

## HONORS PROGRAM

**Dr. Jay S. Paul, Director**

**Ratcliffe Hall, 228**

**(757) 594-7072**

**[jpaul@cnu.edu](mailto:jpaul@cnu.edu)**

**Mr. Octavius Pinkard, Asst. Director**

**Ratcliffe Hall, 220**

**(757) 594-7674**

**[opinkard@cnu.edu](mailto:opinkard@cnu.edu)**

### Mission Statement

The Honors Program provides an enriched educational experience for academically talented students motivated to participate in challenging courses and cultural and intellectual activities. The Honors education encourages far-reaching curiosity, independent thinking, rigorous study, and open-minded consideration of the ideas of others. The Honors curriculum invites students to explore a rich diversity of cultural ideas and perspectives, culminating in a capstone course that encourages students to think about relationships between governments and thereby preparing them to be citizens of the world. Indeed, a goal of the Honors program is to encourage students to prepare themselves for outstanding opportunities, such as prestigious scholarships, and to proceed into graduate studies.

The Honors Program is governed by the University Honors Council, a committee of four or more students, the Provost, the Director of Admissions, and six faculty members representing various disciplines on campus. The Program serves Honors Students, who are full-time students drawn from the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior classes. The Honors Council, acting as an academic department, administers the Honors Program and those courses which are a part of the Honors curriculum.

### Why Be an Honors Student?

Honors classes are full of outstanding, motivated students, so discussions are always interesting, and sometimes unpredictable. Honors faculty can design classes and expectations to encourage rigorous, creative thought, and create assignments that challenge, and thereby, stretch one's intelligence. Honors Students not only have the exclusive privilege of enrolling in such classes; they also can register in advance of most other students, thus making schedule planning convenient and purposeful.

The Honors Program provides high quality academic advising, and the Director assists faculty in major departments in mentoring students in regard to internships, prestigious scholarships, and graduate studies.

Honors Students also have the option of residing in Quest Housing, a community of students serious about education and respectful of one another's aspirations (see <http://honors.cnu.edu/>).

The Honors Program provides exciting opportunities outside the class room, such as Research Support Grants to support required research during the academic year; \$1000 Summer Research Stipends for independent projects, which often involve international travel; \$1000 Travel Awards for independent research during the academic year leading to presentation and/or publication; and support to attend conferences to present research (see <http://honors.cnu.edu/>).

The Honors Program participates in opportunities for international study, including the CNU Semester in Prague, Spring Break trips to Belgium and other countries, and summer offerings for academic credit (China, Costa Rica, Germany, France, etc.).

Acknowledgement of successful completion of the Honors Program appears on all transcripts.

### Entering the Program

Admission to the Honors Program is selective, competitive, and based on the availability of space. The Honors Council exercises discretion in admitting the best-qualified applicants. Applications will be reviewed for strength of high school curriculum, including core curriculum courses. All first-time, full-time, degree-seeking freshman applicants with appropriate high school records, with a high school grade-point-average of at least 3.50 (on a 4.00 scale), and a minimum total score of 1200 on the SATs (at least 580 on the SAT Critical Reading Test) or a composite score of 27 on the ACT (at least 25 on the ACT verbal) are invited to become Honors Students. The writing sample with the new SAT will be considered, if submitted, but we will honor both the old and the new SAT, along with ACT scores with or without the writing sample. As we receive more information from the College Board, we will post to CNU's website the scores we are looking for on the writing sample.

Students transferring from other Honors Program as automatically accepted as long as their GPA's are 3.50 or higher.

Other students interested in the Honors Program may apply during spring semester of their first year at CNU. A minimum grade point average of 3.50 is required for consideration. Deadline: March 1.

### Program Requirements

(Registration: the schedule of classes will list designated sections for honors). Please note such things as AP credit, Dual Enrollment credit, and major selection may affect this list of requirements. It is the responsibility of each Honors Student to meet with the Director, Dr. Jay Paul, to obtain approval of exceptions. In most cases, the Plan of Study and approval thereof results in this verification.

