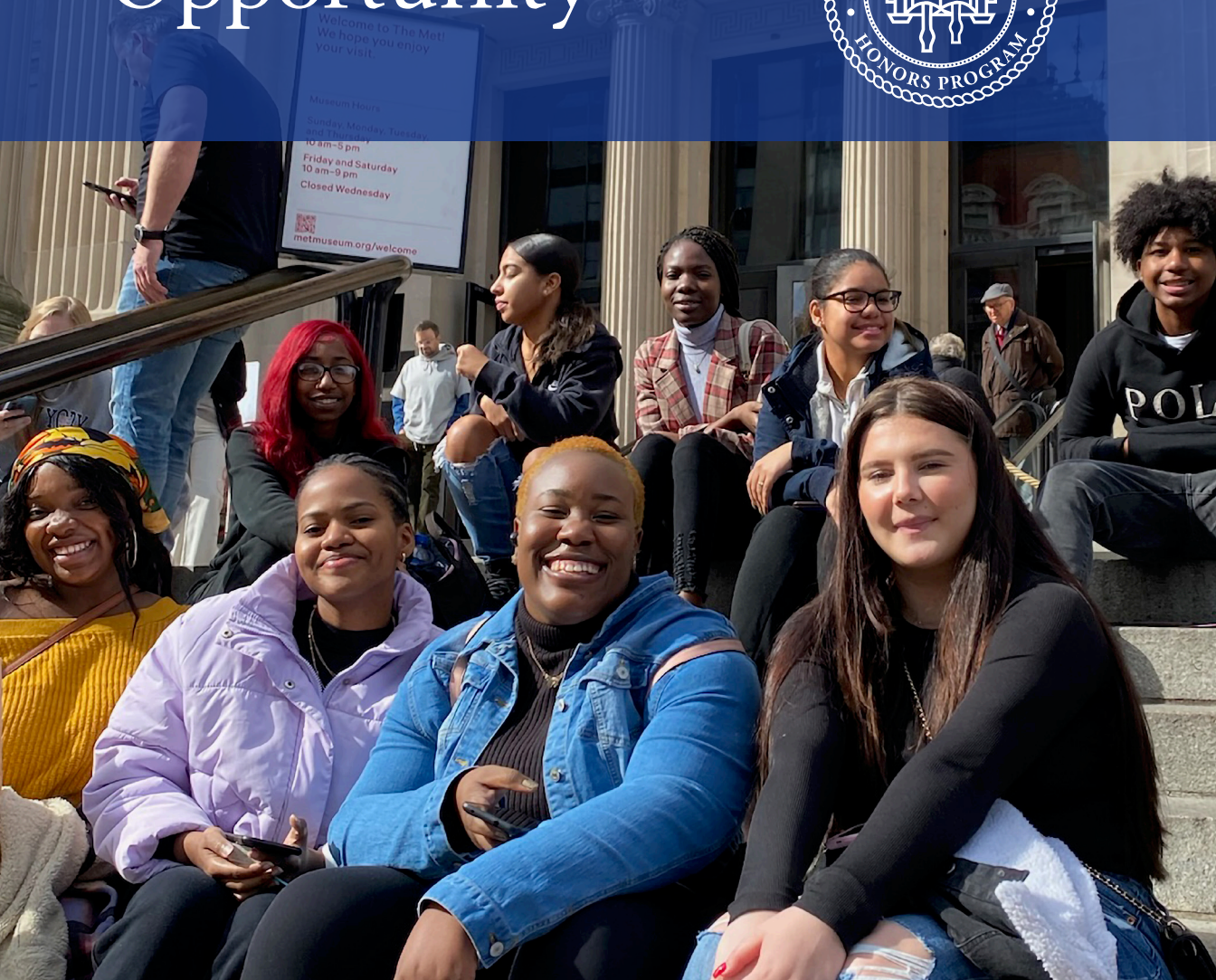


# MONROE UNIVERSITY HONORS: Academic Excellence, Leadership, and Opportunity



**MONROE UNIVERSITY**  
**HONORS PROGRAM**

# THE STORY BEHIND HONORS



Since 2004, the Monroe University Honors Program has provided advanced learning opportunities to our most accomplished students.

