

# The Marshall University Honors College

---



## HONORS COLLEGE

In 2005, then University President Stephen J. Kopp included in his strategic vision for Marshall establishment of an Honors College as a priority initiative to improve the overall competitive stature of the University. The initiative advanced in early 2009 when then Provost Gayle Ormiston announced a national search for a founding Dean of the Honors College and the Faculty Senate approved creation of the College. The 2009-2010 academic year was a time of transition from an Honors Program to an Honors College. The College officially opened in Fall 2010, welcoming an inaugural class of 150 first-year students. We now have over 500 students.

Our mission in the Honors College is to foster academic excellence in a community of learners whose undergraduate education is enhanced through innovative teaching and learning, an engaging interdisciplinary curriculum, creative and critical inquiry with talented faculty, and diverse leadership and service opportunities. Thus, to deliver on the overarching promise of demonstrably enhanced learning experiences, faculty who teach honors-designated courses are *encouraged to challenge themselves* through their pedagogy by devising their own uniquely creative approaches to teaching and within their inspirational mentorship of students. The Honors College wants to provide opportunities for our students, of course, but we also foster professional development in our faculty. The College is centered on achieving academic distinction. We know that teaching honors can enrich not only your life but also the lives of all students with whom you work—not just those encountered in honors-designated courses. We believe the Honors College serves as an “incubator” for pedagogical exploration and innovation that enhances the quality of educational experiences across the University. Our relationship with those who teach for us is a collaborative partnership for the common good.

The Honors College needs faculty to teach Honors Seminars and honors-designated courses that constitute the required elements of the Honors Curriculum that our students must complete in order to graduate with University Honors. We do not have our own faculty. This fact helps inspire a community of collaboration and innovation across disciplines, which is basic to our mission.

## Teaching for the Honors College

---

### Departmental Honors Courses:

Many departments at Marshall University offer Honors-designated courses that are signified by the addition of an “H” to the course number, such as “ANT 201H,” which is one of a number these courses provided for students in good standing as members in the Honors College. The Honors-designated, departmental courses serve students in the Honors College well by meeting many [General Education](#) requirements at Marshall University. Such requirements include “Critical Thinking (Core I)” and “Social Science (Core II)” credits that a course such as ANT 201H fulfill. These courses also provide general Honors credits beyond the core Honors Curriculum courses that include the two seminar types described below, for which the College continually seeks instructors from across the University to enrich the educational experience of our students. You can read more about the particulars of the 24-credit hour [Honors Curriculum](#) on our website (address provided below).

***Interested?*** These courses are designed, staffed, and scheduled by the departments that offer them. Thus, arrangements to develop and/or teach these courses will be made within your own department. We are happy to work with faculty (and departments) who are interested in developing and teaching departmental Honors-designated courses so that they most effectively contribute to achievement of the stated learning outcomes for the Honors College Curriculum.

### **Honors Seminars – Core Courses to the Honors Curriculum**

***HON 200:*** We encourage all faculty and qualified staff at Marshall University who are interested in contributing to our mission to consider teaching an Honors Second-Year Seminar (sections of HON 200), a 3-credit hour seminar purposefully positioned, ideally, in a student’s second year of study at Marshall. The intention for this seminar is to energetically bring together Honors students who have passed through their first-year, spotlight curricular and extra-curricular activities and are transitioning to more fully engage with their major departments. We look to enhance a sense of “cohort” among the Honors students at this point in their academic career and to help cultivate shared purpose as *active* members of the College who critically and self-reflectively engage with essential themes of *Leadership, Ethics, and Civic Engagement* through their work in this seminar. To help achieve our goals for this seminar, individual instructors are asked to design their own seminar from a foundational core set of elements and shared learning outcomes. The seminars are capped at 25 students and scheduled in Spring semesters only.

***Interested?*** A review of prospective instructor credentials and experience is conducted by the College. Please reach out to us at [honorscollege@marshall.edu](mailto:honorscollege@marshall.edu) with the subject “HON 200” to begin a conversation about your ideas and our expectations for this critical, transitional course in our curriculum, which helps prepare students for later work in their course of study in the College and their major(s) as well as their future lives and careers.

***HON 480:*** We encourage all faculty interested in contributing to our mission to submit proposals for upper-level Honors Seminars (sections of HON 480), which are 3-credit hours. These seminars are purposefully *interdisciplinary* in design and capped at 15 students. While we have expectations regarding pedagogical approaches and alignment of individually tailored learning outcomes in seminars with those for the Honors College curriculum as a whole, faculty may design highly original seminars. This is a hallmark course in our curriculum. You can see examples of current and past seminars on our website. Many seminars have been co-taught by faculty working together from different disciplines.

***Interested?*** There is a thorough review of proposed seminars by the Honors College Curriculum and Policy Committee (HCCAP) at least one semester prior to the semester an approved seminar is offered. On our website under “Teaching Honors,” you’ll find links to the Honors Seminar (HON 480) proposal submission form as well as a guide for faculty to help think through and prepare their proposals.

**Our website:** [www.marshall.edu/honors](http://www.marshall.edu/honors)

**Contact:** Brian A. Hoey, Associate Dean of the Honors College, at [hoey@marshall.edu](mailto:hoey@marshall.edu).