

Honors Program



DOWNTOWN PITTSBURGH | pointpark.edu

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UNIVERSITY



Honors Program. Challenge Yourself.

Are you motivated and engaged? Are you searching for rigorous, challenging coursework? Do you want to make a difference on campus and beyond? Do you see yourself as a leader among your peers?

The Point Park University Honors Program enables you to study, gain experience and investigate deeply while adding distinction to your degree. Go beyond the classroom to explore and discover yourself. Be challenged to approach course requirements from different perspectives and develop leadership skills through active participation in events on and off our Downtown Pittsburgh campus.

BELONG TO AN ACTIVE COMMUNITY

As a Point Park Honors Program student, you benefit from enhanced opportunities on campus and in the community:

- Priority course registration
- A greater variety of course projects, activities, research opportunities and materials
- Lectures by guest speakers
- Community service and service-learning projects
- Cultural events and trips in the Pittsburgh area and to honors conferences across the country
- Learning and living spaces in Thayer Hall to build a sense of community and transition smoothly to campus life
- A chance to help plan community and service-learning projects each semester
- Honors Program mentors for counsel on academic matters, among others



What I like most about the Honors Program is the community of students we are surrounded with. It is full of people with different majors, creating an environment where we can learn from each other. With every event, there is someone new you can connect with, who you may not have met outside of the program, ultimately creating connections that will last throughout college and into the future.”

REYGAN MYERS '27
- Dance Major (Jazz)



A CAREER-FOCUSED HONORS EDUCATION

At Point Park, our early focus on developing practical skills and moving beyond them in creative ways will serve you well throughout your professional life or prepare you for graduate study. Our Honors Program students have accomplished this in a variety of ways, including the following:

1. Honors students complete three one-credit supplemental course experiences. These supplemental courses have included service learning projects, novel learning experiences (such as travel, research, teaching assistantships and more) along with enhancements to capstone courses. Honors Program students are not charged for the additional credits.
2. The Honors Student Organization provides Honors students with multiple opportunities for community engagement, service-learning, and leadership. This student-run organization is one of the most active on campus, offering numerous programs and activities throughout the year.
3. Second, third and fourth-year Honors students can apply to become mentors, enhancing leadership skills as they guide and assist new students who are transitioning to university life and the honors program.
4. Honors students benefit from membership in regional and national honors organizations and have opportunities to serve on faculty student committees and administrative task forces.
5. Honors students have completed and presented meaningful research at conferences and have been published in academic journals.
6. Honors students have been elected to regional honors councils and have taken an active role in planning conferences, engaging with peers, and advocating for honors students and honors programs.

YOUR CREATIVITY LEADS TO RECOGNITION

As an Honors student, you are encouraged to develop initiatives that reflect your interests and engage your intellectual curiosity. You can excel inside and outside the classroom while being recognized for achievements above and beyond traditional coursework.

Honors students have the opportunity to apply for student assistant positions throughout the University that pay stipends each semester. Honors mentors receive book awards.



The Honors Program has enhanced my Point Park experience by giving me a place to discuss my goals with students and faculty who support me and want me to succeed. I have most enjoyed getting to experience the welcome events that the program has put together. We have gotten to partake in some very fun events while also listening to interesting speakers and learning more about the other members of the Honors Program.”

DELANEY YEAKLE '27

- Applied Computer Science Major

SAMPLE HONORS PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

- Attending and presenting at the National Collegiate Honors Council and the Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference
- Contributing to and supporting local Pittsburgh cultural and professional events
- Supporting community partners and community events such as the Pittsburgh Great Race
- Engaging in robust student learning opportunities such as the Spring Honors Colloquium and Fall Forum
- Participating in and designing speaker and community engagement events devoted to the year's Honors Program theme

You will receive an invitation to join the Honors Program if the following applies to you:

- You were awarded a presidential or transfer presidential scholarship
- You have a 3.5 QPA from your prior educational institution

Important! To become an Honors Program student, you must ACCEPT THE INVITATION with a statement of intent submitted at pointpark.edu/honorsAccept.

You may apply to join the Honors Program (if you did not receive an invitation based on the above criteria), by following these steps:

- Submit an application at pointpark.edu/honorsApp
- Write a statement of intent
- Write a response to the question provided on the application form

HONORS PROGRAM CLASSES AND COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

In recognition of your extra effort, as an Honors student you can reserve your classes in advance of open registration each semester. You will work with your advisors and the Honors program directors to ensure all Honors program requirements will be completed upon graduation. You will also have an opportunity to customize your honors experience by working collaboratively with professors and exploring areas of interest more deeply through honors contract courses.

To complete the program, you must:

- Earn 21 honors credits, which includes completing honors-designated courses, honors contract courses, and three one-credit supplemental course experiences
- Maintain a 3.0 cumulative QPA overall
- Maintain a 3.5 cumulative QPA in honors-related courses
- Work collaboratively with professors in honors contract classes as needed

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Transfer students who have completed honors classes with a “B” grade or higher at other colleges may be able to transfer up to nine credits as honors classes. For more information, contact the program director.



My participation in Honors Program events and activities has enriched my experience at Point Park because I’ve learned about different local groups like the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. It was fascinating to learn about who cares for and manages the trees throughout the city, and their tree inventory workshop with us was my favorite event this year. They showed us how they document different trees and how they decide where they might place a tree. Overall, I think the greatest benefit of the Honors Program is having priority course registration.”

MATTHAEUS FOXALL '26

- Electrical Engineering Major



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Learn more

pointpark.edu/honorsProgram

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