

# The John Nevins Andrews Honors Program

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In 1966 Andrews University determined to offer undergraduate students greater opportunities for intellectual, spiritual, and social development. To reach this goal, it created the honors program to foster an atmosphere that is both intellectually challenging and distinctively Christian.

Starting in 2001-2002, qualified students may choose from two distinct honors curricula. The first, SAGES, is a text-based alternative to the standard General Education requirements. It involves 37 semester credits of honors and leads to the designation "John Nevins Andrews Scholar" at graduation. The second option involves additional study within a discipline, and earns the designation "with departmental honors."

## SAGES (Scholars' Alternative General Education Studies)

Reflecting suggestions from students, faculty and alumni for a curriculum based on the study of original texts, independent research, and writing, SAGES provides a series of interdisciplinary courses that reduce General Education requirements for the bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees. Following a year-long introduction to Western civilization and culture, students pursue a series of thematically-organized seminars similar to a "Great Books" approach, though broader in sources and subjects. The track concludes with independent research resulting in a senior project or thesis.

Because SAGES replaces many lower-division courses, admission at the beginning of a college career is advisable. However, transfer and currently enrolled students with demonstrated academic achievement (GPA>3.40) may apply to SAGES and receive individual waivers for some—but not necessarily all—specific courses based on previous academic study. "Guidelines for Transfer Students" is available from the Honors Program to facilitate a smooth transition to SAGES. However, even those admitted as juniors and seniors must complete at least five seminars plus the Research Pro-Seminar and the project/thesis.

Students wishing to transfer out of SAGES should do so at the end of the first year and apply the courses taken towards a standard General Education track. In the sophomore and junior years, SAGES involves significantly different categories of courses than the standard track. These will not replace many of the freshman and sophomore courses required at most universities.

**Progress in SAGES.** Students in SAGES who fail to enroll in honors courses, or whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.33, will be asked to withdraw from the program at the end of the academic year.

## GRADUATION AS A JOHN NEVINS ANDREWS HONORS SCHOLAR

At graduation, the university confers the distinction "John Nevins Andrews Scholar" on students recommended by the

Honors Council who display outstanding scholarship, achieve a minimum overall college and honors GPA of 3.50, and complete SAGES. Titles of the senior thesis or project are listed in the graduation bulletin.

## REPLACING GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Because of the integrated and interdisciplinary courses, students completing General Honors will satisfy their General Education requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree with 37 credits of honors courses and 10 credits of mathematics, science, and physical education. The Bachelor of Arts degree requires the identical foreign language proficiency. In each case, the normal requirements are significantly reduced, which frees students' schedules for cognate courses and electives.

## DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

To encourage excellence within a discipline, a number of academic departments are currently developing a special program for qualified majors. Typically, students enroll for extra credit in specific departmental or other honors courses and complete a research project. "Departmental Honors" requires a minimum GPA of 3.33 and the recommendation of both the student's advisor and chair of the department. Students admitted to the program become Honors Scholars, eligible for the same continuing privileges as those in SAGES, such as independent study, Honors Audits, and membership in the Society of Andrews Scholars.

Progress in Departmental Honors requires a minimum overall GPA of 3.33 and gradual completion of the required honors courses.

### GE Requirements: SAGES Honors Track

Required Registrations	Credits
HONS105 Western Heritage I	5
HONS106 Western Heritage II	5
HONS115 Transacting and Transcribing the Self	3
HONS215 Scripture	3
HONS265 Language of the Fine Arts	3
HONS345 What Is "Other"? The Non-Western World	3
HONS365 Cosmos	3
HONS415 Thinking Theologically: Christian Life and Faith	3
HONS398 Research Pro-Seminar	1
HONS496/7 Senior Project/Thesis	min. of 2
<b>Plus two courses selected from the following:</b>	<b>6</b>
HONS225 Materialism and Idealism (3)	
HONS245 Meanings of America (3)	
HONS325 Justice (3)	
Additional Science (disciplinary courses or IDSC321/2)	6
Math (minimum acceptable level: College Algebra)	3
Physical Activity Courses (2)	<u>1</u>
<b>Total Requirements, Bachelor of Science</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Total Requirements, Bachelor of Arts</b>	<b>47+ 4</b>
	(Int. Language)

## ADMISSION: BOTH HONORS CURRICULA

Each spring and summer the honors program admits a limited number of prospective freshmen whose interests and achievements—as portrayed in part by the application essay and letter of

recommendation—suggest they will benefit from participation in SAGES or Departmental honors.

The great majority of students accepted into either honors curricula surpass the following qualifications:

- A minimum overall GPA of 3.50 on all secondary credits
- Scores of 26 on the ACT or 1200 on the SAT.

#### Admission for Transfer and Currently Enrolled Students

Applications are welcomed from currently enrolled students and transfer students who wish to participate in the program. Successful applicants demonstrate an interest in Honors and possess at least a B+ average on all college courses. Application forms are available in the Honors Office.

SAGES: While admission is preferable before regular college courses commence, admission thereafter is possible. See under "SAGES" above.