- 1) ULLC 100, 223
- 2) ENGL 123
- 3) One Honors course in Mathematics
- 4) Honors classes to satisfy at least three (3) Areas of Inquiry
- 5) Given the program's commitment to global and multicultural perspectives, Honors students should complete their Liberal Learning Emphasis in Global and Multicultural Perspectives (AIGM) Areas of Inquiry by taking three (3) Honors classes. [Honors courses in AIGM will be scheduled each semester.]
- 6) HONR 330 and RSTD 338 remain electives in the Honors Program
- 7) In February of second semester: submit "Plan of Study"
- 8) GPA after first year: 3.25 or higher
- 9) HONR 020, 030, 040, 490W
- 10) GPA at graduation: 3.5

**The Pass/Fail Option may not be applied to Honors Program Requirements.**

### Continuing in the Program

In order to continue in the program beyond the first year, freshmen Honors students must earn a 3.25 grade point average by the end of their first two semesters. They must submit a written plan of academic study (available on the web site) to the Honors Program Director by the seventh week of the semester.

### Academic Standards

- 1) By the end of the second semester of the freshman year (at least 24 credit hours), Honors Students must achieve a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or higher.
- 2) To complete the program, Honors students must earn a CNU degree, satisfy all Program requirements, and achieve a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or higher.

### The Annual Celebration

Each spring semester, the Honors Council hosts a Celebration for graduating seniors and their families, awarding medallions and plaques to recognize the success of Honors Program graduates. Honors graduates wear the emblem of the Program at Commencement.

### Wallace B. Greene Scholars

Greene Scholarships of about \$2000 each are awarded annually by the Honors Council to the Honors Students with

the highest grade point average in the sophomore, junior, and senior classes, regardless of major.

### Keith McLoughland Scholar

In memory of the long-time Dean of Admissions and a founder of the CNU Honors Program, one or more awards will be presented to an outstanding Honors Student majoring in liberal arts.

### Karl E. and Elizabeth H. Beamer Scholars

Each year, one or more full-tuition-and-fees scholarships will be awarded to Honors Scholars who have demonstrated excellence in and commitment to the study of science and mathematics.

### Alumni Honors Scholar

Thanks to the generosity of the CNU Alumni Society, an annual award of \$1000 will be presented to an outstanding Honors senior.

### Annual Honors Scholarships

The university has provided for \$1000 awards to be presented annually to a senior, two juniors, and two sophomores in the Honors Program.

### Summer Research Stipends

The Honors Program offers awards of \$1000 for summer research springing from a previously taken CNU course. Go to <http://honors.cnu.edu/> and click on the word "apply" in the line announcing the stipends to download an application. The deadline falls in the second half of the spring semester. **All CNU students are eligible to apply.** Winners are announced at the Annual Honors Celebration and will be expected to make formal presentations of their work following the conclusion of their projects.

### Travel Awards

Honors Students may apply for grants up to \$1000 for travel during the academic year to support research leading to presentations at conferences or to publication by contacting the Director, Dr. Jay Paul

## THE HONORS CURRICULUM

Honors courses courses in Mathematics and those that fulfill various Areas of Inquiry requirements will appear in each semester's schedule.

### ENGL 123. First-Year Writing Seminar (3-3-0)

*Fall, Spring.*

*Select an Honors designated section in the Class Schedule.*

The First-Year Writing Seminar introduces students to the conventions of reading and writing appropriate for liberal arts learning, in particular the ability to analyze and produce sophisticated arguments that position their views within

ongoing social and cultural questions. Individually and collectively, students will read and discuss challenging texts, evaluating argumentative styles, conclusions, and evidence. They will also write essays that they will revise to reflect deeper critical thought, an effective prose style, an ability to evaluate outside research to complement their writing and consideration of an audience's expectations. The course offers students frequent written and oral feedback on their writing. It also prepares students for the Second Year Writing Seminar by providing guidance for students to incorporate multiple print and electronic resources into their writing. *Students must earn a C- or higher to satisfy University degree requirements.*

### **ULLC 100. First Year Seminar (3-3-0)**

*Select an Honors designated section in the Class Schedule.*

Through unique courses tied to a common theme, the First Year Seminar focuses on the intellectual expectations and values of the academic community, and encourages participation in the broader culture of the University. The seminar emphasizes the foundational disciplines at the core of liberal learning: critical thinking; analytical reading; effective writing and speaking; informed curiosity; problem solving; locating and evaluating information through research; and student participation in artistic, intellectual, service, and cultural events on campus. The specific seminar topics are listed at: <http://liberallearning.cnu.edu/documents/FYSMBookletFinal.pdf>.

