

# Honors Designations

## Sophomore Honors Scholar

To earn the "Sophomore Honors Scholar," students must complete either Option A or Option B depending on which semester of freshman year they started in the program. Both plans incorporate participating in some **Honors Experiences** and all requirements must be completed *by the end of the second year*:

**OPTION A** (for students starting in the Honors Program first semester freshman year)

1. **Earn 12 hours of Honors credit** with grades of A or B; at least 6 hours must be through honors sections;
2. Successfully complete **Honors Freshman Seminar** (IDS 102.17) or **Presidential Scholars Freshman Seminar** (IDS 102.70) with an A or B;
3. Earn a cumulative **grade point average of at least 3.4** at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> semester; and be in good standing in the Honors Program;
4. Participate in **Honors Experiences**:
  - a. Attend and submit documentation for **three Honors events** as approved for this designation by the Honors Program.
  - b. At least two different types of events are required: e.g., one Research Mentorship presentation and two educational programs in Honors House OR one Research Mentorship presentation, volunteer at the Undergraduate Research Symposium, and attend an Honors-sponsored speaker event are two acceptable ways to fulfill this requirement
  - c. Unless otherwise noted, documentation of participation will be collected at the conclusion of the event.

### Notes:

- Students with advanced credits through AP exams or transfer credit may be classified as a junior before the end of their second year on campus. They can use their first four semesters on campus to meet the requirements for the Sophomore Honors Scholar designation.
- AP credits and courses taken at other institutions may not be used toward the Sophomore Honors Scholar designation.
- Students **must apply** for the Sophomore Honors Scholar designation during their fourth semester.
- The application form for the designation can be found on the website.
- You must complete the application to be considered for this award.

## Honors Program Scholar

Students who graduate in good standing in the Honors Program with a Grade Point Average of 3.3 or higher, who have completed a minimum of 9 hours of Honors credit with grades of A or B, and have completed a minimum of 3 semesters in the Honors Program will be designated Honors Program Scholars. This designation is indicated on their transcript and in the Commencement Booklet. Honors Program Scholars wear a red cord at Commencement. This designation is applicable to students graduating in December 2003 or later.

## Certificate in University Honors

- 3.5 cumulative GPA
- Four semesters participation in the Honors Program
- A minimum of 12 hours of Honors Coursework with grades of “A” or “B” (credit/no credit is not acceptable), including **one** of the following:
  - Advanced Honors Colloquium
  - Undergraduate Research Participation (IDS 285/286) (at least 3 hours)
  - Independent Honors Study (299) (at least 3 hours)
  - Honors Thesis (IDS 395) (at least 3 hours)

This designation is indicated on the transcript.

## University Honors Scholar

- 3.65 cumulative GPA
- Four semesters participation in the Honors Program
- A minimum of 24 hours of Honors coursework with grades of "A" or "B" (credit/no credit is not acceptable), including **two** of the following:
  - Advanced Honors Colloquium (IDS 202.xx)
  - Undergraduate Research (IDS 285/286) (at least 3 hours)
  - Honors Research Mentorship
  - Independent Honors Study (299) (at least 3 hours)
  - Honors Thesis (IDS 395) (at least 3 hours)
  - Departmental Honors Scholar

This designation is indicated on the transcript and the diploma.

## Departmental Honors Scholar

Special academic work leading to a student being designated as a Departmental Honors Scholar is available in all academic departments or schools in the University. Though the criteria for becoming a Departmental Honors Scholar vary from one department or school to another, all students who wish to receive Departmental Honors must be a member in good standing of the Honors Program. Criteria for this designation are available on the Honors Program web site, in the Honors Program Office, or from department offices. This designation is indicated on the transcript and diploma.

## Laude Designations

Graduating “with honors” is indicated by the Latin term *laude*. This distinction is based on cumulative GPA and has nothing to do with the Honors Program. Students must earn a minimum of 50 hours at ISU and have a cumulative GPA between 3.65 and 4.0. Cum laude is 3.65 to 3.79; magna cum laude is 3.80 to 3.89; summa cum laude is 3.90 to 4.0. This designation is indicated on the transcript and diploma, and students receive cords to wear at Commencement.