

University Honors Program – On-Campus Admissions Program

FAQ's

Courses

Will classes that meet a wide range of GE requirements be offered each quarter?

Yes, we offer a variety of courses that meet either Topical Breadth Component and/or Core Literacy Component for your General Education requirement. In some instances students may opt to take courses that meet a major/minor requirement (e.g., BIS 2A, ENG 17, MAT 17A-C).

Can the one UHP course per quarter be a major course so it can be double dipped for major requirements and UHP requirements?

Yes, students may take a course from our [offerings](#) that also satisfies another degree requirement.

Since we need 1 UHP course per quarter and each UHP course has about 25 seats, what happens if all the seats are taken up in the courses?

Designated course options are shared with students approximately three weeks before their enrollment time. Participants—via survey—then rank their top selections, and are notified of their assigned honors class a week prior to registration, allowing time to select major and degree requirements to build into their academic schedule. Generally, students receive their 1st or 2nd choice and students have the opportunity to submit another survey later in the quarter to be waitlisted if not given their top choice.

Where can we see a list of UHP classes?

<https://honors.ucdavis.edu/courses>

Are UHP courses much more rigorous/harder than regular courses?

The difference between honors and non-honors courses is not the intensity, but the structure. In an honors course, you have much more contact with both your peers and the professor, and honors courses are often structured as seminars rather than lectures.

UHP classes have roughly the same workload as non-honors classes. However, you'll probably find that your UHP classes are more interactive and discussion-based than normal classes. The small class size makes it easier for professors to use group projects, presentations, or discussion-based learning instead of solely lectures and exams. So, while the workload is about the same as normal courses, the classroom environment and teaching style are a bit different.

What if we take a course on the list but with a different instructor? Will we still get UHP credit for it?

Students must select a course from the UHP course [offerings](#) for it to meet curriculum requirements.

Do honors courses offered by specific departments count as UHP courses (i.e. PHY 009H series)?

No, those courses are not considered UHP courses.

If I receive an “A” grade in honors course, will it be valued higher than a non-honors course in transcripts?

No, they carry the same value on your transcript as non-honors courses.

Can we request an exception on Year 2 course requirements? I already finished those lower division classes provided by UHP and I am on a pre-vet track (with a very tight schedule).

UHP offers a combination of lower division and upper division courses. Students are expected to take 1 UHP course per quarter during their 2nd year. We recommend that students come in for advising to help determine the best UHP course based on their academic and professional goals.

How far in advance would we know what UHP classes would be offered?

Tentative courses for the next academic year will be made available in spring quarter.

Curriculum

Does the signature work portion in Year 4 count as unit/course credit?

Students register for course credit/units based on their major/signature work type. For example, for UHP Project/Thesis, a student would enroll in HNR 195 for 2 quarters for 3-units per quarter. If a student elects a thesis in major option, they may visit our [website](#) for major course codes. You may also talk with your major advisor regarding thesis credit in your major.

Is it possible to graduate in three years instead of four years and still participate in the honors program?

All admitted OCA students are required to complete the full UHP curriculum, starting with the Year 2 requirements and participation is contingent upon being able to satisfy each year's requirements.

If you already have sophomore standing would you go into year 2 or year 3?

You would begin with Year 2 UHP curriculum.

What is the workload like for a student who wants to double major who is also in the honors program?

We have students who participate in UHP that are double majors and/or minors. We recommend that they seek UHP advising on a regular basis to discuss their UHP course selection. All students in the program are required to complete the same curriculum.

For the honors contract, does our research have to be related to our major specifically?

No, you can pick an area outside of your major. An Honors Contract for the Year 3 Project must augment an upper division course (100-197; 192-193 not eligible), and be completed with the

faculty member who taught the course. The faculty member must have the title of: Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor or Lecturer PSOE or Emeritus Professor. For more on honors contracts, visit our [website](#).

Could you study abroad for a full year in UHP?

Yes, you may opt to study abroad for a full year. We recommend coming in for advising so that we may assist with UHP curriculum planning.

Does the study abroad have to be an internship?

No.

For study abroad, what are the universities can we go to?

