

# HONORS COLLEGE

## Honors College

20 Stopher Hall

Kent Campus

330-672-2312

honors@kent.edu

www.kent.edu/honors

## Mission of the College

The mission of the Honors College is to provide an enriched educational experience for academically motivated and talented students at Kent State University. Both in and out of the classroom, the college's learning environment provides students with opportunities to interact and share ideas with other bright, motivated students and mentoring professors.

Founded in 1933, the Honors College is at the center of Kent State University's tradition of providing special attention to undergraduates with outstanding intellectual and creative ability. Within the framework of the larger university, with its diverse academic programs and excellent research and library facilities, the Honors College offers students enriched and challenging courses and programs, opportunities for close relationships with their peers and faculty, and careful advising to meet their interests and goals.

## Scholarships

All new freshman who are admitted to the Honors College will automatically be considered for an Honors College scholarship award. Honors College scholarships are renewable for maximum eight semesters of undergraduate work, provided students remain in good standing with the Honors College. These scholarships are in addition to university awards.

## The Honors Concept

The Honors College is guided by two basic principles:

- The first is a responsibility to provide academic work that offers intellectual challenge to the best students in the university and demands of them the best effort of which they are capable. To this end, courses are designed to stretch the mind, sharpen skills and encourage high standards of performance.
- The second principle is a belief that, regardless of degree program, students should be liberally educated. That is, they should understand and appreciate the language, literature and history of our culture; the social, political and economic structure of our society; the creative achievements that enrich our lives; and the basic assumptions and substance of the natural sciences. Honors students are, therefore, encouraged to select courses that provide an understanding of the arts, humanities and sciences.

## Honors Advising

Students meet with their Honors College advisors at least once per semester. During advising meetings, students are encouraged to develop long-range plans to organize their academic work and co-curricular experiences in accordance with their interests and career aspirations.

## Community

The Stopher-Johnson complex is located at the center of campus. Honors student living there have the best of worlds - a nurturing and stimulating

experience with other Honors students as well as convenient access to the surrounding Kent State campus community.

The Honors complex includes the three-story Johnson and Stopher Residence Halls, a library/computer room, a reception lobby and advising offices. Students live just steps from the Honors College dean and its academic advisors.

Student involvement in the affairs of the college is a tradition. For example, Honors students are eligible to serve on the Honors College Policy Council (HOCOPOCO).

## Admission Requirements

The Honors College recruits incoming students who demonstrate the potential for superior academic and creative ability at Kent State University. Admission to the Honors College for new freshmen is by invitation only. In addition to the Kent State undergraduate admission application, admission is based on holistic review of many variables, including, but not limited to: high school performance (curriculum, grade point average), essay, extra-curricular activities, work experiences. Standardized tests are considered but not required for admission.

## Honors Work

Honors courses can be used to meet requirements in all degree granting colleges and schools of the university and to also satisfy Kent Core requirements. All honors freshmen are enrolled in the year-long Freshman Honors Colloquium. The colloquium is designed to be a rigorous course in reading, thinking and writing about literature and ideas. The goal of the course is to develop habits of intellectual inquiry, mature understanding and effective communication that will serve the students through the college years and afterward.

Beyond the freshman honors colloquium, many Honors courses are offered by distinguished faculty from academic departments throughout the university. Although these courses differ significantly in content, from art to zoology, they share a common form. Class enrollments are small, and students can get to know each other and their professors in an environment that encourages learning through discussion, reading, individual work and writing.

Seniors in the Honors College can conclude their undergraduate careers by completing a sustained scholarly or creative project under faculty guidance. Theses and projects have been submitted by seniors from all of the degree-granting colleges and schools at Kent State University and have ranged over many disciplines and areas of creative endeavor. Novels and plays have been written; research has been undertaken in the natural and social sciences; historical events and periods have been critically analyzed; architectural models have been proposed for urban renewal sites; and paintings and films have been created and exhibited. Each thesis/project attests to the willingness of Honors students to extend learning beyond the classroom to self-directed efforts appropriate to the conclusion of an enriched program of study.

## Graduation from the Honors College

The college offers three programs for Graduation with Honors. Although each has minimum cumulative GPA requirements, the primary emphasis is on the successful completion of an undergraduate degree program, including a Senior Honors Thesis or Project.

- Graduation with Departmental Honors requires completion of a Senior Honors Thesis or Project and a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA. The

requirements are sufficiently flexible to enable undergraduates who join the college in their junior year to participate in this program.

