

Honors Program at Hagerstown Community College

Mission Statement

The HCC Honors Program is dedicated to meeting the needs of students, both career and transfer, who desire more rigorous academic experiences through unique and challenging learning opportunities.

Vision Statement

The HCC Honors Program is designed to foster scholarship, intellectual growth, and cultural understanding for students committed to personal and educational enrichment. The program will help students to develop scholarship through the extension and enhancement of the classroom experience.

Benefits for HCC Honors Students

- Honors Program designation on transcript, providing evidence of high achievement to prospective employers and transfer institutions
- Recognition at Commencement/cord for gown
- More challenging assignments in Honors classes
- Opportunities to share perspectives and engage in feedback with other highly motivated students
- Participation in independent discovery, critical thinking, and creative approaches
- Individualized attention with faculty via Honors contracts
- Opportunities to participate in social and enrichment activities through the Honors Club

How to Become an HCC Honors Student

Note: All students applying for the Honors Program must be eligible to enroll in college-level math and English courses.

New Students (Received high school diploma within 3 years of application)

- Declare a degree major in a 2 year program at HCC*
- Apply with a high school GPA of 3.5 or better
- Achieve an SAT score of 1000 or ACT score of 21**
- Obtain a recommendation from a high school teacher or advisor

New Students (ESSENCE or dual-enrolled students)

- Successfully complete at least one AP course (grade of B or higher) **OR** establish a 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA at HCC
- Obtain a recommendation from a high school teacher or advisor

Current and Transfer Students

- Declare a degree major in a 2 year program at HCC*
- Establish or transfer to HCC with a 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA
- Obtain a recommendation from a full-time faculty member within the declared major

Honors Program Expectations

Honors Classes

Students will complete 9 credits of Honors level general education courses. These sections will only be open to students actively enrolled in the Honors Program.

Honors Contracts

Students will complete 6 credits of course work in their discipline by way of Honors contracts. Honors students will meet with their professors early in the semester to collaborate on an Honors contract. The contract elevates the rigor of the course work for the Honors student and the Honors student receives the Honors designation for this class, but shares the classroom experience with students not participating in the Honors Program. Once the contract is signed, the contract may not be altered or canceled. The student will receive a grade based on the Honors expectations outlined in the contract.

Campus Involvement

Students should maintain communication with faculty advisor, seek academic challenges in and out of the classroom, and abide by the college-wide policy of Academic Integrity.

Graduation requirements

Students must maintain a 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA throughout continuous enrollment in a degree option.***

*Students enrolled in the Honors Program must complete a degree within 4 years.

**If students do not take SATs or ACTs, they must test into college level courses on Accuplacer.

***Students who switch majors but want to remain in the Honors Program must obtain a faculty recommendation within the discipline of the new major; students must pass Honors classes in order to earn Honors credit.