

THOMAS HUNTER HONORS PROGRAM

Program Coordinator: Sarah R. Jeninsky

Program Office: 1421 Hunter West; (212) 772-4127

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

Council on Honors:

Beaujour (Russian, chair), Belsky (History), Conchado (Romance Languages, co-chair), Greenbaum (Physics), Greenberg (English), Griffel (Music), McCauley (History), Press (Philosophy), Roitberg (Mathematics), Shahn (Biology), Somerville (Political Science), Stapleford (Art), White (Classics)

Advisers:

Elizabeth Beaujour, Diana Conchado, Gerald Press, Ezra Shahn, Robert J. White

The interdisciplinary Thomas Hunter Honors Program provides some outstanding undergraduate students with a course of study suited to their individual needs and interests. Students selected for the Thomas Hunter Honors Program must show evidence of high academic potential, interdisciplinary interests, intellectual curiosity, willingness to explore unfamiliar fields and to accept challenges.

Students may apply for admission to the program on their own or they may be invited to participate in recognition of their outstanding academic records. 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. Others choose careers in a wide variety of professional, artistic and business fields.

College Requirements

The Thomas Hunter Honors Program requires that students maintain breadth in their programs, create a significant pattern of courses in at least two academic areas of investigation (Humanities and Arts, Social Sciences, Sciences and Mathematics), including at least one laboratory science course. All programs must be approved every semester by a Council adviser.

Students must also fulfill the following graduation requirements: ENGL 120; Pluralism and Diversity; and, for those entering Hunter in fall 2001 or later, the Foreign Language Requirement.

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 adviser. 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 minor, and are expected to pursue departmental honors in their major. 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 further on) 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 seek to 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

Sample topics: Integrating the Irrational; Dante's World; Language, Learning, and Computation; Law and Literature; Science in Art. May be taken more than once with different topics.

prereq: perm dept.
3 hrs, 3 cr.

HONS 301 Upper-Level Honors Colloquium

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.

prereq: perm dept.
3 hrs, 3 cr.

HONS 301.99 Interdisciplinary Independent Study

prereq: perm honors council
3 hrs, 3 cr.

HONS 491 Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies

prereq: perm honors council
6 hrs, 6 cr.

