

Navigating Lander University's Honors College: A Student's Guide



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What is the Honors College?

The Honors College is lots of things! It's a form of academic recognition that comes with bragging rights for careers and graduate school.

It's also an enrichment program to broaden your education through smaller, more interactive course options to fulfill your general education requirements and electives, along with outside-of-class challenges to explore your world. The Honors curriculum fits alongside your major and is tailored to your interests.

What is the Honors College?

Most importantly, the Honors College is a community. We are a group of bright, ambitious, and curious people who support each other's learning and growth.



Who is Eligible to Join the Honors College?

Acceptance to the Honors College is competitive!

Incoming freshman may apply based on their high school academic achievements.

Successful applicants have a strong high school GPA or class rank—typically 4.0 or higher on a 5.0 scale, or the top 30% of their graduating class—preferably with some experience in honors-level or AP classes.



Who is Eligible to Join the Honors College?

Students also submit a brief essay and some further documentation of their academic experience. SAT/ACT scores are accepted but not required.

Transfer students and continuing Lander students may apply with a minimum university GPA of 3.25 higher, a brief essay, and other documentation of success. Accepted students generally have a 3.5 university GPA or above.





What are the Benefits of the Honors College?

Benefits of the Honors College

Honors courses are **small, personal,** and **engaging**—you'll get to know your classmates and faculty members quickly and well.



Benefits of the Honors College

Honors College students are also eligible for special opportunities like:

Early registration for classes

Field trips & social events

Designated Honors campus housing

Mentorship for internship and graduate applications

Benefits of the Honors College

Honors College students are also eligible for special opportunities like:

Study abroad opportunities & Global Scholars study abroad scholarships

Washington Semester Program internships in D.C.

Special recognition at the graduation ceremony, along with an Honors notation on your diploma & transcript

Benefits of the Honors College

Scholarships

Most of Lander's academic scholarships are administered by the Admissions Office, but a few small scholarships are available directly from the Honors College!
(No separate application needed:
all students are considered.)

Continuing Honors College members may apply for **Global Scholars Program study abroad scholarships** to help fund study abroad or destination internship costs.

How Do I Apply?

The Honors College enrolls a new cohort each fall semester. We also accept applications to begin in spring semester. The application is available at the end of this packet and also on the Honors College webpage at www.lander.edu/honors. Approximately 80 spots are available each year.

April 1 is the priority deadline for students applying to join Honors College in **fall semester**. Applications received after April 1 will be accepted as space permits.

November 1 is the priority deadline for students applying to join Honors College in **spring semester**.

Please allow 30 days after submission for your application to be processed. Feel free to check in with Dr. Craton at lcraton@lander.edu with questions about application status.

What Happens Once I Am Accepted?

Your Honors experience breaks down into four stages:

1. The Gateway



2. The Core Courses



3. The Breakaway



4. The Capstone

Stage 1: The Gateway

Everyone starts with the same 4 credit hours of coursework in their first semester in the Honors College.

HONS 211 (3 hours) is a reading-and-writing class on a special topic related to the human experience.

HONS 210 (1 hour) is an **optional** companion class that focuses on travel skills and cultural adaptability: it features a university-funded overnight field trip to a major American city.

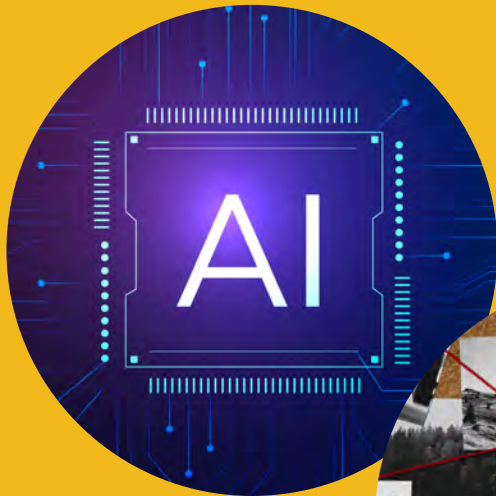
Stage 2: The Core Courses

- **After the Gateway, you'll pick which Honors College classes you want to take.**
- **Honors classes rotate every semester, so there's always a new variety to consider.**
- **Most Honors courses fulfill general education requirements and fit with any major.**

Stage 2: The Core Courses

Recent course topics include:

- The Psychology of Conspiracy Theories
- Modern Japan
- The Art of Satire
- AI
- True Crime Writing
- GIS Technology
- Emergency Management, and more.



