

Honors School FAQs:

- **How many honors classes do I have to take every semester?**
 - There is no set number of courses a student needs to take every semester.
 - Many will balance their honors courses based on their academic major, so this will vary by student.
 - Aside from their honors thesis/capstone courses, the honors degree is a total of 21 credits. For students who take mostly 3 credit classes, this would be about an honors class a semester.
 - Many honors students will take two clusters in their first year and thus complete the 12 credit 100-200 level requirement.
 - They would then take their final 9 upper-level credits over the course of their remaining years.

- **Do I have to take honors classes every semester?**
 - No. Students can certainly ease into the honors courses by taking one or waiting until their second semester to start taking honors classes.
 - **Students can take 0 credits of honors classes and are still in the Honors School.**
 - Ideally students should finish their first year with at least 6 total honors credits completed, but they can still complete the honors degree if they do not do this.
 - The major moment of concern is when they have not completed honors credits halfway through their sophomore year.

- **Are the honors classes harder than regular classes?**
 - Students will say that honors classes are challenging, but not necessarily harder. They say that their honors courses are more engaging, they get them thinking more about the subject, there is more discussion (which is more elevated than their regular courses), they require more critical thinking, and the smaller classes allow for more interaction with honors students. They all recommend the honors clusters.

- **Do honors students have to live in Beechwood?**
 - No, Honors School students can live in any residence hall that they would like. All honors students – commuters, residents of Beechwood, residents of other residence halls – have access to the main lobby of Beechwood. There, students can use computers, a printer, the kitchen space (this a full kitchen with refrigerator, oven, sink, etc.) and hangout to watch TV with other honors students.
 - The Honors School is currently the only living and learning community at Monmouth.

- **Why should I live in Beechwood?**

- There are benefits to students living in honors housing as it allows students to diversify their social circles and support networks, ensure they are interacting socially with academically-minded students, and live in the only suite-style first year residence hall.
- **I am a first-year student and I have AP/IB/college credits to transfer to Monmouth. Will that impact my ability to take honors classes?**
 - Of course not!
 - Many honors students enter Monmouth with AP/IB/college credits.
 - The only thing it would impact is which honors classes you might take in your first semesters, but other than that it does not impact your honors degree completion in any way.
 - The only thing to be mindful of is if you have enough transfer credits to graduate from Monmouth a year early.
 - If that is the case, you would want to make sure you complete your honors requirements in that timeframe as well.
 - Many honors students choose to complete their honors degree in three years, regardless of their Monmouth degree completion.
 - It is very possible to do so without added stress.
- **Why do the honors thesis/capstone?**
 - The honors thesis/capstone allows students to engage in content in a unique way.
 - Students can:
 - Pursue a thesis/capstone in any field of study. The thesis/capstone can be completed in a space that is not tethered to their major.
 - This is especially beneficial for students who double major, have a minor, or have an interest in an area that they wish to explore beyond their curriculum.
 - Choose a research-based thesis or a creative capstone.
 - Students can choose a creative option regardless of their major.
 - For example: Business majors have chosen to create tutorial videos, Chemistry majors have done pottery, Education majors have created websites.
 - More creative-based majors often go this route. For example: Graphic Design majors have made animated videos and graphic novels; Creative Writing majors have written stories; Computer Science majors have created apps.
 - <https://www.monmouth.edu/honors-school/annual-research-conference/>
 - Students have a unique ability to work one-on-one with a professor of their choosing.

