Texas A&M University at Galveston
Honors Requirements

The Honors coursework requirements may lead to an honors designation upon graduation at the university level. Graduating students receive honors designations on their official Texas A&M University transcript and those students receive special recognition at their graduation ceremonies. An Honors student will develop an individualized honors plan including a capstone experience, independent study, or senior thesis. If the student chooses to pursue a senior thesis, the student will also be designated as a University Undergraduate Research Scholar. Students interested in pursuing these plans should consult with an Honors Academic Advisor early and often. Students are also advised to begin taking honors courses as early as possible and consistently enroll in at least one honors course per semester.

Galveston Honors Requirements

The requirements for the Galveston Honors distinction are directly tied to the unique perspective of the marine and maritime industry and the mission of Texas A&M University at Galveston. The program is designed to utilize the interdisciplinary capabilities and character of the campus. Completion of Galveston Honors requires a minimum of 18 honors credit hours.

The following minimum requirements must be completed for students to achieve an Honors designation indicated on their official transcript:

✓ A minimum of 18 honors credits with at least 12 honors credits taken in residence.

✓ At least 6 honors credits in courses or types of courses chosen by the department, these may be but are not required to be outside the department or outside the courses required for the student’s major and/or minor;

✓ At least 3 honors credits of the 18 required honors credits in a 400-level or above (graduate courses accepted) course, including 491H or 485H research or independent study;

✓ No more than 6 honors credits in 491H and 485H combined.

✓ No more than 6 honors credits of graduate courses registered for graduate credit (600-level).

* A maximum of 6 honors credits by AP or transfer credit may be used in the completion of Galveston Honors.

* At graduation a student must have a cumulative Texas A&M GPR of at least 3.5 and accumulative Honors GPR of at least 3.25.
**Sample Program**

**Freshmen and Sophomore Semester Core Curriculum:** 2 Honor classes (6 credits), *Engl 210.200* (for 2014 freshman & present Sophomores 3 credits), and a Freshman-Sophomore Colloquium Mast 101.200 (1 credit). ENGL 210 Honors will prepare students for in-depth research including primary sources, research questions, format analysis, and literature searches. Students who complete at least 10 credit hours of honors coursework in residence at Texas A&M University at Galveston during their freshman and sophomore years will be considered Honor Candidates. Designated Honor Candidates have the opportunity to participate in junior level colloquiums and pursue an honors independent study.

**Junior Fall Semester:** 1 Honors class *Engl 301.200* (for present Juniors 3 credits) and Fall Colloquium Mast 481.200 (1 credit). Honors designated or contract for Honors class will replace English 301 beginning fall 2014 (See Insert). During the fall of the junior year, students should identify a faculty member mentor in consultation with their department head and Honors Director. This faculty member will help shape the student’s focus for future study and then serve as the faculty of record for the Contract for Honors, Independent Study or Undergraduate Research Scholars Thesis. An early relationship will promote more in-depth thought as well as sufficient time to prepare.

**Junior Spring Semester:** Spring Colloquium Mast 480.200 Service Learning (1 credit).

**Senior Fall Semester:** Begin Contract for Honors, Independent Study, Capstone or Undergraduate Research Scholars Thesis 485 (3 credits).

**Senior Spring Semester:** Completion of Capstone or Undergraduate Research Scholars Thesis 491.

### Lower Division

**Freshman & Sophomores**

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<th>2 Core Curriculum Honor Classes</th>
<th>Honors designated or contract for Honors class</th>
<th>Semester credit hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Honors Colloquium</td>
<td>Mast 101.200 (Connections)</td>
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**Sophomores** (fall semester)

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<th>1 Technical Writing</th>
<th>English 210.200 (Beginning fall 2014)</th>
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**Juniors**

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<tr>
<th>1 Honors Colloquium</th>
<th>Mast 481.200 Fall semester</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Honors Colloquium</td>
<td>Mast 480.200 (Service learning)</td>
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Seniors
Students are required to take at least 3 honors credits of the 18 required honors credits in a 400-level or above course, including 491H or 485H research or independent study.

*Capstone or Undergraduate Research Scholars Thesis* requires two semesters of 400 level classes.

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**Contract for Honors:** An Honors Contract is a method for adding an "honors dimension" to a course. The contract permits honors students to turn a regular University course into an Honors Course by contracting with the instructor to complete extra work and receive Honors Credit. The contract involves an agreement between the honors student, a Galveston faculty member, and the Honors Director. The Honors Contract should add an academic dimension to the course by introducing new material or by allowing the student to go into greater depth in some aspect of the course other than what is normally required. It should be made clear on the Honors Contract how this work exceeds regular course requirements. Since the contract must be supervised by a faculty member, students should select faculty who have the time to oversee their projects to completion. Contract for honors can also include internships and study abroad courses.

**Independent Study:** During the senior year, students will enroll in a minimum of 3 semester credit hours of *Independent Study (485), Undergraduate Research (491)*, or appropriate Capstone Experience with their faculty mentor in their major. While projects may vary greatly depending on the interests of the student and the faculty member, the experience should culminate in a final project that could be presented as a poster, reflection paper, article, or oral presentation. Students will be encouraged to present these projects at Colloquium, TAMUG Research Week, NCHC (National Collegiate Honors Council) yearly convention, and other appropriate venues.

**Honors Senior Thesis:** The University Undergraduate Research Scholars at Texas A&M University at Galveston provides exceptional seniors with the chance to sample graduate school. Each Undergraduate Research Scholars works under the supervision of a faculty member as the student conducts her or his own independent research project over the course of an academic year (Fall and Spring Semesters). Research Fellow students must complete an *Honors Independent Study 485* (3 credits), and a *Undergraduate Research 491* (2 credits) during their senior semesters. The program culminates with a student’s senior honors
thesis. Honors senior thesis participants are also eligible for TIO (Texas Institute of Oceanography)/Undergraduate Student Fellowship Award.

**Note:** Students should consult with their academic department head regarding substitutions for their degree plan. Many departments will use colloquium hours and/or independent study hours as professional or technical electives for the degree plan.

**Colloquium:** Honors students are required to complete a one-credit hour course each term for a minimum of three semesters. This seminar will approach a different topic each semester related to the marine and maritime environment and will fully explore the topic from multiple dimensions including engineering, business, transportation, science, ecology, ethics, socio-political thought, economics, and policy.

**Lambda Kappa Alpha Honors Association**

Students who are eligible to enroll in honors coursework may participate in the Honors Association Lambda Kappa Alpha. The Association supports welcome activities for new students, participates in Honors activities on and off campus, and other initiatives to support a learning community.

**Honors Benefits**

- Graduation from Texas A&M at Galveston with honors
- Early registration
- Faculty mentors
- Small participatory class sizes
- Hands on learning
- Individualized study
- Availability to all majors
- Competitive scholarships