

Thomas Hunter Honors Program

Program Coordinator Sarah R. Jeninsky
Program Office 1421 West Building; 772-4127

Web Site <http://sapientia.hunter.cuny.edu>

Council on Honors Beaujour (Russian, Chair), Belsky (History), Bromage (Anthropology), Conchado (Romance Languages, Co-chair), Griffel (Music), McCauley (History), Press (Philosophy), Roitberg (Mathematics), Shahn (Biology), Somerville (Political Science), Stapleford (Art), White (Classics)

Advisors Elizabeth Beaujour, Timothy Bromage, Diana Conchado, Gerald Press, Robert J. White

The interdisciplinary Thomas Hunter Honors Program provides exceptional undergraduate students with an individualized course of study suited to their needs and interests. Students selected for the Thomas Hunter Honors Program must show evidence of high academic potential, interdisciplinary interests, intellectual curiosity, and sufficient emotional and intellectual maturity to plan and carry out a coherent program of study in consultation with the appropriate faculty advisor.

Students may apply for admission to the program on their own, or they may be invited to participate. The Council on Honors invites sophomores enrolled in both the day and evening sessions whose performance indicates intellectual curiosity and exceptional ability.

Many graduates of the Thomas Hunter Honors Program go on to PhD programs in the various arts and sciences, or to law, medical, and other professional schools. The rest choose careers in a wide variety of professional, artistic, and business fields.

College Requirements In lieu of the General Education Requirement (GER) or Distribution Requirement (applicable to students who matriculated prior to fall 2001), the Thomas Hunter Honors Program requires that students maintain breadth in their programs, create a significant pattern of courses in at least two divisional areas of investigation, and take at least one laboratory science course. All programs must be approved by a Council advisor. Students must also fulfill the following requirements:

ENGL 120; Pluralism and Diversity; and, for those entering Hunter in fall 2001 or later, the Foreign Language Requirement (12 cr).

Major Students in the Thomas Hunter Honors Program who wish to design an interdisciplinary major for themselves may do so in consultation with the appropriate Council advisor. The final transcript of such students designates the major as "Special Honors Curriculum." Most students in the Honors Program, however, also elect to fulfill the requirements for a specific departmental major. These students abide by departmental criteria for the major and are eligible for departmental honors. Their final transcript records the major as Special Honors Curriculum/Specific Department.

Whatever their major concentration, all students in the program must also successfully complete three special interdisciplinary honors colloquia (see next column) and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better until their final certification into the program. Certification usually occurs in the student's junior year, when the Council, ruling on each case individually, decides that the student's continuing academic distinction and promise of future productivity warrant permanent membership in the Thomas Hunter Honors Program.



Thomas Hunter Honors Program students meet regularly in 200-level and 300-level colloquia, led by members of the Council on Honors and by other invited members of the faculty. Students take a minimum of three colloquia, one of which must be at the 200 level, and one of which must be at the 300 level. While the specific content of these courses varies from semester to semester, the underlying principles remain the same.

The 200-level colloquium is taught by one professor, often a member of the Council on Honors, who studies a specific theme using the materials and methodologies of at least two disciplines. Students may take more than one of these colloquia if they so desire, but at least one must be taken during their first year in the program.

The 300-level honors colloquia are special seminars, usually conducted by two professors, devoted to topics lending themselves to broad interdisciplinary investigation.

The colloquia offer breadth of exposure, but, even more importantly, they demonstrate how knowledge gained from a variety of disciplines can be related and integrated in an effort to understand complex processes and phenomena. In all colloquia, students write at least one major paper, in which they apply the methodology of the course to material of particular interest to them.

Upon completion of 90 credits, Thomas Hunter Honors students may also be admitted by the Council to Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies, with the opportunity of engaging in advanced independent study under the Council's supervision. A thesis or other appropriate report of the results of the student's research is presented to the Council.

COURSE LISTINGS

HONS 201 Sophomore Honors Colloquium 3 hrs, 3 cr. Perm dept. Offered fall/spring. Sample topics: Integrating the Irrational; Dante's World; Human Life History; The Broadway Musical; Science in Art. May be taken more than once with different topics.

HONS 301 Upper-Level Honors Colloquium 3 hrs, 3 cr. Perm dept. Offered fall/spring. Sample topics: Behavior and Evolution; Greek Myth in the Arts; Energy and Environment; Politics of Southern Africa. May be taken more than once with different topics.

HONS 301.99 Interdisciplinary Independent Study 3 hrs, 3 cr. Perm Council on Honors.

HONS 491 Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies 6 hrs, 6 cr. Perm Council on Honors.