

MAHURIN HONORS COLLEGE

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The Mahurin Honors College (MHC) offers a dynamic honors experience for academically motivated and high-potential students. Our mission is to cultivate excellence through research, experiential learning, critical thinking, and global engagement. Participation in the MHC enhances students' academic preparation across all majors and minors, and often serves as a distinguishing factor when applying to graduate or professional schools and competitive careers. In nearly all cases, students can fulfill both their MHC requirements and any WKU baccalaureate degree without increasing their total credit hours for graduation. The MHC supports WKU's broader mission to prepare students to become productive, engaged, and responsible citizen-leaders. We are dedicated to fostering a respectful and intellectually vibrant community that values curiosity, interdisciplinary exploration, and a wide range of perspectives and experiences.

Non-Thesis Track (27 Hours)

Code	Title	Hours
HON 251	Citizen and Self	3
Honors Lower-Division (Colonnade Courses)		9-12
Honors Upper-Division Electives		3-6
Honors Upper-Division in Major		9

Capstone Experience/Thesis Track (27 Hours)

Code	Title	Hours
HON 251	Citizen and Self	3
Honors Lower-Division (Colonnade Courses)		9-12
Honors Upper-Division Electives		6-9
HON 403	Honors Thesis / Project I	3
HON 404	Honors Thesis / Project II	3

Honors in the Major Track (16 Hours)

The Honors in the Major Track is an option for students joining the Mahurin Honors College in their sophomore or junior year. Eligible students have 45-75 of college coursework completed and/or in-progress and a 3.2 cumulative GPA. Honors in the Major is not an option for current members of the Mahurin Honors College or Gatton and Craft Academy alumni.

Code	Title	Hours
Minimum Upper-Division Honors Credit in First major		6-9
Honors Elective (any level/major)		3-6
HON 402	CE / T Proposal Writing Course	1
HON 403	Honors Thesis / Project I	3

Admission Requirements

Please see the Prospective Student section of the Mahurin Honors College website for admission requirements at <https://www.wku.edu/honors/admissions/>.

Curriculum

There are three academic tracks within the Mahurin Honors College: the 27-hour Non-Thesis track, the 27-hour Capstone Experience/Thesis (CE/T) track and the 16-hour Honors in the Major track.

Students who complete one of these tracks and graduate with a minimum 3.2 GPA are designated as "Mahurin Honors College" or "Honors in the Major" graduates on their final transcripts. Graduates receive distinctive medallions to be worn at Commencement.

Mahurin Honors College Features

Dedicated Course Sections

To facilitate greater faculty-student interaction, enrollment in honors sections is limited to honors-eligible students. Innovative course design, highly motivated students, and outstanding faculty create an intellectually engaging environment promoting critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Colloquia

Honors Colloquia are small, collaborative academic seminars with an emphasis on active learning, class discussion, and critical-thinking. Colloquia challenge and engage students through their interdisciplinary nature, providing for a distinctive academic experience.

Augmented Courses

Students enrolled in non-honors upper-division sections may develop an Honors Augmentation Contract with the faculty member, academic department, and the Mahurin Honors College to receive honors credit. This option transforms the course into an honors experience, thus expanding the range of courses in which a student can have an enhanced intellectual experience.

Capstone Experience/Thesis Project

The Capstone Experience/Thesis (CE/T) project is an original research or creative activity in a student's major(s) and/or minor discipline(s). While the nature and form of the CE/T is flexible, the topic of the CE/T research should reflect the student's academic, intellectual, and professional goals. Upon completion, the title of the CE/T appears on the student's official transcript.

Self-Designed Studies

The Honors Self-Designed Studies (HSDS) major and minor permit students to design unique programs of study when WKU's existing programs do not adequately fit their needs. To better serve the needs of students, there are five separate options for pursuing an HSDS major/minor. For more information about the advantages and opportunities, please see: <https://www.wku.edu/honors/academics/self-designed-studies/index.php> (<https://www.wku.edu/honors/academics/self-designed-studies/>).

Priority Registration

Priority registration allows students greater flexibility constructing their schedule by allowing them to sign up for classes before the general student population. Honors students in good standing are eligible for Priority Registration after consulting with their Honors Academic Advisor.

Housing

Students may choose to live (space permitting) in an honors co-educational residence hall. A request for honors housing must be indicated on a student's housing application.

Grants

Students are eligible to apply for grants to support a range of engaged out-of-classroom experience. For more information, please see https://www.wku.edu/honors/academics/grants_and_awards/index.php (https://www.wku.edu/honors/academics/grants_and_awards/).