### **ULLC 223. Second Year Writing Seminar (3-3-0)**

*Prerequisite: ENGL 123, ULLC 100 and sophomore standing.*

*Fall, Spring, Summer.*

*Select an Honors designated section in the Class Schedule.*

The Second-Year Writing Seminar enhances the critical reading and writing foundations introduced in English 123, and fuses them with oral communications skills. Seminars center on topics of intellectual and academic interest selected by the course instructor. Seminar topics will be discipline-specific, but accessible to students in any major. Each topic will require students to evaluate, synthesize, and present primary and secondary sources in two formats: a) a polished 10- to 15- page research paper and b) a formal oral presentation. ULLC courses are taught by faculty in ENGL, COMM, HIST, PHIL and RSTD. *Students must earn a C- or higher to satisfy University degree requirements.*

### **HONR 020. Sophomore Activities (0-0-1)**

*Fall and Spring.*

Involvement in cultural and intellectual activities in either semester of the sophomore year. Students attend at least eight events on the Honors Activity Calendar (see web site: "Activities") and submit brief reflective reports. **This course is graded Pass/fail.**

### **HONR 030. Junior Activities (0-0-1)**

*Fall and Spring.*

Involvement in cultural and intellectual activities in either semester of the junior year. Students attend at least eight events on the Honors Activity Calendar (see web site: "Activities") and submit brief reflective reports. **This course is graded Pass/fail.**

### **HONR 040. Senior Activities (0-0-1)**

*Fall and Spring.*

Involvement in cultural and intellectual activities in either semester of the senior year. Students attend at least eight events on the Honors Activity Calendar (see web site: "Activities") and submit brief reflective reports. **This course is graded Pass/fail.**

### **HONR 115. Oxford Seminar (2-2-0)**

*By invitation only.*

The particular focus of the seminar varies from summer to summer but is thematically centered on exploring the good society. We will explore different conceptions of the good society and the role of the individual in the development of the good society. This seminar is designed to provide students with the opportunity for intensive and interactive exploration of some of the fundamental ideas that shape our lives and societies, and by extension contemplate their future in a similar context.

### **HONR 195. Special Topics (credits vary)**

*Restricted to Honors Program students.*

Topics vary, determined by the special interests and needs of students and the expertise of faculty.

### **HONR 295. Special Topics (credits vary)**

*Restricted to Honors Program students.*

Topics vary, determined by the special interests and needs of students and the expertise of faculty.

### **HONR 330. The New York Experience (2-0-8)**

*Restricted to Honors Program Students with sophomore status or above.*

*Summer.*

This interdisciplinary course provides an insider's perspective on selected topics, such as museums, neighborhoods, Central Park, theater, ethnic communities, and the United Nations—with plenty of leisure time to sightsee, browse in shops, go to shows, etc. Each faculty member will conduct parts of the class, providing opportunities to meet and interact with New Yorkers. The trip occurs immediately after finals week of spring semester. While the course will be listed in the summer schedule, required meetings will occur prior to May, and preliminary assignments will be given. There will be a deadline during the summer to submit final assignments.

**HONR 395. Special Topics (credits vary)**

*Restricted to Honors Program students.*

Topics vary, determined by the special interests and needs of students and the expertise of faculty.

**HONR 490W. Problems in the Modern World-WI  
(3-3-0)**

*Prerequisites: ENGL 123; ULLC 223; restricted to Honors Program students with junior or senior standing.*

*Fall and Spring.*

This interdisciplinary course is designed to encourage students to examine the special concerns of the world they are about to enter. The course will have its own unique focus, which may change each year. Each student will prepare a research project on an issue of current concern viewed from the perspective of the student's major discipline. *The Pass/Fail Option may not be used in this course.* Partially satisfies the Writing Intensive requirement.

**HONR 495. Special Topics (credits vary)**

*Restricted to Honors Program students.*

Topics vary, determined by the special interests and needs of students and the expertise of faculty.

**HONR 499. Independent Study (credits vary)**

*Prerequisite: Consent of Director.*

**RSTD 338. Pilgrimage on the Appalachian Trail  
(3-3-0)**

*Prerequisite: consent of instructor.*

*Offered Summer Term 1 only.*

Hiking the Appalachian Trail can be understood as a kind of modern spiritual journey. This class will be an experiential exploration, hiking the Appalachian Trail, comparing and contrasting the experience of walking through the wilderness with traditional pilgrimages, and communicating with others who are themselves not in the class, but hiking the trail for their own reasons. Class members will learn, through reading, journal writing, and interpersonal communication, how pilgrim backpackers experience *communitas* in relation to both persons and their environment.