

College of Liberal Arts Standards for Graduation with Honors

Bachelor of Individualized Studies Individualized Degree Program

To graduate with Honors from the College of Liberal Arts, a student must be admitted to the Junior-Senior Honors program, and must meet the Honors graduation GPA requirement and the Honors residency requirement. The student must also complete the major Honors opportunities and the HCLA Honors opportunities. Students completing more than one major must designate one Honors major.

All students are required to meet with their HCLA advisor and departmental Honors representative to discuss fulfilling the graduation requirements prior to final admission to the Junior/Senior Honors Program.

A. Honors GPA Requirement

Eligibility to graduate with honors is based on the GPA in the student's final 60 graded credits (only full semesters will be used, i.e. more than 60 credits may be included in the honors GPA).

The eligibility for Honors graduation GPA levels are as follows:

- *cum laude* 3.5 GPA or higher
- *magna cum laude* 3.66 GPA or higher
- *summa cum laude* 3.75 GPA or higher

GPA only determines Honors *eligibility*; the *quality* of the thesis determines the awarded level of Latin Honors.

B. Honors Residency Requirement

Students must complete a minimum of 60 graded (A/F) University of Minnesota-Twin Cities credits (transfer credits are not included).

C. Major Honors Opportunities

1. An Honors thesis or project that has been approved by the faculty for the intended level of honors. (This also fulfills the BIS analytic paper requirement.)

The honors project for *cum laude* or *magna cum laude* must be approved by a faculty supervisor. For *summa cum laude*, students must complete a *summa* thesis that must be approved unanimously by three faculty readers. If the student's areas of concentration in the B.I.S. program are thematically linked, the thesis must be an interdisciplinary project drawing on all the areas of the program. If the B.I.S. consists of unrelated concentrations, the thesis must be in one of the areas. In this case, one reader must be from outside the academic area represented by the thesis. Students are advised to discuss their thesis idea with all three readers at the outset.

The thesis or project should demonstrate the student's ability to integrate the subject matter and scholarly methods of the appropriate field(s). It should demonstrate that the student is capable of being a contributor to knowledge as well as a consumer of

knowledge. Students must register for a minimum of two credits for the *summa* thesis, ordinarily through a directed study or directed research registration supervised by the primary faculty reader. Students are strongly encouraged to register for one credit of directed study for a *cum laude* or *magna cum laude* project.

At the discretion of the faculty readers, an oral examination may be required for *summa cum laude*.

2. At least one honors course or opportunity that is included in the program of coursework for the BIS. Candidates are encouraged to participate, when appropriate, in the honors offerings of the departments in which they have concentrations. With the approval of the BIS Honors Representative, this honors opportunity may be fulfilled with: a 3xxx level or higher Honors course (H or V designator) OR a 5xxx-level course in which the student completes the graduate work (Honors petition required), or an 8xxx graduate-level course (A contract attached to a 3xxx-level departmental course may also be used if approved by the instructor and the director of HCLA. This is a limited option.)

D. HCLA-Controlled Honors Opportunities

3. One Honors course opportunity *outside the major*.
Students may choose either a 3xxx level Honors Seminar (HSem designator) *or* a 3xxx or higher level departmental honors course with an H or V designator.
4. One additional Honors opportunity inside *or* outside the major. For this 'open' Honors opportunity students may choose one of the following:
 - Another 3xxx-level Honors Seminar (HSem)
 - A 3xxx-level or higher departmental honors course (H or V designator)
 - A study abroad experience (No honors petition is required if the study abroad is noted on the student's transcript, which also counts towards the residency. A petition is required for non-transcript posted experiences.)
 - An 8xxx-level graduate course
 - A 5xxx-level course (in which the student does the graduate-level work)*
 - A research opportunity with a professor*
 - An in-depth internship or a community service (The in-depth nature of the experience can be demonstrated by e.g., a reflective essay.)*

*With petition approved by HCLA