- Graduation with General Honors requires completion of a Senior Honors Thesis or Project plus 24 Honors College credit hours and a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA.
- Graduation with University Honors requires completion of a Senior Honors Thesis or Project plus 24 Honors College credit hours and a minimum 3.8 cumulative GPA.

Students who do not wish to complete a Senior Honors Thesis or Project to graduate with Honors may alternatively finish 24 Honors College credit hours and achieve a minimum 3.25 cumulative GPA to graduate from the university as Honors College Scholars.

## Design Innovation (DI)

### DI 10010 SURVEY OF DESIGN INNOVATION NODES 3 Credit Hours

Develop awareness and actively utilize the wide array of shared-resource laboratories and environments across Kent State University's eight campus system that are connected as part of the Design Innovation (DI) Ecosystem. Explore the context of maker-communities, emerging technologies and social innovation resources while working in collaborative cross-disciplinary teams to tackle projects that intentionally connect the capabilities of multiple DI Nodes.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Contact Hours:** 3 lecture

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

### DI 20020 BE SMARTER THAN YOUR SMARTPHONE 3 Credit Hours

This course uses the development of the smart phone to illustrate the multi-disciplinary nature of design and innovation. It provides an understanding of the technologies that make the smartphone possible. Specifically, the course covers the role of research and design in product development, the changed in patterns and nature of our communications through smartphones, and the implications for businesses, markets and society. The aim of this course is to introduce the multidisciplinary nature of innovation using the smartphone as an example. It presents the complexities, challenges, and opportunities that the smartphone has created.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Contact Hours:** 3 lecture

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

### DI 20100 INTRODUCTION TO DESIGN INNOVATION 3 Credit Hours

This course blends analytical skills, intuition and creative thinking to develop practical solutions to real world problems. Gain a high-level understanding of the design process through team-based projects tackling challenges. Design thinking, methods and strategies offer novel ways to discover market opportunities, experiment to validate concepts and mitigate risk, and deliver value to all. This will be a reflective lecture and small project-based course that addresses the programmatic, technical, business, social and human factors of design in a way that leads to innovation(s) in the development of integrated solutions. Learn how to engage with end users, effectively frame problems, identify potential solutions, build prototypes to test assumptions and learn what works (and doesn't). Then dive into a range of ways large and small to bring design innovation into your daily life.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Schedule Type:** Laboratory, Lecture, Combined Lecture and Lab

**Contact Hours:** 2 lecture, 3 lab

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

### DI 30099 CHALLENGE-BASED INNOVATION (ELR) 3 Credit Hours

(Repeatable for credit) Challenge-Based Innovation (CBI) is a project and problem-based learning course, where multidisciplinary student teams and their instructors collaborate with faculty researchers, community and industry partners to discover novel solutions for the future of humankind. The projects are an elaborate mixture, proposed by cross-disciplinary faculty teams and derived from using research to tackle messy or complex problems to meet societal, human-driven needs. The multidisciplinary student teams act as catalysts in creating novel solutions to pressing problems.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Schedule Type:** Laboratory, Lecture, Combined Lecture and Lab, Project or Capstone

**Contact Hours:** 2 lecture, 3 lab

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**Attributes:** Experiential Learning Requirement

### DI 49095 SPECIAL TOPICS IN DESIGN INNOVATION STUDIO 1-6 Credit Hours

(Repeatable for credit) Analysis and cross-disciplinary problem-solving of significant and current issues in design innovation not covered in existing design innovation courses. This studio course is offered when opportunities and resources permit; the topic is announced when the course is scheduled.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Schedule Type:** Studio

**Contact Hours:** 2-6 other

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

### DI 49099 DESIGN INNOVATION WORKSHOP (ELR) 1-4 Credit Hours

(Repeatable for credit) This course supports brief, intensive and interactive activities that address a narrowly defined range of problems in which the content is practical and concentrates on the acquisition of specific information and skills related to practices in design innovation. The variable credit format allows for intensive challenges that might occur in short periods, and that it might be focused on a single problem.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Schedule Type:** Project or Capstone, Workshop