Stage 2: The Core Courses

To complete the program and earn the Honors Medal, you'll choose at least three additional Honors core courses (9 credit hours)—courses numbered **HONS 291** through **HONS 398**—before graduation.

If you're having trouble fitting these classes into your schedule, talk to Dr. Craton about creative solutions.



Expectations

Honors students are encouraged to stay actively engaged both on campus and in the community. Whether it's joining a student organization, volunteering, tutoring, or participating in campus events and cultural activities, there are many ways to get involved and make the most of your experience.

Choose opportunities that align with your interests and goals. Your involvement matters.

To maintain eligibility for Honors courses and benefits such as early registration and scholarship opportunities, students should remain in good standing with the Honors College. This includes participating in at least one Honors course or activity each academic year and maintaining a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Stage 3: The Breakaway

Every Honors student takes on a meaningful challenge outside the traditional classroom—what we call a Breakaway. While studying abroad is one exciting option, it is not the only one. You might spend a semester in Washington, complete a high profile internship, dive into a summer research project, or even create a unique experience that fits your personal goals.

Your Breakaway is yours to shape. It is flexible, adaptable, and designed to help you grow in the direction that matters most to you.

Stage 3: The Breakaway

Want more info about the types of adventures students seek out for their Breakaway? Check out some of their reflections on the experience in the Lander Travels blog:

<https://www.landerhonors.com/landertravels.>



Lauren at the Wetlands Institute, NJ.



Allison C studying biology in Greece.



Macy during her semester in Washington.

Stage 3: The Breakaway

Does that sound intimidating? Don't worry. The Honors faculty can help guide you in planning the right experience. With support from your advisor, the Honors College, and other helpful professors or staff, you'll develop a strong proposal.



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Stage 4: The Capstone

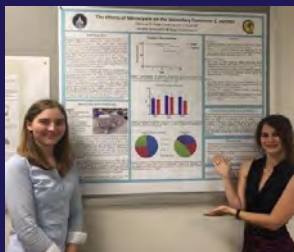
After your Breakaway, you'll start your Capstone experience. This comes in the form of two one-hour courses that may be taken together or in different semesters.

In **HONS 489**, you'll reflect on what you learned from your Breakaway and practice marketing your new skills.

In **HONS 499**, taken shortly before graduation, you'll plan a conference presentation that builds your résumé.



Stage 4: The Capstone



The Payoff

Students who decide to complete all these requirements—the Gateway, Core Courses, Breakaway, and Capstone—and have a 3.25 GPA or higher are named Honors Medalists.

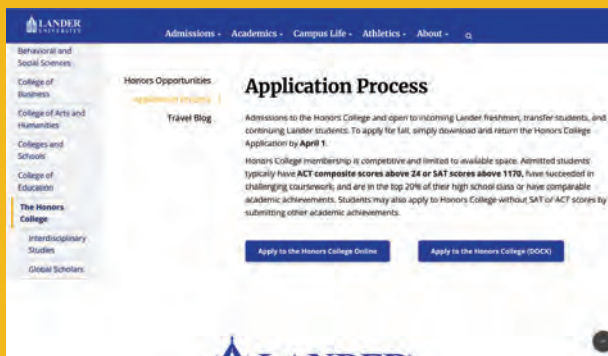
Honors Medals are presented at the annual Academic Awards Ceremony and Medalists receive special acknowledgement during the graduation ceremony.



Application Forms

Apply online through the Lander admissions portal

Step 1: Go to Lander.edu and search “Honors College.”



Step 3: After you click "Application Process," you will be directed to this screen. Follow the steps.



Step 2: Once you reach the page, scroll down and click on “Application Process.”