#### SOCIETY OF ANDREWS SCHOLARS

Students in Departmental Honors and General Honors form a society dedicated to spiritual, social, and intellectual activities outside the classroom. The society's logo depicts hands sheltering the flame of truth, which symbolizes the search for truth by students and faculty together. *Excellence, Commitment, and Service* is the society's motto. Fees charged as part of the honors application process are used exclusively for student activities by the Society of Andrews Scholars.

#### NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETIES

The honors program works with the university's 17 departmental national honor societies to coordinate information and enhance their activities. It also works closely with the prestigious interdisciplinary national honor society Phi Kappa Phi which inducts about 30 junior and senior Andrews Scholars each year who meet the rigorous requirements. See Appendix, p. 354.

#### GRADUATION DISTINCTIONS

Designations are conferred at graduation on students who, one semester before graduation, have completed 30 semester hours at Andrews University with the following overall GPAs:

3.500–3.749	Cum Laude
3.750–3.899	Magna Cum Laude
3.900–4.000	Summa Cum Laude

#### HONORS AUDITS

To enhance Andrews Scholars' opportunities to learn for the sake of learning, a scholar enrolled full time (a minimum of 12 regular credits) may attend one course free each semester, registering as an Honors Audit (HN), which is indicated on the transcript. Though no credit is earned, an Honors Audit provides a significant opportunity to broaden one's knowledge at no cost even if it forms an overload. Registration for an Honors Audit (HN) should take place during regular registration, and in no case later than the regular drop/add date. Attendance and other regulations for an audit apply.

## Courses

(Credits)

The inside front cover gives the symbol code.

#### HONS105, 106 (5, 5)

##### *Western Heritage*

A study of significant issues that emerged in Western civilization, approached through the reading of major works. The first semester's topics involve the era from the ancient world to the Reformation; the second, the Enlightenment to the modern world. In both semesters, spiritual and religious themes are emphasized, and the combined semesters replace one 3-credit religion course. Small-group projects and discussions, field trips, and cultural events enrich the lectures. Required for SAGES during the first year.

#### HONS115 (3)

##### *Transcribing the Self*

What is the entity we call self? How is it formed, reformed, transformed? What role does the "other" play in our determination of self? To what extent is self an independent construct, and to what extent is it socially and ideologically determined? Such questions are addressed through written and oral examination of our own lives and the lives of others as presented in significant texts. Replaces Honors English Composition I; recommended during the first year.

#### HONS215 (3)

##### *Scripture*

The reading of Biblical passages chosen for qualities such as centrality to Christian belief, power as literature, and variety of expression. Entire books will be addressed thematically, including Genesis, Job, Romans, and Revelation. A portion of the course will involve the detailed interpretation of a selected section. Required.

#### HONS225 (3)

##### *Materialism & Idealism*

Philosophers and prophets often approach wealth with caution or hostility, but modern culture flaunts status symbols and values self-worth by material accumulation. Considering such differences, readings from Plato to contemporary authors will raise questions about the level of wealth we ought to desire, the thoughtful use of that wealth, and reconciling a Christian life of service with professional success today. Elective.

#### HONS245 (3)

##### *Meanings of America*

Examines understandings of American society, culture and physical environment by a variety of observers, including native, foreign and minority, through study of prose, poetry, music, film and the visual arts. Core readings will include works by Jefferson, Tocqueville, Martineau, Douglass, Bourne, Friedan and King. Elective.

#### HONS265 (3)

##### *Language of the Fine Arts*

Explores the ways in which visual, musical, and literary arts address the human experience. Through close analysis of primary texts, students become conversant in the distinctive and overlapping discourses of the various art forms. Drawing upon this fine arts literacy, they will examine concerns of primary importance to creative minds from the ancient world to the postmodern era. These themes will include several of the following: articulating the sacred, the quest for knowledge, gender relations, ethnicity and identity, social order and/or violence. Required.

**Interdisciplinary Seminars planned for future years:**

**HONS325** (3)  
*Justice*  
 Elective.

**HONS345** (3)  
*What Is "Other?" The Non-Western World*  
 Required.

**HONS365** (3)  
*Cosmos*  
 Required.

**HONS415** (3)  
*Thinking Theologically: Christian Life and Faith*  
 Required.

**HONS180, 380** (1-3)  
*Topics, Independent Study, and Research*  
 Disciplinary and interdisciplinary topics selected for interest and importance. Typically the course revolves around reading, discussion, and individual projects. Repeatable as topics vary.

**HONS295, 495** (1-6)  
*Independent Study (in any department)*  
 Individual study or research of an approved topic under the guidance of an appropriate professor and resulting in an essay, critical review, or other gradable demonstration of accomplishment. Implies 45 hours of work per semester credit. Repeatable to 6 credits.

**HONS398** (1)  
*Research Pro-Seminar*  
 Preparation for the senior thesis or creative project. Expectations for the senior thesis are addressed, including consideration of alternative topics, refining the thesis proposal, the role of literature review, formal public speaking, presentation software, and evaluation. The letter grade assigned largely reflects the presentation of the thesis or project at the Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar; a DG is assigned until then. A SAGES required course.

**HONS497** (2-4)  
*Senior Honors Research*  
 Independent research or creative work to produce the Honors Thesis, typically supervised by a professor within the student's major field. The thesis is filed in the James White Library to facilitate wider access. An approved thesis requires 2-4 semester credits.