

Honors Program

The Monroe College Honors Program provides opportunities for the College's most academically accomplished students to engage in advanced academic work and to participate in a shared intellectual experience with our most distinguished professors and guest lecturers. Students from all disciplines are welcome to apply to the Monroe College Honors Program, either as prospective students through the admissions process or as continuing students by application to the Honors Coordinator. As Honors Program members, students earn Honors units by taking specially designed, multidisciplinary Honors courses, Honors sections of general education or major area courses, and participating in Honors Experiential Learning Activities.

To earn distinction as an Honors Program graduate at the Associate's level, students must earn a *minimum* of ten (10) Honors units:

- Successfully complete HN-150: The Honors Experience and create a portfolio page within the Honors Blackboard Group (3 Honors units);
- Successfully complete two (2) Honors Multidisciplinary Course or Honors section of a General Education or Major-Area Course and create two portfolio pages within the Honors Blackboard Group (6 Honors units);
- Participate in a minimum of one (1) Honors Experiential Activity, which may include community service activities/volunteer activities, participation in a national or regional Honors conference, participation in a Joint Honors Project, or participation in Honors Books Club. After each activity, students create a portfolio page of their experience, which includes reflection and pictures via an online portfolio (1 Honors unit);
- Submit a completed online portfolio; and
- Have a 3.3 cumulative GPA at the time of graduation.

To earn distinction as an Honors Program graduate at the Bachelor's level, students must earn a minimum of twenty-one (21) Honors units:

- Successfully complete HN-150: The Honors Experience and create a portfolio page within the Honors Blackboard Group (3 Honors units);
- Successfully complete four (4) other Honors Multidisciplinary Course(s) or Honors section(s) of a General Education or Major-Area Course(s) and create portfolio pages within the Honors Blackboard Group (12 Honors units);
- Successfully complete HN-450: Honors Program Research Seminar and create a portfolio page within the Honors Blackboard Group (3 Honors units);
- Participate in a minimum of three (3) Honors Experiential Activities, which may include community service activities/volunteer activities, participation in a national or regional Honors conference, participation in a Joint Honors Project, or participation in Honors Books Club. After each activity, students create a portfolio page of their experience, which includes reflection and pictures via an online portfolio (3 Honors units);
- Submit a completed online portfolio;

- Have an exit interview with an Honors Board Member; and
- Have a 3.3 cumulative GPA at the time of graduation.

All Honors Diploma candidates will be reviewed by the Honors Board. The Board will verify and approve that candidates satisfactorily completed all requirements of the Honors Program. Upon approval, the Honors Diploma will be conferred. The Honors diplomas and transcripts bear the symbol of Honors distinction, and graduates are recognized at commencement. An Honors diploma is distinct from Latin honors (cum laude, magna cum laude, summa cum laude), and Honors students may also earn an Honors diploma with Latin honors.

All questions regarding the Monroe College Honors Program, including admission, may be directed to Kathryn MacDonald, Coordinator of the Monroe College Honors Program, at kmacdonald@monroecollege.edu or by phone at (914) 740-6452.

Course Offerings

HN - Honors

The following courses have been designed by the Monroe College Honors Board, and therefore bear the distinction of "HN." These courses are of an interdisciplinary nature, exposing students to various subject matters within humanities and the liberal arts.

HN-150 - The Honors Experience (3)

This introductory Honors course is required for all students in the Honors Program. It utilizes New York City as a basis for interdisciplinary study of politics, economics, transportation, demographics, science and technology, labor, culture and the arts. The specific themes studied vary each academic year. The course requires extensive reading and writing assignments in conjunction with field trips and site visits to complement coursework. It culminates in the presentation of a final research project.

Prerequisite: None.

HN-160 - Decades: A Cultural Exploration (3)

This interdisciplinary thematic course explores turbulent decades that changed the United States of America through the Humanities, Affairs of State, Social Interactions, and Class Culture. With music as the guiding thread, students tour tumultuous times throughout history, and explore how the events of those times now affect their lives. Guest lecturers with particular expertise and experiences will offer their perspectives during the semester. Students complete reading assignments, participate in classroom discussions, take part in site visits, and conduct research on pertinent aspects of the decade being studied.

Prerequisite: None.

HN-165 - Decoding Secret Messages (3)

This interdisciplinary course examines the art of secret messages sent throughout history and challenges students to develop the skills to create secret messages. Students are exposed to basic algebra concepts essential to this art. Additionally, other interdisciplinary skills, like writing and analytical thinking, are honed to understand encryption and decryption. Every day, thousands of messages are sent - subliminally through commercials, as shortcuts in text messages, and via live conversations with colleagues. While messages are most often understood as verbatim, messages can be coded so that only people with decoding knowledge could decipher them. The course begins in Ancient Rome, moving through the Revolutionary War, and working all the way up to modern-day secret messages in media. The course also focuses on Alan Turing's contribution to decoding messages and his ability to crack the enigma machine during World War II. The course shows students that there is more to communication than meets the eye.

