

Honors College

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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.

Did You Know?

In a nutshell, the Honors College is not your high school honors program. The interdisciplinary nature of the Honors College focuses both on the breadth and depth of our students' educational experience.

About the College

Students have been doing Honors at the University of Maine for more than 75 years, much longer than most of our colleagues in New England (or anywhere, for that matter). Our program is highly regarded across the country, and we are active participants in the National Collegiate Honors Council.

Through first- and second-year preceptorials, third-year tutorials and the thesis, the curriculum of the Honors College emphasizes learning that both broadens and deepens, expanding students' perspectives by exploring diverse areas of thought and allowing them to work in their majors with greater intensity than a conventional course pattern.

The welcome cookout, pizza and jazz parties, trips to conferences, cultural performances on- and off-campus, Honors housing, and the pre-graduation Celebration of Honors all contribute to the Honors Community. Honors is much more than academics.

We are proud of all facets of our college, and feel we provide an undergraduate education unsurpassed anywhere in New England.

Undergraduate Research and Scholarship

The Honors College champions undergraduate research throughout the University of Maine. The Center for Undergraduate Research connects students and researchers in all disciplines, and each spring it celebrates undergraduate research by presenting the Research and Academic Showcase. Senior Honors students writing their theses have opportunities to apply for thesis fellowships and research grants. One active area of research is in comparative functional genomics where programs supported by the National Institutes of Health and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute allow first- through fourth-year students to be supported in hands-on, cutting-edge research. A highlight of these experiences is the week-long immersion course taught at Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory each year.

Honors College students are encouraged to participate in study abroad and global service programs. Scholarships and fellowships are available for some of these opportunities.

Student Awards and Recognition

Each year, we bring more than 20 students to the NCHC annual meetings and more than 40 students to Washington, DC. Past NCHC conferences have been held in Chicago, Denver, San Antonio, Philadelphia, Atlanta, St. Louis, Salt Lake City and Washington, D.C. Our students are recognized at commencement, and they are the only students to graduate with Honors from the University of Maine.

About Our Graduates

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

Representative Courses

HON 111 Civilizations: Past, Present and Future I
HON 112 Civilizations: Past, Present and Future II
HON 150 & 155 Phage Genomics Discovery Laboratory I and II
HON 170 Currents and Context
HON 180 A Cultural Odyssey
HON 211 Civilizations: Past, Present and Future III
HON 212 Civilizations: Past, Present and Future IV

HON 308 Visiting Scholar in Ethics Tutorial
HON 309 The Honors Read Tutorial
HON 310-347 Honors Tutorials
HON 349 Tutorial Alternative Portfolio
HON 350 Honors Seminar
HON 498 Honors Directed Study
HON 499 Honors Thesis

About UMaine

The University of Maine, founded in Orono in 1865, is the state's premier public university. It is among the most comprehensive higher education institutions in the Northeast and attracts students from across the U.S. and more than 60 countries. It currently enrolls 12,000 total undergraduate and graduate students who can directly participate in groundbreaking research working with world-class scholars. Students are offered 88 bachelor's degree programs, 64 master's degree programs, 25 doctoral programs and one of the oldest and most prestigious honors programs in the U.S. The university promotes environmental stewardship on its campus, with substantial efforts aimed at conserving energy, recycling and adhering to green building standards in new construction. For more information about UMaine, go online (umaine.edu). Equal opportunity information also is available online (umaine.edu/eo).

How do I apply?

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



Academic Programs 2011–12

The latest versions of the UMaine fact sheets are online (factsheets.umaine.edu). This fact sheet is intended for informational purposes only and is subject to change.

