

## UMW HONORS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Honors Program at UMW is a rigorous interdisciplinary learning opportunity for our highest achieving students. Students enroll in challenging learning experiences supported by engagement with the Honors community of learners. Throughout coursework, students learn to analyze their own and others' assumptions while applying critical reading, writing, speaking, problem solving, and thinking skills to advance information literacy and enhance the engagement of their audience. In addition, participation in co-curricular activities strengthens our academic community by promoting ethical behavior and thoughtful citizenship.

### Requirements of the Honors Program:

- Honors designated coursework – 12 credits (could include FSEM 100HN).
- Honors Service Learning – HONR 201 – 1 credit
- Completion of Honors Program mentoring program and leadership requirement or fulfillment of the UMW Horizons program requirements
- Completion of a capstone research project – a minimum of 3 credits of independent study (491 or 492) completed during the last year of study at UMW and presentation of the project at one of the two Honors Program Symposia
- Project/Research Design Seminar – fulfilled with either Honors Interdisciplinary Research Seminar – an approved discipline specific course (see list for approved courses) – or an approved experience (requires approval by the Honors Program Committee)
- Maintain an honors portfolio, complete 8 co-curricular events, and maintain the required GPA of 3.2.

### Benefits for students enrolled in the program

- Priority registration for courses, including non-Honors courses
- Access to a Honors student lounge/computer pod
- Guaranteed financial support for undergraduate research project
- Flexibility for interdisciplinary learning
- Additional opportunities for social and academic enrichment

### Points of Entry into Honors Program

Based on high school GPA, standardized test scores, and rigor of high school curriculum, most students entering the Honors program will do so upon admission to the university. However, others may apply for acceptance after matriculation, during their first year.

**Application due date:** Applications will be accepted each year by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Who can apply:** Students who were not accepted into the Honors Program through the Common Application to UMW, have a 3.2 UMW GPA or higher, have completed no more than

two semesters of study at UMW, and have completed fewer than 60 total credits may apply to the Honors Program by February 1st. Applicants should have completed or enroll in at least one but preferably two Honors-designated courses for the spring semester.

**Application:** Students should complete the form online at <https://orgsync.com/73464/forms/225674> and arrange to have one letter of recommendation completed by a UMW faculty member using the online form:

<https://orgsync.com/73464/forms/225671> Letters of recommendations from faculty teaching an Honors-designated course make the strongest case for admittance to the program, and thus are preferred.

### **Student Learning Outcomes for the University Honors Program**

At graduation from the honors program, students will demonstrate competence in:

- **Self-directed learning**
  - Students will make choices to be active agents in their own ongoing education
- **Written and oral communication skills**
  - Students will employ an understanding of audience, purpose and context to communicate effectively to various audiences
- **Ethical maturity and good citizenship**
  - Students will articulate the potential ethical ramifications for given situations and reflect on how ethics apply to themselves as local, national, and global citizens
- **Context-driven research skills**
  - Students will demonstrate the ability to perform applied research in various contexts and use research conventions and technologies suitable to their research question and purpose
- **Interdisciplinary synthesis**
  - Students will apply the benefits of a liberal arts education by demonstrating that they are able to view topics through the lens of more than one discipline
- **Active participation in the UMW community**
  - Students will actively participate in the extra-curricular life of UMW, demonstrating service and creating community within both UMW and the larger Fredericksburg area
- **Active meta-analysis of self and others**
  - Students will actively engage in self-reflection, using meta-analysis as a tool for personal growth and general problem solving and reflection.

## UMW HONORS PROGRAM APPLICATION

Most students are admitted to the UMW Honors Program upon acceptance to UMW. Space permitting, students who have completed no more than two semesters at UMW, no more than 60 credits, and have a 3.2 GPA or higher are invited to apply to the Honors program. Applications will be screened by the Honors Program Committee and a limited number of students will be admitted to the program. Application materials should be submitted to the UMW Honors Program using the form <https://orgsync.com/73464/forms/225674>, by February 1, 2017.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Intended Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Overall UMW GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

List any HN designated courses or courses that fulfill the Honors Program requirements that you have already completed.

List the HN designated courses or courses that fulfill honors program requirements in which you are currently enrolled.

List any significant service activities and/or leadership completed within the last year. For each activity, name the agency or group with whom you completed the activity and the approximate numbers of hours devoted to the activity.

### **Required Essay**

In two or three paragraphs, clearly articulate your interest in and reasons for wanting to participate in the Honors Program at UMW. Review the list of learning objectives for the Honors Program, then identify at least three to discuss in your reflective essay, thereby expressing your confidence, familiarity, and abilities in these areas. How do you think the Honors Program will help you achieve these learning outcomes?

### **Required Letter of Recommendation**

Each applicant must arrange to have at least one letter of recommendation from a UMW faculty member, preferably from one who had you in an Honors-designated course. Please include the name of the faculty member who has agreed to submit your letter of recommendation.

Please have the letter writer use the form on myUMW:

<https://orgsync.com/73464/forms/225671> and submit it by February 1, 2017.