Honors

(non major/minor)

The University Honors Program (UHP) provides enhanced educational opportunities for Cal Lutheran’s most academically motivated students. The mission of the UHP is to challenge students at a higher level as they grapple with deeper questions of life, identity, and purpose within a global community. It encourages intellectual exploration and experimentation by involving students in an intensive study of works that bridge diverse historical contexts, cultural settings and fields of knowledge. By balancing tradition and innovation and discovering or creating links between areas of knowledge currently separated by disciplines and departments, the UHP encourages students to think holistically and critically about these works and the global issues they illuminate.

The UHP is open to students by invitation upon admission to Cal Lutheran, although other admitted students may submit an appeal to the Director of the University Honors Program to be considered for admission to the program. In addition, up to five transfers a year may petition to enter the Honors Program either during their sophomore or the beginning of their junior year.

First-year UHP students must complete one of two year-long foundational seminar series. One of these courses is Humanities Tutorial, a course that explores a wide array of themes in literature and philosophy. From the origins of Western thought in Greek philosophy and literature to an extensive survey of contemporary themes (both Western and non-Western) in more recent writings, the Humanities Tutorial foundational seminar provides a stimulating atmosphere in which to explore important ideas in the humanities.

The second foundational seminar series is Social and Natural Sciences. Two interdisciplinary courses introduce students to academic disciplines within the social sciences and the natural sciences. In HNRS 120, students will explore research and apply analytical perspectives from related fields of study to examine social issues, public policies, and institutions. As the course progresses, students will focus more in-depth on contemporary issues, drawing on readings and lectures from experts who will bring to bear relevant theories and methods from their respective academic disciplines. HNRS 130 places the natural sciences in larger social and cultural contexts. The course includes experiential learning labs in which students learn about California natural history and natural history field practices. It aims to providing them with an amateur’s set of tools and skills to increase their knowledge of the natural world, as well as to help students understand the role of nature study in the context of conservation issues and practices relevant to California.

Requirements for completion of the Honors Program

During their second, third and fourth years, University Honors students must complete at least three honors seminars on special topics (preferably one in each year) to graduate with University Honors. Transfer students will be required to complete at least three upper-division honors seminars to achieve University Honors. Students who successfully complete these criteria will receive University Honors upon graduation. Students who complete all five courses and maintain a CLU GPA of 3.5 or higher will receive University Honors with Distinction upon graduation.