The University Honors Program is an academic learning community that provides an enhanced and supportive learning environment responsive to the educational needs of highly able and/or exceptionally motivated undergraduate students. Serving about 400 students at UNO, the University Honors Program offers smaller sections of a wide variety of general education courses as well as interdisciplinary Honors colloquia each semester. Students in every major and every college follow the same curriculum of 24 credit hours, many of which also ‘count’ for general education credit (so it isn’t ‘more’ work but rather ‘instead of’ options for high achievers!). Full details of the common curriculum are on our website.

We are always open to hearing from faculty interested in teaching in the Program. Doing so allows for pedagogical and disciplinary experimentation; faculty who teach Honors courses are very engaged in student learning and opportunities and find ways to merge their own research interests with classroom teaching. If you are interested in the possibilities of Honors teaching and wish to suggest a possible colloquium (interdisciplinary) course or section of a general education course, please email the Director.

Honors students also earn credit through ‘contracting’ a course. Students devise an additional project/idea/event beyond class requirements in a class of their choice in which the professor is willing to support their efforts. Students complete a contract (fillable PDF) for their proposed Honors work, which is then reviewed, adjusted, and approved by the Professor and submitted to the Honors Program. Students meet outside of class with the Professor and undertake the Honors work semi-independently; both student and professor complete an assessment at semester’s end and the Honors program then awards or denies credit according to the professor’s recommendation. A guidelines booklet about contract procedures is available on our website.

Prospective students are always welcome: if you have an excellent student in class, please send her/him to us and let us make her/him a part of Honors. We have options for current UNO and transfer students as well as first-years—and we look forward to growing our community. Please contact us with any questions and stop by to meet us too!