

Admission Criteria

You are invited to apply for admission to the University Honors Program if you meet the following criteria:



Photo courtesy the Daily Chronicle

Entering Freshmen

Ranked within the top 10 percent of high school graduating class;
Minimum ACT composite score of 27

Currently Enrolled Students

Cumulative GPA of 3.20 on a 4.00 scale based on NIU coursework

Transfer Students

Cumulative GPA of 3.20 on a 4.00 scale based on all transfer coursework

If you are close to meeting the minimum requirements, please apply. Students may be granted provisional admission after meeting with an Honors advisor.

Program Options/Requirements

NIU's Honors Program offers students three different tracks, allowing students to tailor their Honors experience to their unique needs and interests:

Lower Division Honors

Requires 15 semester hours of Honors coursework with a minimum GPA of 3.20 in Honors courses and a minimum overall GPA of 3.00. Included in the 15 hours is a Lower Division seminar [Cornerstone].

Upper Division Honors

Requires 12 semester hours of 300 and 400 level Honors coursework with a minimum GPA of 3.20 in Honors courses and a minimum overall GPA of 3.20. Included in these 12 hours is an upper division seminar [Honors Seminar] and a Capstone project [Senior Thesis].

Full University Honors

Student must complete a minimum of 27 credit hours of Honors coursework of which 12 credits must be outside the major area and 12 credits must be upper division courses. The coursework includes a lower division seminar [Cornerstone], an upper division seminar [Honors Seminar], and a Capstone project [Senior Thesis]. Students must also achieve a minimum 3.20 GPA overall as well as in their Honors courses.



Chris Lloyd

Sophomore from Freeport, IL

Major: Industrial & Systems Engineering, with an emphasis in Health Systems Engineering

Points of Pride: President of the Honors Student Association, National Residence Hall Honorary Inductee, Member of NIU Jazz Band, Elected to 2011 Homecoming Court

"I am a huge advocate of the Honors House. You are placed in a residence hall wing full of other academically driven students who are always willing to help you. The Honors House also offers awesome ways to get involved, relieve stress, and meet new people."



Allison Mass

Junior from Barrington, IL

Major: Elementary Education

Minor: Spanish

Points of Pride: Founder & Vice President of Service for the NIU Educator's Club, Student Orientation Coordinator, Treasurer for Circle K International, Sophomore Leadership Award Recipient

"If students have the opportunity to join the Honors Program they definitely should to give themselves a better college experience. Join it for the people, the challenges, the opportunities, and the support."



Patrick Price

Freshman from Kingston, IL

Major: Illustration

Points of Pride: Founding Member of the Huskie Hunks A Capella Group, Member of NIU Concert Choir, Voted Mr. C-Wing 2011, Original Artwork Displayed in Art Building

"By living in the Honors House I'm constantly surrounded by bright, creative, fun, and open people (from peers to teachers) that inspire me to push myself harder. I love the community, which also happens to be my favorite part about being at NIU."



Kasey Twine

Senior from Bellwood, IL

Major: Communicative Disorders, with an emphasis in Audiology

Points of Pride: Treasurer for the Communicative Disorders Student Association, Discussion Facilitator for the Project on Civic Reflection, Friendly Face for the Pay it Forward House, Leadership Academy Evolving Leader (Tier 2)

"Knowing that I have a GPA requirement to maintain while participating in the Honors Program is a constant reminder that academic achievement is my first priority. This motivates me to remain focused and make responsible choices."



Northern Illinois University



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University Honors Program

Tradition, Excellence, Community

Honors Program Perks



The University Honors Program offers enriched academic experiences and co-curricular opportunities for highly motivated and academically-talented students who wish to enhance their college education.

Benefits include:

- Access to smaller, interactive Honors-only classes
- Personalized interactions with Honors faculty and staff
- Priority registration for courses each semester
- Honors-sponsored academic, social, and service events and programs beyond the classroom
- Retreat for new freshmen at the NIU Lorado Taft campus
- Honors Center with supportive staff, a computer lab, and quiet study and meeting spaces
- Individualized Honors academic advising (in addition to college-specific advising)
- Eligibility to become a member of the Honors Student Association
- Option to reside in the Honors House living-learning community
- Opportunity to complete a focused independent project with a faculty member
- Honors notation on NIU transcript and recognition at commencement
- Option to join the Honors Alumni Council after graduation



Honors House

The Honors House, located in the East Hall of NIU's New Residential Complex as of fall 2012, is an on-campus residential option for all students admitted to the University Honors Program. Residents share a strong commitment to their studies and co-curricular activities.

By living in the House, Honors students are part of a tight-knit community with access to academic and social programming. With more than three decades of history and traditions, the Honors House offers an extraordinary living-learning environment with regular special events that include excursions into Chicagoland, leadership and career development workshops, unique cultural experiences, community service opportunities, floor competitions and community-building activities.

For those interested, the Honors House also provides the option of special "quiet lifestyle" and "transfer" clusters.

New Residential Complex



Features cluster-style living arrangements (12 private bedrooms, 6 semi-private bathrooms, and common space for studying, eating, relaxing, and gathering)



Arnulfo Arroyo

Sophomore from Woodstock, IL

Major: Computer Science
Minors: Business Administration & Spanish

Points of Pride: President of Lambda Sigma Sophomore Honor Society, Honors SOUPer Wednesdays Guest Speaker

"The Honors Program allows students to work closely with professors through smaller classes, special workshops and events, and the capstone independent project. Getting to know your professors is very important and will give you an advantage when applying for internships, jobs, and graduate programs."



Daihee Cho

Junior from Seoul, South Korea

Major: Accountancy
Minor: Finance

Points of Pride: President of the Residence Hall Association, Honors House Leader, College of Business Northern Light Ambassador, Forward Together Forward Scholarship Recipient

"Joining Honors is a great way to build your network as a lot of student leaders at NIU are in the Program. Connecting with other motivated students, as well as the knowledgeable staff and experienced faculty, teaches you how to get more involved on campus and grow as a student, leader, and individual."



Nora Lindvall

Senior from Geneva, IL

Majors: English & Political Science
Points of Pride: Lincoln Academy Student Laureate, Director of Governmental Affairs for the Student Association, President and Co-founder of the Student Advisory Council on Learning Outcomes, Undergraduate Special Opportunities in Artistry and Research Award Recipient

"Being part of the Honors Program community is a true advantage when coming to a large campus as you'll never feel lost in the crowd. Furthermore, the critical thinking and communication skills that I have developed through the Program will serve me well in my future graduate studies and employment."