Most students will opt to participate in UC Davis Study Abroad or UCEAP with a minimum program length of 4 weeks. Visit [here](#) for more info.

Can we take the Year 2 and Year 3 curriculum at the same time?

Students may begin engaging in Year 3 curriculum in Year 2 (e.g., community service, project activity).

What kind of internships are part of the Washington Program?

Please visit: <https://washingtonprogram.ucdavis.edu/program-major>

If we do an internship over the summer would that count for the project requirement in Year 3?

If you complete an internship in the summer between year 2 and year 3, that could be used to satisfy your Year 3 project activity (i.e. IDP).

Benefits

Will there be scholarships offered for UHP students to pay for tuition, study abroad, etc.?

Undergraduate and Prestigious Scholarships manages scholarships for the campus. If you would like to learn more about scholarship opportunities, visit their [website](#). Many of these scholarships require a letter of recommendation which students are able to easily obtain from small class sizes and interactions with UHP staff.

Is UHP more beneficial for a specific major or does it support all majors?

UHP is beneficial for all majors as coursework and curriculum can be selected based on your own academic and professional goals.

What types of community service are available for people not on campus?

You may elect to do community service in your hometown or in the Davis community. Some examples of community service that students have participated in include local election office,

food pantry, homeless shelter, education setting, medical clinics/hospitals and more.

Is the thesis like a full dissertation where we would need to provide a defense of our work as well?

An undergraduate thesis varies from a postgraduate dissertation. Undergraduate thesis are considerably shorter in length and it does not require the same level of originality as postgraduate work. In addition, students will present their work in a friendly environment with most students presenting at the URC Conference in April.

Program Standing

What happens if you do not earn at least a C- on the one UHP course for the quarter?

A UHP student that misses an honors curriculum component for the year may be eligible to appeal and remain in the program.

If your GPA were to drop below the required minimum, what does the process look like of being dropped from the program?

A UHP student that drops below the UC GPA minimum of 3.250 may be eligible to appeal and remain in the program. This is dependent upon how many years they have attended the University, GPA range, academic trajectory, program engagement (e.g., advising), and other related variables. Students whom meet most or all of the noted factors, may be afforded an opportunity to appeal during summer. Students are informed of the programs decision before the start of Fall Quarter. Up to two appeals may be granted.

Recommendation Forms

Can the recommendation form come from a peer mentor?

Recommenders should not be undergraduate students.

Can it be someone from a First Year seminar for fall quarter?

Yes.

Will you be reaching out to the recommender?

We only ask for the recommendation form from the recommender.

Can a professor emeritus do a recommendation form? I had a professor emeritus teach my fall quarter seminar course.

Yes.

It's been difficult to get to know faculty this year due to online classes. How much weight does the rec letter carry in the application?

The recommendation form carries the same weight as the other aspects of the application.

Application

For someone who hasn't been to Davis yet, how should we approach the 3rd application question?

You may include academic activities inside/outside of class, volunteer experience, campus clubs or organizations, campus programs, on-campus employment, or any other way you participate in the campus community. If you have not had the opportunity to be involved in the campus community due to the pandemic, you can describe how you have attempted to become involved and/or how you would seek to get involved when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

What if you get into UHP and decide that you don't think its right for you? Are you able to opt out?

Yes.

Can we apply for the program next year?

Unfortunately not. The only entry point is to apply in your first-year and join in your 2nd year.

Do we get ghosted if we get rejected or are rejection emails sent out?

All students are communicated to with admission decisions.

If we are changing our major, can we still apply?

Yes.

Acceptance

What is the acceptance rate for the University Honors Program?

Generally we accept 20% of students who apply.

What is the criteria of selection?

We evaluate students based on the application and recommendation form.

Is there a second round of applications in Spring Quarter or is this the only change to join?

Winter quarter is the only application period. There is not another application in the spring quarter. Students who receive an acceptance in spring quarter will be admitted conditionally and will be able to join in fall as long as they met conditions of acceptance (e.g., 3.5 UC CUM GPA).

Is it possible to be waitlisted for the program?

We don't offer admission to students via a waitlist.

Is there a penalty to apply for the program and not be able to accept it?

No, you are not required to accept your admission with UHP.