors Program at University College

The Undergraduate Honors Program at University College, the evening and continuing education division of Arts & Sciences at Washington University, offers high-achieving students the opportunity to join a learning community dedicated to an exceptionally rigorous, flexible, and independent program of study that takes advantage of courses and services across the university.

The program includes academic and co-curricular activities that build on the experience of adult learners, foster intellectual curiosity, and strengthen skills in critical thinking, reading, writing, and research. Honors Program course work also engages students with ethical questions, historical and cultural forces, and global perspectives. A complement of co-curricular opportunities builds leadership skills and sustains a commitment to service.

The Undergraduate Honors Program in University College delivers a challenging academic experience that guides students toward a deeper understanding and more effective use of their intellectual talents, and provides resources and support for more rewarding personal and professional development.

ELIGIBILITY AND POLICIES

Prior course work from accredited colleges and universities, as well as professional experience, will be considered in determining admissions to the Honors Program, but will not replace any of the course or residency requirements associated with the program.

PROVISIONAL ADMISSION

- Admission to a Bachelor of Science degree program in University College.
- Completion of the University College Undergraduate Honors Program Application, including the required essay, two (2) letters of reference, writing samples, and interview.
- Completion of a minimum of 60 units of credit in college-level course work, including transfer credit.
- Minimum overall GPA of 3.65 in college-level course work to date.

FULL ADMISSION

- Completion of at least 6 units of advanced-level coursework (300 or 400) in the University College major with a 3.65 minimum GPA.
- Fulfillment of academic department or program admission requirements for honors and subsequent departmental authorization to pursue honor’s research and related coursework.
- Demonstrated academic achievement through a rigorous program of study.

Students must maintain a 3.65 GPA in order to remain in the program and be eligible to graduate with Latin honors. Honors students’ academic performance will be monitored each semester, and those with a GPA below 3.65 may be dropped from the program.

Upon completion of the Honors Program, eligible students will be awarded the B.S. cum laude, magna cum laude, or summa cum laude through achievement of minimum cumulative averages of 3.65, 3.75, or 3.85 respectively, recommendation by the academic department or program, and evaluation of the research and writing project.

SCHOLARSHIP

Each honors student will receive $3,500 toward University College undergraduate course tuition each fall and spring semester for two years. Students starting in the summer semester should call 935-6700 to speak with a scholarship coordinator. The standard tuition benefit applies to Washington University employees in lieu of this scholarship.
LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
Please submit, along with this application, two letters of recommendation from instructors with whom you have studied during the past three years. Letters of recommendation should be mailed by instructors directly to University College at the address noted above.

ORIGINAL ESSAY
Please submit an original essay that addresses one of the questions below. Your essay must be typed, double-spaced, and at least three pages in length.

1) What is “critical thinking” and how may it help you become a more thoughtful and active citizen?

2) Living in a digital information age, what are the opportunities and challenges to both private and public life?

3) What important historical development or work of art (including visual art, architecture, music, film, and literature) has made the largest impact on your life and why?

4) What is your greatest adventure, and why has it made a difference in your life?

WRITING SAMPLES
Please submit, along with this application, two previously completed writing samples which you have authored, at least one of which must be an academic research paper with source citations and bibliography.

INTERVIEW
A personal interview is required for all candidates for the Undergraduate Honors Program in University College. Eligible candidates will be contacted to schedule an interview.

OFFICE USE ONLY
Notes
Please submit this form and all required documentation to:
University College Admissions
Washington University in St. Louis
One Brookings Drive
January Hall, Room 20
St. Louis, MO 63130