- Majors that require a thesis typically complete a formal a class; the Honors School experience allows for more engaged work with faculty.
 - Students who complete the honors thesis/capstone have noted:
 - It prepared them for graduate school.
 - It was a major talking point at job interviews.
 - This has been stated regardless of whether or not the content of their thesis fit the job's field. Potential employers were impressed that the students were well-versed and knowledgeable on a topic, able to delve into research, and stick with a major project for a considerable length of time. All key takeaways for any profession.
 - They were able to use their professors for references.
 - They were able to create something they were very passionate about.
- **Do I have to go to all of the Honors School events?**
 - Of course not! However, we strongly encourage all students to take part in any and all events they can make as it enhances their University experience and allows them to interact with and meet more honors classmates.
- **Can I commute and still be in the Honors School?**
 - Yes. About 50% of our students commute to campus.
- **Can I be a varsity athlete and be in the Honors School?**
 - Yes! About 12% of our students are varsity athletes and cover all teams at the University.
 - In 2023, our athlete graduates included Men's Basketball, Men's Football, Women's Lacrosse, Women's Rowing, and Field Hockey.
 - This includes:
 - a Nursing major who completed their Nursing degree, their Honors School degree, four years of a varsity sport; after Monmouth earned a Master's in Nursing at Fairfield (taking a fifth year of field hockey eligibility).
 - A History major who completed degree, Honors School degree, four years of women's lacrosse; after Monmouth earned an MBA at Notre Dame.
 - In 2024, our athlete graduates included Women's Swimming (captain), Men's Swimming (captain), Women's Bowling, Women's Lacrosse, Women's Tennis (captain), and Women's Soccer.
 - This includes:
 - A Political Science and Sociology double major, who completed both degrees (graduating as the highest-ranking undergraduate degree recipient in Sociology), the Honors School degree, and four years of varsity tennis (captain of the team); after Monmouth she attended the London School

of Economics to earn her Master's in International Political Economy. Student also co-wrote a paper with a professor and presented it at a conference in India.

- A Chemistry (Biochemistry) major completed, who completed their Biochem degree (graduating as the highest-ranking undergraduate degree recipient in Chemistry) and Honors School degree; graduated with a 4.0 final GPA; competed in varsity soccer for four-years; after Monmouth attended the Indiana University School of Optometry to pursue a Doctor of Optometry degree.
 - So you can pursue your athletic and academic passions!
- **Can I do a 3+3 or Bachelor's + Master's program?**
 - Of course!
 - Many Honors School students stay at Monmouth to complete their Master's degrees in a 5-year or Bachelor's + Master's program.
 - Students who are completing a 3+3 or 3+2 program where their undergraduate degree (Bachelor's) will be completed in 3 years must also complete their Honors School requirements in that same timeframe.
 - This is not an extra challenge as many students complete their honors requirements in three years.
 - Some by choice and others due to major requirements that set unique parameters.
 - Many Masters or Doctoral programs will encourage students to continue the work on their honors thesis in their second degree.
 - So, the work you do for your honors thesis can help you navigate your next degree!

Are there perks of being in the Honors School?

- Academic Benefits:
 - The Honors School provides support for high achieving students at Monmouth through the following ways:
 - Intellectual Engagement: Honors classes focus on discussions and activities that enable students to think deeply about the course material, and provide assignments that challenge students to demonstrate innovation, achievement, and leadership.
 - Honors classes are capped at 20 students.
 - Honors students can join the Honors Student Association and interact with other high achieving students.
 - Academic Support: The Honors School provides an additional layer of high-level, individualized academic support to ensure that our students are on track academically, socially, and emotionally.

- Community Benefits:
 - Social Community: The Honors School provides an academically-focused community of high ability students.
 - This community allows students to broaden their focus and get the most out of their experience while at MU.
 - Honors students have a peer mentor in their first year and can become peer mentors in their second year and beyond to help them recruit and maintain incoming students.
 - Honors students can live in Beechwood with other honors students, which offers only suite-style residence hall for first-year students.
- Other Benefits:
 - All honors students receive priority registration, so they get ‘first dibs’ on classes before they fill up. This allows them to create their ideal schedules and enroll in the classes they most want to take before they fill.
 - All first-year honors students living on campus receive early move-in regardless of what residence hall they live in.

I no longer intend to complete the Honors School. What do I do?

