

Our students

The Irvin D. Reid Honors College provides Wayne State's highest-achieving undergraduates with a program that is academically rigorous and culturally engaged, capitalizing on Detroit's energy and diversity. Founded in 2008, it is home to roughly 2,000 students. They pursue majors across the curriculum, from the natural and social sciences to business, engineering, the arts and humanities, education, and nursing.

Our faculty

Wayne State's "Research One" designation from the Carnegie Foundation signals that our faculty are not only great teachers, but also worldclass scholars in their fields. The Honors College combines the opportunities of a premier research university with the personal attention of a small liberal arts college.

The benefits of Honors

The Irvin D. Reid Honors College offers many advantages, including:

- A small community of high-achieving students
- Pre-priority class registration
- Dedicated Honors academic advisors
- Close mentoring by full-time faculty
- Unique opportunities for undergraduate research
- Field-learning experiences in the city of Detroit
- Competitive private scholarships
- Honors floors in residence halls
- Special recognition at graduation, with Honors designation on degree and transcript





Types of Honors

Eligible students may pursue University Honors, Departmental Honors or both. Check our website for current requirements.

University Honors: The University Honors track is an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary co-major that requires 28 Honors credits among the 120 required for graduation. These credits include:

- A foundational sequence with a fall City course and a winter seminar of the student's choice
- A field or experiential learning course, for which the student may choose either service learning, undergraduate research, study abroad or an internship/co-op/practicum
- A junior/senior seminar
- A senior thesis project

Most Honors credits are fulfilled through general education courses or courses in students' majors.

Departmental Honors: Often referred to as "Honors in your major," Departmental Honors is discipline-specific. It includes a minimum of 12 credits in Honors courses, including a junior/senior seminar and a senior thesis project. Requirements vary; interested students should see their major advisor.

Who can be an Honors student?

There are three pathways into the Honors College:

- Incoming first-year students are considered for the Honors College during the regular Wayne State admission process based on their high school GPA and SAT/ACT score; there is no separate application. The selected students are invited to pursue University Honors; they may also later pursue Departmental Honors.
- Transfer students are invited to join Honors based on cumulative GPA and transferable credits. The selected students may pursue Departmental and/ or University Honors.
- Current Wayne State students with a 3.3 GPA and at least 12 Wayne State credits may apply to the Honors College by filling out the Honors College application online. Applications are processed after Feb. 15, June 15 and Oct. 15. The selected students may pursue Departmental and/or University Honors.

Special programs

Wayne State has the Carnegie Foundation's most comprehensive classification for community engagement, using our Detroit location to link students to various entrepreneurial, cultural and service-learning opportunities. The Honors College sponsors many of these programs, including the Detroit Fellows Tutoring Project, a kindergarten through second grade reading tutoring program; the Applebaum Emerging Leaders Program, a competitive, paid summer leadership institute; the Rocket Summer Tech Internship, a collaboration with Microsoft and Quicken/Rocket offering tech training and leadership experience; and more. See our website for current programs.

