

ELON HONORS PROGRAM



Elon's Honors Program provides a **robust and rigorous academic program** for Elon's **highest achieving students in any major**. Interdisciplinary classes, study abroad, a significant thesis project, and close faculty mentoring, help form a **thriving community of scholars and leaders**.

Mission

- ❖ Encourage students to explore new ideas through small, discussion-based, innovative arts and sciences courses
- ❖ Strengthen students' critical thinking, research and communication skills
- ❖ Create an intellectual community that extends beyond classroom walls
- ❖ Challenge and support Honors Fellows in the highest possible academic achievements
- ❖ Prepare students to excel in graduate or professional pursuits as independent, ethical, open-minded, lifelong learners and community members

Benefits

- ❖ **Community of bright, engaged peers:** Join a vibrant, intellectually engaged community of scholars who will challenge and support you during your four years in the program.
- ❖ **Distinctive and innovative curriculum:** Take one exclusive Honors course each semester in your first two years. These courses are designed by some of Elon's best faculty to engage talented students with new ideas, cutting-edge research, and alternative perspectives that ask Fellows to critically examine their own worldviews as they encounter new ones. Your intellectual horizons will broaden during your first two years as your understanding of academic views of the world deepens.
- ❖ **Mentored research resulting in a bound thesis:** Develop a **major project**, or research a problem or question in your major, assisted by a two-year working relationship with a **faculty mentor** that culminates in a bound volume archived in Elon's Belk Library.
- ❖ **Scholarships & Grants:** Receive a total of **\$80,000** over four years that includes \$13,500 annual Honors scholarship, \$6,000 annual Presidential scholarship, \$1,000 **study abroad grant**, and \$1,000 **thesis research support**.
- ❖ **Living Learning Communities:** Opportunities to live in one of **two beautiful learning communities** reserved for Honors Fellows. Share house dinners with friends, study groups, and community movie nights. Leave campus to hike the Appalachian Trail, visit cities like Charleston and Washington, D.C., with a faculty leader, or work in the community garden.
- ❖ **Public Presentation:** You will present your work at regional, national, and in some cases international conferences.
- ❖ **Access to Lumen Scholarships, National Fellowships, and Undergraduate Research support:** Successful completion of the Honors thesis helps Fellows win national and international scholarships such as Fulbright and Truman awards, obtain significant stipends for graduate and professional degrees, and launch professional careers.
- ❖ **Winter Term Study Abroad Course:** During your first year, you have the opportunity to apply for a spot in a Winter Term course with your Honors peers to Italy to explore the intersections of East and West and develop original research questions.

All Four Years

- ❖ **Honors Picnic:** Socialize and have dinner with all the honors students, directors and staff at the beginning of the year.
- ❖ **Honors Homecoming:** Socialize and tailgate with honors students past and present at Homecoming in the fall.
- ❖ **Service:** Opportunities to do service in the community, whether for a weekend in Asheville each January, or during the year with the Village Project that helps children learn to read.
- ❖ **Colloquia:** Attend intellectual engaging and culturally rich events outside the classroom.

First Year

- ❖ **Elon 101:** 1-credit class that virtually all Elon students take. Honors students take the course as a cohort (1 of 3 sections). Course helps orient students to the intellectual life of college, practical knowledge about registration, counseling services, study abroad, etc., and the goals and expectations of the Honors Program.
- ❖ **The Global Experience:** 4-credit class required of all first year students. Honors students take the course as a cohort (1 of 2 sections). Course challenges students to consider major issues locally and globally with a focus on developing critical thinking skills.
- ❖ **Disciplinary Course:** 4-credit class that introduces Honors students to disciplinary approaches of intellectual inquiry.
- ❖ **Inquiry in Italy:** Optional 4-credit class open only to first-year Honors students. Space is limited as course is heavily subsidized. Students travel to Italy to explore intercultural crossroads.
- ❖ **Service Trip to Asheville:** Optional: spend two nights in Asheville, NC with fellow Honors students conducting service in the community during the day, and socializing with peers and directors in the evenings.
- ❖ **Honors First Year Fellows Retreat:** Focus on community building and fun, this day-long retreat allows first year students the opportunity to get to know each other, and Honors program faculty, in a comfortable, casual atmosphere.
- ❖ **National & International Fellowships Meeting:** An introduction into the wide scope of fellowships and scholarships available to students as they complete their college education and consider plans after graduation.

Second Year

- ❖ **Sophomore Workshop:** Held in both the fall and spring, this workshop helps prepare students for their Honors multi- and interdisciplinary courses as well as provide strategies for finding a research mentor.
- ❖ **2 Interdisciplinary Courses:** Students take two 4-credit classes, one in the fall, one in the spring with their Honors peers. Courses explore issues from multiple and interdisciplinary perspectives and prepare students for their thesis work by asking original research questions and scaffolding a major project. **Note:** If a student studies abroad for a semester, she or he can take their second course in their Junior year.
- ❖ **Lumen Prize:** Many Honors students will choose to apply for the Lumen Prize, a \$20,000 award to support a scholar in their research. In these cases, students typically identify a faculty mentor by the end of their fall semester and apply by March of their Spring semester.

Third Year

- ❖ **Junior Workshop:** Held in both the fall and spring, this workshop helps prepare students to write their thesis proposal.
- ❖ **Writing Proposal Workshop:** Peer-review workshop of drafts of thesis proposals.
- ❖ **Thesis Proposals Due:** Students propose their thesis work in either the fall or spring semester.
- ❖ **HNR498 Independent Research:** Students begin research with their faculty mentors, signing up for HNR498 credit when they propose their thesis. Students will complete 8 hours of HNR498 before they graduate.

Fourth Year

- ❖ **Senior & Mentor Fall Workshop:** Students and their mentors meet together to discuss the thesis and thesis defense. Thesis committees determined.
- ❖ **Presentations of Progress:** Students present their thesis work so far and get feedback from their committee members, peers and audience members.
- ❖ **Senior Spring Workshop:** Students meet to discuss the thesis defense in greater detail.
- ❖ **Peer-Reviewed Presentation:** Students present their work at an appropriate, professional venue
- ❖ **Thesis Defense & Turn In:** Students schedule a defense with their thesis committees. Upon passing, they submit their finished work for binding and publication online and in the library.
- ❖ **Senior Banquet:** Dinner celebration with faculty mentors, Honors directors and special guests.

For questions about Elon's Honors Program, contact us at honors@elon.edu.