- Students who no longer intend to complete the Honors School should reach directly out to the Honors School and schedule a meeting.
 - You can use this link to do so: <https://calendly.com/mu-honors/advising>
- This meeting serves as a way to ensure a student is aware of all options on how to complete the honors degree. Often times there are pathways that make the process easier than students realize.
- However, if a student feels they do not want to complete the thesis and honors credits, the Honors School would submit the paperwork for removal.

I submitted the major change form to be removed from the Honors School, but I am still enrolled.

- While the Honors School appears in Student Planning as a ‘major,’ that is done so students can follow their honors progress.
- The Honors School is not a ‘major’ that can be changed.
- If you did submit the form, you would have received an email from the Registrar’s office advising you reach out to the Honors School.
- The removal process is only initiated by the Honors School.
- Students who no longer intend to complete the Honors School should reach directly out to the Honors School and schedule a meeting.
 - You can use this link to do so: <https://calendly.com/mu-honors/advising>
- This meeting serves as a way to ensure a student is aware of all options on how to complete the honors degree. Often times there are pathways that make the process easier than students realize.
- However, if a student feels they do not want to complete the thesis and honors credits, the Honors School would submit the paperwork for removal.

How do I graduate from the Honors School?

- To graduate from the Honors School, a student must complete all of the following:
 - A maximum of 12 honors credits at the 100-200 level
 - A minimum of 9 honors credits at the 300+ level
 - 5 credits of Honors Thesis/Capstone courses
 - HO 296 (1 Credit) – final grade of B or better
 - HO 396 (2 credits) – final grade of B or better
 - HO 496 (2 credits) – final grade of B or better
 - Have a 3.3 cumulative GPA at the time of graduation

What happens when I graduate from the Honors School?

- ‘Graduate of the Honors School’ appears on Monmouth diploma
- ‘Graduate of the Honors School’ appears on Monmouth transcript
- Graduate of the Honors School medal awarded to wear to commencement ceremonies
- Special Recognition in commencement program
- Honors School Senior Awards Reception

Does the Honors School dismiss students if their GPA is below a 3.3?

- The Honors School does not dismiss students if their GPA is below a 3.3
- You **MUST** have a 3.3 at the time of your graduation to be an Honors School graduate, however, GPAs fluctuate.
- If your GPA is below a 3.3 the Honors School will support you and encourage you to take advantage of University resources.
- There are only two instances when the Honors School will remove a student:
 - When the student violates of the [Honors School Code of Ethics](#)
 - When the student is behind on honors credits, unresponsive to outreach, and approaching their final year at MU
 - This is done to not impede a student’s degree completion

I am a transfer student and want to be a part of the Honors School. Am I eligible to join? If so, how would I join?

- We welcome transfer students to the Honors School.
- Transfer eligibility is based on a number of factors: prior University GPA, total credits taken, honors credits completed at prior University, understanding of the MU Honors School requirements, and a meeting with the dean.
- All transfer students must meet with the Honors School Dean for admission.

- You can use this link to schedule a meeting: <https://calendly.com/mu-honors/advising>
 - Please indicate when you sign up that this is for Transfer Admission and include your MU student ID if you have received one. If not, please make sure your full name is listed.

I am planning to take HO 296 (Honors Thesis/Capstone Prep), however, the sections are letters and not numbers. What does that mean?

- While all sections of HO 296 will cover the same basic information, the courses are organized for certain majors to take the course together.
- This is designed so the in-class discussion can more beneficial as all students are working in the same field.
- The section will also be taught by a professor in that field and directed toward that area of study.
- Use this key to better understand each section:
 - SC - Science
 - BU - Business
 - HE – Health Studies
 - NU – Nursing
 - ED – Education
 - SS – Social Science
 - HU – Humanities
- Some sections may combine two areas. For example, NUHE has both Nursing and Health Studies majors as you are in the same overall space.
- If you are unsure which section works best, reach out to the Honors School.

I am planning to take HO 296 (Honors Thesis/Capstone Prep), however, my thesis/capstone does not align with my major. Which section should I take?

- It would be best to take the section that best aligns with your project and not your major, especially if they are quite different.
- You can always discuss this with the Honors School.