THE HONORS PROGRAM

The Honors Program at Albany State University is designed to provide superior students with opportunities to maximize their intellectual potential and to provide them with high degrees of challenge and competition. To this end, the Honors Program offers students the opportunity to receive individualized instruction, thereby interacting with highly qualified faculty members; to enroll in small, enriched classes; to pursue areas of interest through independent projects and research; and to participate with others of similar abilities.

Admission

The Honors Program seeks to recruit academically talented students whose high school records and performance reflect an ardent desire for an in-depth and enriched educational experience. While standards to measure such an individual may be arbitrary, a freshman applicant ordinarily should

1. have an aggregate minimum SAT score of 1000, or ACT composite score of at least a 22,
2. have a high school grade point average of 3.5 or higher,
3. rank in the top 5% of his or her high school graduating class,
4. exhibit potential for leadership and academic excellence, and
5. demonstrate an ability to read with comprehension and to effectively utilize communication skills (oral and written).

Retention

A candidate's admittance to the Honors Program does not necessarily mean that the student will remain in the program. Yearly, the Honors Program Advisory and Planning Committee reviews the progress made by each student and determines whether the student should continue in the program. A student accepted in the Honors Program may exit the program under one of the following three conditions:

1. Graduation with Honors Program Merit Scholar designation: Those students who complete all college requirements for graduation, who fulfill Honors Program course requirements and who have an overall grade point average of 3.50 (effective fall semester 2016) or above will graduate with Honors Program Merit Scholar designation. Students may be awarded other graduation honors based solely on grade-point average in accordance with University policy.
2. Voluntary transfer into the regular degree program: Some students may elect not to qualify for Honors Program Merit Scholar and choose only portions of the Honors curriculum to satisfy standard graduation requirements.
3. Mandatory transfer into the regular degree program: Upon a review of a candidate's performance by the Honors Program Advisory and Planning Committee, a student may be dropped from the program if his or her grade point average falls below 3.5. A student whose grade point average falls below 3.5 will be counseled and informed that he or she will be dropped from the program if he or she fails to achieve a semester grade point average of 3.5 the following semester. A student should seek to maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or above at all times.