Available to all majors at Monroe, the Honors Program challenges students with an enhanced curriculum and unique, engaging social and academic activities. The Honors Program is committed to ensuring that students are prepared for a successful career or graduate study upon graduation.

With our students in mind, the Honors Program is flexible! Students can customize their program, choosing many of the classes they take and the activities they get involved in. At our university, the Honors Program meets our students rather than our students having to meet the program.

**Whether in-person, virtual, or online, the Honors Program is accessible to any student!**







“The Honors Program ignited my passion for graduate study and taught me the value of being open-minded. It made me stronger and more driven to challenge myself, both in my MBA journey and as a hospitality professional.”

ELI PEMBERTON, HONORS PROGRAM ALUM

# PROGRAM ADVANTAGES

**GO BEYOND THE CLASSROOM:** As part of an Honors course, students expand their learning beyond the classroom by visiting museums, attending performances, and participating in lectures. They can also present at local, regional, and national honors conferences, gaining opportunities to travel across the country!

**GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY:** Honors students participate in community service and volunteer activities every semester.

**SERVE AS A LEADER:** Honors students can choose to run for the Honors Student Advisory Board or contribute to the Honors newsletter.

**EARN A GRADUATE DEGREE:** Honors Program graduates often pursue and earn graduate degrees from top programs.

**EXPLORE ENHANCED ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES:** Honors students can propose their completed projects to conferences held across the continental United States. Upon acceptance, they have the opportunity to travel and present their work.

# HONORS PROGRAM PATHWAYS



## Traditional Pathways

### ASSOCIATE DEGREE

- Complete The Honors Experience course
- Choose two other Honors elective courses/ honors enhancements
- Complete at least one Honors Experiential Activity
- Maintain a 3.3 GPA

### BACHELOR'S DEGREE

- Complete The Honors Experience course
- Choose four other Honors elective courses/ honors enhancements
- Complete Honors Program Research Seminar Course
- Complete at least three Honors Experiential Activities
- Maintain a 3.3 GPA

## Flex Pathways

### ASSOCIATE DEGREE

- Complete the Honors Experience Flex Pathway Series (three non-credit modules)
- Choose two other Honors elective courses/ honors enhancements
- Complete at least one Honors Experiential Activity
- Maintain a 3.3 GPA

### BACHELOR'S DEGREE

- Complete the Honors Experience Flex Pathway Series (three non-credit modules)
- Choose four other Honors elective courses/ honors enhancements
- Complete Honors Program Research Seminar Course
- Complete at least three Honors Experiential Activities
- Maintain a 3.3 GPA

# OUR HONORS PROGRAM IS AWARD-WINNING

**2024:** Our honors newsletter, *The Experience*, tied for First Place in the Northeast Regional Honors Council (NRHC) Publications Contest.

**2021:** Maria Reyes (Class of 2022) was awarded First Place in the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) Poster Competition.

**2019:** Professor Bruce Wigutow was named Honors Professional of the Year as a Faculty Member by the Northeast Regional Honors Council (NRHC).

**2017:** Director Kathryn MacDonald was awarded the Sam Schuman Award for Excellence at a Four-Year Institution by the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC). Also, *The Experience* won Third Place in the National Collegiate Honors Council's Newsletter Contest.

**2016:** Nathalie Waldschmidt (Class of 2018) was named National Collegiate Honors Council's (NCHC) Honors Student of the Year at a Four-Year Institution.



“My Honors experience combined academic excellence with immersive opportunities, including curated events, knowledge sharing, and interactions with experts, enhancing my skills in public speaking, problem-solving, data analysis, and critical thinking.”

NICOLE LIBURD, HONORS PROGRAM ALUM



# LIFE AFTER HONORS



**ALICIA LALITE**, *Education Management Professional*

My life-changing journey at Monroe began in Fall 2006 as a business major. As the first blind student to attend Monroe, I didn't fully grasp the significance of this achievement at the time. However, I saw it as an opportunity to strive for excellence in pursuing my educational goals and to pave the way for other individuals with disabilities who value educational development and inclusive learning environments. The colloquium events provided students with opportunities to develop and refine exceptional presentation skills. These experiences have been invaluable in preparing me for the competitive business world, where I now thrive as a lecturer and a final-year Ph.D. student.



