Texas A&M University at Galveston Honors Program

The central goal of Honors education at Texas A&M University at Galveston is academic enrichment; our Honors Program is based on the belief that promising students benefit from:

- close contact with accomplished faculty,
- collaborative learning with other motivated students,
- small, discussion-based seminars or one-on-one instruction,
- knowledge production through individual research experiences,
- and participations with internships, foreign study, and campus or community service.

The Texas A&M University at Galveston Honors Program is an ideal opportunity for motivated, curious students who are filled with big ideas, who long for outlets for creative expression, and who seek out intellectual challenges. Our goal is to make available the resources of a major research institution to undergraduate students whose track record of academic success demonstrates a readiness to take greater personal responsibility for their own education.

The defining characteristics of Honors study at Texas A&M University is engagement of interdisciplinary topics in small classes with professors dedicated to teaching and engaged in research.

**Earning Galveston Honors Distinction upon Graduation**

Honors Students must:

- Earn a minimum of 18 Honors credits hours before graduation
  - 3 of the 18 credits must be Honors seminar courses (there are 3 seminar courses, 1 credit hour a seminar)
- Maintain a 3.5 cumulative GPA
- Uphold Aggie Code of Honor: Aggies do not lie, cheat, or steal

**Earning Honors Credit**

There are several ways to earn Honors credit:

**Honors Courses**: Our campus offers a handful of courses designated as Honors (courses with a 200 section and are designated with HNR) in the common core curriculum open to Honors students. Students should consult with an academic advisor before registering for Honors courses. *Please note that course offerings are subject to change from semester to semester.

**Every student is required to take all of the following 3 Honors Seminars**

**MAST 101 (Connections)**: A first year experience seminar to explore the connections between academics disciplines to develop creative and critical thinking strategies which will increase abilities to implement solutions, refine information literacy skills, and identify the resources available for a successful transition from high school to the university environment.
MAST 480 (Honors Seminar in Service Learning): Opportunities for community service through active community participation; includes structured time of reflection; use of skills and knowledge in real-life situations; extend learning beyond the classroom; foster a sense of caring for others. **Junior or Senior classification, or approval from instructor.**

MAST 481 (Seminar in Maritime Studies): This course is intended to provide students with the opportunity to conduct in-depth research on a particular issue, event, period, or people in maritime studies. **Junior or Senior classification or approval from instructor.**

**Course Contracts for Honors Credit:** Course Contracts allow students to receive Honors credit for non-Honors courses, including courses within the major field of study, research/thesis, independent study, capstone courses, and study abroad courses. In essence, a student proposes to "contract" the course for Honors credit by proposing alternate or additional activities to those listed by the instructor in the course syllabus; these activities should allow the student to emulate the experience of an Honors course and should augment the course activities, not simply add to them.

**Process:**

1. Speak with the professor of the course of interest about the possibility of contracting the course (no class is guaranteed to be eligible; all contracts are at the discretion of the professor and Honors Director)
2. Fill out the course contract (found on the website) and have the professor review and sign the contract
3. Turn in contract to Honors advisor
4. Complete the agreed upon contract
5. Fill out and turn in the contract verification form

**Honors credit is given at the end of the semester once the student has satisfactorily completed the activities described in the Honors Course Contract application. Honors credit will be applied to the student’s transcript after final grades for the class have been posted. All contract credit is processed through College Station.**

**Full year of service as an officer for Lambda Kappa Alpha:** 1 hour of Honors credit can be awarded to a student who serves as Honors President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian/Auxiliary Historians. A **maximum of 1 credit hour can be awarded per student.**

**AP score:** If a student obtains a 5 on an AP test, a maximum of 3 credits can be awarded.

**Transfer credit:** If a student has taken Honors course at another institution (and has an Honors designation of the course on the transcripts), up to 7 Honors credits can be awarded.
If a student falls below the 3.5 cumulative GPA requirement

Each semester every Honors student’s cumulative GPA is evaluated.

If the student does not meet the minimum cumulative GPA requirement but maintained a 3.0 or above and has the mathematical possibility to obtain the 3.5 in 1-2 semesters, the student will be given an opportunity to raise their grades while remaining under the Honors provisional statuses listed below. Notifications of a student’s status in the program is e-mailed to your university e-mail every semester.

