What is Honors Engaged?

In addition to distinctive academic opportunities, University Honors provides extensive co-curricular and extra-curricular programming. Each semester, engagement opportunities are offered that stress important features of an Honors education: academic lectures by NIU staff and visitors who are experts in their fields; civic engagement; volunteerism and public service; and often, just plain fun. Together, these activities will expand your horizons and prepare you for a successful career and a satisfying life. We call the program Honors Engaged.

To remain an active member of the Honors Program, every student must earn two Honors Engaged (HE) credits each semester. Many HE events are developed by Honors. Others that are developed by various groups on campus may be certified by Honors as eligible for HE credit. Such events are advertised through posters in the Honors office and through weekly Honors Update emails. Eligibility for HE credit will be highlighted and will often include the Honors Engaged logo shown above.

How does it work?

To get credit for participation, you need to show up, engage, stay for the entire event, and then sign the sheet verifying your attendance. Once we get the reports, we credit you in our database.

Students, faculty, departments and just about any group on campus may submit events for consideration. Approval by Honors also requires that University Honors be a co-sponsor of the event and that the Honors Engaged logo be displayed on advertising materials. Groups offering these programs are expected to handle sign-in sheets and report to University Honors on student attendance and participation.

Most Honors Engaged events are open to the entire campus community as well as members of the surrounding DeKalb-Sycamore communities. Why not bring a friend?

What counts and how?

Attending most approved Honors Engaged events will earn you one credit. For a few select events that are particularly long or involved, or in which you play a strong organizational or leadership role, two credits may be offered (i.e., one such event will fulfill your HE requirement for the semester). The level of credit available will be described in relevant advertising. To receive more than one credit for an event that offers one credit, you must receive permission BEFORE the event occurs.

Active membership and participation in any of the following organizations counts as one credit for Honors Engaged during the academic year in which you are involved:

1. Honors Student Association (HSA)
2. *The Luminary*
3. Collegiate Association of Unreasonable Social Entrepreneurs (CAUSE)
4. STAND Anti-genocide Association
5. TedX-NIU (Ted Talks for NIU and the DeKalb-Sycamore Communities)
6. University Honors Peer Mentor Program
7. Presidential Scholars Program (formerly University Scholars)
8. Student representative on the University Honors Committee
9. Student representative on other standing university committees

Student participation and attendance at an event is by sign-in sheets (or possibly electronic data capture) that are available **only at the conclusion of an event.** It is your responsibility to sign in and get credit. Your attendance and participation throughout the entire event is required. Anyone signing in and leaving, or not arriving until the end to sign up, will not be given credit. Individuals engaging in such activities will be required to explain their actions to the Director of the Honors Program.

**What types of activities don’t count?**

Honors House events usually do not count. Honors House requirements and general Honors Program requirements (in this case Honors Engaged) are separate and distinct. There are, however, some events that can count as *either* Honors House or *Honors Engaged,* but they may not be counted for both.

Also, information sessions do not count. These include sessions run by University Honors on Capstones, In-Course Contracts, Scholarships, Financial Aid, and Study Abroad.

**Surely, this only applies to other University Honors students and not to me?**

Wrong! *Honors Engaged* applies to all students in the Program, not just scholarship recipients, not just Honors House residents, not just somebody else. It applies to you!

**What happens if I don’t do this?**

Students who do not fulfill this obligation will have their status in the Program changed to “inactive”. That means you will lose the privilege to register early, you can no longer take University Honors courses, any University Honors-sanctioned designation will no longer appear on your transcripts or diploma, and you will no longer have access to the scholarships, programming and other benefits that Honors provides.

**Do I get a say in this?**

Absolutely. We welcome input and suggestions from everyone. In addition, there are many opportunities for student leadership and involvement in running the Honors Program. A few examples are: serving on the University Honors Committee; being an Honors Fellow or Peer Mentor; and becoming active in the Honors Student Association. If you want a say, get involved.