**ELVY GEREZ**, *Global Service Desk Manager,  
U.S. Army First Lieutenant*

My honors journey was more than an academic pursuit—it was a cornerstone that solidified a lifelong commitment to learning, growth, and purpose-driven leadership. Though my career began in hospitality, I found my true passion in IT—a field where, for the last decade, I have thrived in navigating complex systems, leading teams, and solving problems. The Honors Program sharpened my ability to think critically, lead with integrity, and embrace challenges with curiosity. It prepared me for a career and shaped how I move through the world—as an innovator, a problem-solver, and a leader. Looking back, I am thankful for the foundation it provided and the values it instilled. The path isn't always straightforward, but every step—every pivot—shapes us in ways we don't expect and prepares us for what's next.



**THRUPHTY KRISHNAN**, *Director of White Collar and Organized Crimes Unit*

The Honors Program provided me with a foundation in research methodology that has helped me build and thrive in my career. The opportunities for public speaking and networking presented by various conferences and events also widened my horizon and made me fearless about pursuing my dreams and passions. Completing the program gave me a powerful toolbox. Since graduation, I have earned my MBA/JD from New York University and my Ph.D. in Business Administration from Harvard. Everything I learned in honors has continued to fuel my success.

# HONORS COURSES

Students in the Honors Program have access to a broad range of amazing courses.

**THE HONORS EXPERIENCE.** An interdisciplinary examination of art, science, social issues, history, and more. This course introduces students to the “honors” way of thinking and writing.

**DECADES: A CULTURAL EXPLORATION.** Travel back in time and study a decade through the lens of music, history, politics, and social change.

**DECODING SECRET MESSAGES THROUGH MEDIA.** There are hidden messages all around us. Study encryption and decryption to communicate like a pro.

**THE ART AND CULTURE OF WORLD DANCE.** Learn about the influence of music and dance on national culture and identity — and bring your dancing shoes!!

**THE WORLD OF MODERN ART.** Understand some of the major influences on famous artists and their work. Follow in their footsteps by putting paint to canvas yourself.

**INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS.** An interdisciplinary study of ethical theorems in everything from science and medicine to criminal justice and sports management.

**THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY.** Analyze how social, political, cultural, and historical influences affected the decisions and actions of various American presidents.

**HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENTS IN HISTORY.** By critically examining human rights atrocities throughout history, understand political, economic, and societal factors and consequences. Empower yourself to be an advocate for social justice.

**CONTEMPORARY LITERARY GENRES.** Engage in an in-depth exploration of a particular literary genre. Learn how it was developed and examine its richness and impact.

**WORLD-CHANGING DISCOVERIES.** This course looks at the “game changers” of technology, starting with fire and leading up to modern day innovations like 3D printing.

**COMPARATIVE URBANISM.** Visit several major U.S. cities to study first-hand how historical, social, and political influences had an impact on their culture, evolution, and infrastructure.

**HONORS PROGRAM RESEARCH SEMINAR.** Never look at research the same again. Construct a research proposal and write a literature review, both essential skills for graduate school!

## COURSE CLOSE-UP HIP HOP: ORIGINS, CULTURE & SOUL

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.

# MONROE UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

**48**

STUDENTS  
HAVE  
PRESENTED AT  
NCHC SINCE  
2006

**657**

HONORS DIPLOMAS CONFERRED  
SINCE THE PROGRAM'S BEGINNING

**212**

STUDENTS CURRENTLY REGISTERED  
AS MEMBERS OF THE HONORS PROGRAM



**566** students have  
graduated from the Honors  
Program since the beginning

**4**

NATIONAL  
AWARDS WON  
BY OUR HONORS  
PROGRAM

 **NRHC**

**2**

REGIONAL AWARDS  
WON BY OUR  
HONORS PROGRAM

**5**

NUMBER OF  
STUDENTS WHO  
HAVE SERVED AS  
AN NRHC STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVE

**17**

FACULTY  
MEMBERS HAVE PRESENTED  
AT NCHC SINCE 2006

**139**

STUDENTS HAVE  
ATTENDED  
NRHC SINCE 2011

**MONROE UNIVERSITY**

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