Admission REQUIREMENTS

Students accepted to the university as first-year students are invited to join the Honors College based on high school and standardized test performance. The college works with the admissions office to identify appropriate candidates; no special application is necessary.

Transfer students are invited to join the Honors College on the basis of their previous undergraduate performance.

Faculty members are encouraged to recommend students whom they feel are good candidates for the Honors College.

Students who are motivated and interested in the Honors College are always encouraged to contact the dean about joining.

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To apply: go.umaine.edu

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The Honors College has been an important part of the University of Maine for 80 years. Our program, one of the oldest in the country, is highly regarded, and indeed has just been named as one of seven Signature Programs at the University.

The curriculum of the Honors College emphasizes both breadth and depth of learning, expanding students’ perspectives by exploring diverse areas of thought and allowing them to work in their majors with greater intensity than in a conventional course of study. The Civilizations sequence, a set of four small discussion-based preceptorials that explore the foundational ideas of western civilization, provides the core that all Honors students share in their first and second years at UMaine. The Honors thesis is completed in the student’s particular research area with guidance from a research mentor/advisor and a thesis committee.

Honors is a community that encompasses academics but also extends beyond it. We host guest lectures and performances — poetry readings, film showings, and the like — and sponsor trips to conferences, as well as cultural performances on- and off-campus. Social and service events like Welcome Weekend Day of Service, the welcome back barbecue, breakfast with visiting scholars, and other gatherings help round out the Honors experience. An active Student Advisory Board helps in planning these activities. Honors students are also eligible for dedicated Honors housing. Each May, the graduating thesis students are recognized at our Honors Celebration and awarded the Honors medallion worn at Commencement. The Honors College provides an intimate living-learning community within the larger university and provides an undergraduate education of unsurpassed value.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

The Honors College’s signature strength in undergraduate research and scholarship is a cornerstone of the Honors experience. Working with a faculty advisor, each student designs and executes a research or creative project that culminates in their Honors thesis. For most majors, the thesis substitutes for the standard senior capstone. Honors students are very competitive for research awards from the Center for Undergraduate Research (CUGR) and are also eligible for Honors-specific research funding and thesis fellowships.

The College fosters a number of undergraduate research clusters. One of these is in comparative functional genomics through its INBRE grant from the National Institutes of Health that supports several research immersion courses (Honors 150, 155, and 350) as well as significant research fellowship opportunities. Another is the new Sustainable Food Systems Research Collaborative (SFSRC) that engages students as early as their sophomore year in community-engaged research on a wide variety of problems of hunger, nutrition, and food production and distribution.

Honors students are encouraged to present their research at the CUGR Research and Academic Showcase, professional meetings in their disciplines, and at the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) conference as well as other venues.

TRAVEL AND STUDY AWAY OPPORTUNITIES

The Honors College provides its students with opportunities that broaden their understanding of the world by sending them out of the classroom. Each year around 15 students attend the NCHC Conference where they present their research with other students and faculty from around the nation.
Students also have the opportunity to travel abroad through partnerships with other institutions including Principia Consortium (University of Glasgow, Scotland) and Tembusu College of the National University of Singapore. Honors students are very competitive for internships, co-op, and study abroad opportunities.

ABOUT OUR GRADUATES

Our students represent every major on campus, and about 75 percent of our graduates go on to graduate or professional school.

Distinguished alumni include: Dr. Bernard Lown ’42, Nobel prize winner and inventor of the cardiac defibrillator; Bettina Boxall ’74, Pulitzer Prize for exploratory reporting; Dr. David Bronson ’69, president emeritus of the Cleveland Clinic Regional Hospital System; Dr. Amy Frappier ’99, Charles Lubin Family Professor for Women in Sciences in the Department of Geoscience, Skidmore College; and many more.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Visit go.umaine.edu for an application, as well as information about academics and life at UMaine.

"Please pass along my thanks to the Honors preceptors as well — for the knowledge they’ve imparted, enthusiastic support they have given and the many wonderful classroom experiences they have structured. Their influence colors our perceptions, allowing us to leave your halls as more well-rounded, thoughtful individuals. That is a great gift."

— Rachel Hathaway, UMaine Valedictorian, Class of 2012