Waiver: A waiver is granted to a student whose GPA is below 3.5 but it is mathematically possible for the student to raise their GPA $\geq 3.5$ in one very successful semester. While on a waiver a student will still be eligible to take an Honors designated course, contract a course for Honors credit, pre-register early for courses, and hold an officer position. Waivered students are required to meet with the Honors advisor 3 times during the semester to check-in, receive academic coaching, and receive recommendations for available resources. Failure to meet any requirements can result in dismissal from the program.

At the end of the semester each waiver student is reviewed and evaluated on their academic progress. Decisions for the following semester are based on:

- If cumulative GPA $\geq 3.5$: full member status restored.
- If cumulative GPA $\leq 3.5$ and performance over semester has improved but not quite where it needs to be: placed on probation.
- If cumulative GPA $\leq 3.5$ and performance over semester has not improved: dismissal from program.

Probation: Probation is granted to a student whose GPA is below 3.5 but it is mathematically possible for the student to raise their GPA $\geq 3.5$ in two very successful semesters, OR a student has already received a waiver for the previous semester and upon performance evaluation was deemed eligible for one more semester to raise their GPA to the 3.5 minimum. On probation a student will not be eligible to take an Honors designated course, pre-register early, or hold an officer position. However, they are still eligible to contract a course for Honors credit. While on probation students are required to meet with the Honors advisor 3 times during the semester to check-in, receive academic coaching, and receive recommendations for available resources. Failure to meet any requirements can result in dismissal from the program.

At the end of the semester each waiver student is reviewed and evaluated on their academic progress. Decisions for the following semester are based on:

- If cumulative GPA $\geq 3.5$: full member status restored.
- If cumulative GPA $\leq 3.5$ and performance over semester has improved but not quite where it needs to be: placed on continuing probation unless you have received a waiver the previous semester (please refer to last bullet point).
- If cumulative GPA $\leq 3.5$ and performance over semester has not improved: dismissal from program.
• If a student had a waiver the previous semester and still were not able to bring their GPA after being on probation, unfortunately the student will be dismissed from the program.

**Continuing Probation:** Continuing probation is granted to a student who has successfully completed probation the previous semester, whose GPA is below 3.5 but it is mathematically possible for the student to raise their GPA ≥ 3.5 in one very successful semester. On continuing probation a student will not be eligible to take an Honors designated course, pre-register early, or hold an officer position, however they are still eligible to contract a course for Honors credit. While on continuing probation, students are required to meet with the Honors advisor 3 times during the semester to check-in, receive academic coaching, and receive recommendations for available resources. Failure to meet any requirements can result in dismissal from the program.

At the end of the semester each waiver student is reviewed and evaluated on their academic progress. Decisions for the following semester are based on:

• If cumulative GPA ≥ 3.5: full member status restored.
• If cumulative GPA ≤ 3.5: dismissal from the program.

All forms are available at [http://tamug.edu/honors/Forms.html](http://tamug.edu/honors/Forms.html). Read your status carefully and fill out the correct form.

**Required Honors Meetings**

Each semester the program will hold 3-4 required meetings. Notifications of the dates and locations will be available on the Honors website (www.tamug.edu/honors) and an e-mail is sent to your university email (found through Howdy). If a student is not able to attend (for ANY reason) you will need to contact their class representative to be briefed on what was missed. There is a two week window from the missed meeting to connect with the class representative in order to have the absence from the meeting changed, after the two week period, the absence stands. If a student has 2 absences and is conducting an Honors contract, the contract can be terminated. If a student has 2 absences and is not conducting an Honors contract, the student can be dismissed from the program.

**Lambda Kappa Alpha Believes in Serving the Community!**

When students join the Honors Program they are automatically a member of Lambda Kappa Alpha (LKA). LKA partners with several charitable organizations and throughout the year we participate in on-campus and off-campus events and service projects.

Every spring semester three $500 service awards are available for students who wish to participate. Each participant is required to write a 4 page reflection paper of the past year’s community service.