Prerequisite: None.

HN-240 - The Art and Culture of World Dance (3)

This course explores the cultural heritage, social mores, religious influences, and history of three geographic locations through the medium of dance. Students study the function of dance as an art and as a lens for the society around it. Choreography and performance are central components of this interdisciplinary course.

Prerequisite: None.

HN-243 - The World of Modern Art (3)

Students explore the multifaceted world of modern art in this survey course that examines the transitions and innovations of arts from realism to what is known as today's modern art. With a foundation in art history, students come to understand how fine art as a field has developed. The course also will undertake understanding and appreciating the creative process. Yet another lens of the course looks at art from a scholarly and critical perspective. As part of this interdisciplinary course, students are asked to engage in the process of creativity and develop several pieces of finished artwork.

Prerequisite: None.

HN-245 - Hip Hop – Origins, Culture and Soul (3)

This course introduces students to the multifaceted world of hip hop. Hip Hop has a rich history, and students will start with the birth of this dynamic genre of music. The emergence and evolution of subsequent Hip Hop culture are examined. The influences of Hip Hop are embedded in many historical and cultural events, including the emergence of Afro-American people and black solidarity movements, both in terms of the cultural roots and routes of Afro-Latino, Caribbean, and indigenous influences on African American expressions.

Prerequisite: None.

HN-250 - The American Presidency (3)

Decisions made in the White House have started and ended wars, caused and cured economic crises, and expanded and contracted human rights. The role of the presidency today is remarkably different than when George Washington first took the oath of office in 1789. Using the careers of a select roster of U.S. presidents, students explore concepts of leadership and human dynamics in the political arena and examine how these presidents contributed to pivotal points in American history.

Prerequisite: None.

HN-260 - Human Rights Movements in History (3)

This interdisciplinary course uses the study of the Holocaust to investigate causes and lessons of other modern genocides. Readings, films, field trips, and guest lecturers offer students a range

of perspectives. Students discuss and research genocidal conditions and responses. The course culminates in a final presentation reflecting students' own investigation and analyses. This course fosters the development of a community of scholars, guiding them to become global citizens and "up standers" for social justice.

Prerequisite: None.

HN-265 - Introduction to Ethics (3)

Introduction to Ethics is a study of the basic theories, methods, and problems of moral philosophy. Topics include the study of the moral theories of Aristotle, Aquinas, Hobbes, Kant, Mill, and Rawls; the relationship of ethics and morality to religious belief; morality and evolution; the nature and meaning of moral terms; moral absolutism and relativism; egoism and altruism; the nature of moral reasoning; conceptions of the good life; free will and moral responsibility.

Prerequisite: None.

HN-270 - Contemporary Literary Genres (3)

This course allows students to engage in an in-depth exploration of a particular literary genre. These genres may include, but are not limited to: the evolution of the vampire in fiction, evolving ideas in science fiction, romance, mystery and crime, or historical fiction. Students study the chosen genre with a critical lens, learn how the genre came into existence, its richness, and its impact and implications.

Prerequisite: EN-110 or EN-121.

HN-314 - World-Changing Discoveries (3)

In all aspects of science and technology, the goal of innovation has been to improve the quality of life. This course covers the evolution of science and technological progress and its perennial impact on social, political, economic, and cultural characteristics. An important objective of the course is a review of the contributions of principal investigators who are responsible for the major breakthroughs that have shaped society; attention is given to the practical and everyday results of these advances.

Prerequisite: None.

HN-350 - Comparative Urbanism (3)

This interdisciplinary advanced honors course challenges the student to understand the dynamic relationship of spatial organization and constructed environments to politics, economics, cultures, demographics, technology, and societies. Students study the changing forms of three cities over time and analyze how people have recreated urban life through time and across cultures. Students may pursue detailed research in realms such as planning, architecture, urban social and economic relations, political influences on housing and urban development, influence of changing populations, history, and environmental issues.

Prerequisite: HN-150 and Junior Standing.

HN-450 - Honors Program Research Seminar (3)

This upper division seminar is a required capstone experience for Bachelor's students enrolled in the Monroe College Honors Program. One goal of this course is to prepare students for graduate-level research. Under the guidance of a faculty mentor and within the context of the seminar's theme, students develop research questions, an annotated bibliography, an assessment of the sources, and a literature review. At the end of the semester, the seminar culminates in the submission and defense of a research proposal describing an original research project the student could one day undertake.

Prerequisite: HN-150 and Senior Standing.