



"I chose this program in order to push myself to my limits as a student, young adult, and a person overall... I've enjoyed the open-endedness of the program. To know that my answer can be totally different from another student's, but both can still hold truth is a big plus. The ability to connect with my peers and know that what I say holds some value really makes the honors program memorable for me."

- Michael Troy, business marketing major, Class of 2012

What are the requirements to apply?

Students applying to the Merrimack College Honors Program must be in the top 10% of the high school graduating class and have achieved a 3.5 GPA or higher. The typical Honors Program student also demonstrates excellent writing and/or mathematics and science skills, and shows evidence of leadership and community involvement. Qualified students transferring to Merrimack before the end of their third collegiate semester may also apply.

How do I apply?

Qualified students are accepted into the Program after review by the Office of Admissions and the Honors Program Committee. Please speak with the Office of Admissions at (978) 837-5100 or email Prof. William Wians, the Program director, at honors@merrimack.edu for further information.

To learn more about the Merrimack College Honors Program, go to Academics at the Merrimack College Web site and click on Honors Program.



315 Turnpike Street, North Andover, Massachusetts 01845
www.merrimack.edu

Merrimack College

HONORS PROGRAM

The Merrimack College Honors Program is inspired by St. Augustine's belief that studying with friends is the best environment for learning, challenging oneself and for discovering one's passions. In describing his early education, he fondly recalls,

"I found all kinds of joy when I was in the company of my friends - talking, laughing and being kind to each other - reading, engaging books together - going from the lightest joking to talking of the deepest things and back again."

(Confessions 4: 8, 13)

What is the Honors Program?

The Merrimack College Honors Program offers students with strong academic credentials, class standing, and leadership qualities the opportunity to study with other exceptional students in smaller and more challenging classes. The Program isn't a separate major, but an innovative and exciting approach to fulfilling the College's general education requirements and to earn honors credit in advanced courses. The Program also includes a variety of social and co-curricular activities.

Inspired by Augustine's philosophy of teaching and learning, the Program is dedicated to:

- **Learning in Community** – We believe that learning with friends in small classes is the best way to succeed academically and personally.
- **Active Learning** – Honors courses are lively seminar-based discussions. Many include service and experiential learning such as community service, fieldtrips, concerts, and plays. The Program is a laboratory for innovative teaching.
- **Transformative Experiences** – The Honors Program challenges students to reach beyond their comfort level, to try new things in a process of self-discovery. Augustine firmly believed that wisdom comes by reflecting on life's experiences and seeking to understand ourselves through study, dialogue with others, and contemplation.

What are the benefits of joining the Honors community?

Merrimack College is a special place to receive one's education. We think the Honors Program adds to that specialness in many ways:

- A focus on the education and formation of the whole person—not just intellectually, but morally, emotionally, and spiritually as well.
- Intellectually curious, creative, and hard-working students who inspire, challenge, support, and befriend one another.
- Small, dynamic classes with some of the College's best professors. All honors courses are capped at 15 students.
- Regular contact with faculty teaching in the Program. You will know your professors and they will know you.

- Numerous co-curricular activities throughout the year—concerts, plays, dinners, museums, hockey games, go-carts (!), maybe even a group trip to Tanglewood or New York City.
- Honors advising throughout your education that pays close attention to your life at Merrimack and beyond—the best courses to take; meeting graduation requirements; advice on internships; applying to graduate schools and major scholarships (Fulbright, Truman, etc.); discussions of career choices and opportunities; and a concern with the student's overall well-being.
- "Honors Program" will be noted on transcripts and diplomas signaling to employers and graduate schools that you have achieved something exceptional in your college education.



What does the Program expect of its students?

Students in the Honors Program must take at least eight honors courses (usually one per semester). Each semester, the Program offers special honors sections designed to satisfy the College's general education requirements (for example, Honors

Introduction to College Writing). Several of these courses utilize an innovative service-learning component that gets students directly engaged with the local community and reflects the Augustinian commitment to serving others. Other honors courses are electives based on student interests, or allow students to earn honors credit in advanced courses. A final capstone course is taken in the student's senior year.

Outside the classroom, students are expected to take part in one or two co-curricular activities each semester, maintain an active involvement in the Honors Program itself, and play a leadership role on campus in general.

Students must maintain at least a 3.5 GPA, and fulfill a service-learning requirement.

"I applied for the Honors Program because I wanted to have a support network and be surrounded by a group of people with similar goals and ambitions to my own. The idea of being part of an organization where high academic performance was the norm and highly-respected also made joining the Honors Program more appealing... I really like how I have bonded with the other students in the program. We share a lot of the same interests and concerns and we're all very focused. Also, the perks, such as free tickets to performances at the Rogers Center and some of the co-curriculars, are really fun too."

- Angela Milinazzo, English major, Class of 2012

H O N O R S P R O G R A M