**Contact Hours:** 1-4 other

**Grade Mode:** Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory

**Attributes:** Experiential Learning Requirement

**DI 49995 SPECIAL TOPICS IN DESIGN INNOVATION 1-3 Credit Hours**  
(Repeatable for credit) Analysis and cross-disciplinary problem-solving of significant and current issues in design innovation not covered in existing design innovation courses. This course is offered when opportunities and resources permit; the topic is announced when the course is scheduled.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Schedule Type:** Lecture

**Contact Hours:** 1-3 lecture

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**DI 49999 DESIGN INNOVATION GRAND CHALLENGES STUDIO PROJECT (ELR) 3 Credit Hours**

(Repeatable for credit) A cross disciplinary project-based capstone course that collaboratively focuses on a single grand challenge. Challenges range from those identified by GrandChallenges.org, "solving global health and development problems for those most in need" to one of the "Grand Challenges for Engineering", to one from the list regularly updated by the National Science Foundation, to a pressing challenge identified by the faculty. Taught by a multidisciplinary team of primary instructors with input from industry leaders with complementary expertise, the collaborative effort of students, faculty members, industry partners and-or community leaders, focuses on developing robust multi-perspective, actionable solutions considering multiple criteria including but not limited to technical, socio-cultural and economic dimensions. Outcomes range from early designs, to physical prototypes or policy solutions with an understanding of how to take them to a next phase. Travel component may be included.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Schedule Type:** Project or Capstone

**Contact Hours:** 6 other

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**Attributes:** Experiential Learning Requirement

## Honors (HONR)

**HONR 10010 HONORS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2 Credit Hours**

This course will examine effective leadership in the public and nonprofit sectors from both a theoretical and practical perspective. Using course readings, discussions, and assignments students will be challenged and equipped to serve as actively engaged citizens at the university and in the greater community. Students will examine the complexities of generational leadership, working in groups, using effective communication, inspiring a shared vision and purpose, group problem solving, and decision making, ethical leadership, civic engagement, and leading in communities of difference. This class will feature multiple learning methods including lectures, class discussion, case studies, group exercises, in and out-of-class assignments, presentations, and self-reflection. This course aims to teach first semester Honors freshmen students how to be engaged Honors College leaders from the beginning of their college career.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Schedule Type:** Seminar

**Contact Hours:** 2 lecture

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**HONR 10096 INDIVIDUAL HONORS WORK 1-4 Credit Hours**

(Repeatable for credit) Directed independent study for freshmen in any department.

**Prerequisite:** Special approval of department.

**Schedule Type:** Individual Investigation

**Contact Hours:** 1-4 other

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter-IP

**HONR 10197 FRESHMAN HONORS COLLOQUIUM I (KCMP) 1-4 Credit Hours**

(Repeatable for credit) Required of all honors freshmen in lieu of College Writing. Stresses exploration, discussion and communication of ideas expressed in works related to theme of colloquium.

**Prerequisite:** Admitted to the Honors College.

**Schedule Type:** Colloquium

**Contact Hours:** 1-4 other

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter-IP

**Attributes:** Kent Core Composition

**HONR 10297 FRESHMAN HONORS COLLOQUIUM II (KCMP) 1-4 Credit Hours**

(Repeatable for credit) Continuation of HONR 10197.

**Prerequisite:** Admitted to the Honors College.

**Schedule Type:** Colloquium

**Contact Hours:** 1-4 other

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter-IP

**Attributes:** Kent Core Composition

**HONR 13597 COLLOQUIUM: THE WESTERN IDENTITY (KADL) 3 Credit Hours**

(Repeatable for credit) Focuses on Western and non-Western cultures from a comparative perspective, in order to identify both different and shared values and to see how one's own culture shapes one's perspective, ideology, and values.

**Prerequisite:** Admitted to the Honors College; and special approval.

**Schedule Type:** Colloquium

**Contact Hours:** 3 lecture

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter

**Attributes:** Kent Core Additional

**HONR 20096 INDIVIDUAL HONORS WORK 1-4 Credit Hours**

(Repeatable for credit) Directed independent study for sophomores in any department.

**Prerequisite:** Special approval of the department.

**Schedule Type:** Individual Investigation

**Contact Hours:** 1-4 other

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter-IP

**HONR 20197 SOPHOMORE COLLOQUIUM 1-4 Credit Hours**

(Repeatable for credit) One-semester course or two-semester sequence exploring interdisciplinary ideas and issues related to a single theme, by means of readings, discussion and individual papers and projects.

**Prerequisite:** Admitted to the Honors College.

**Schedule Type:** Colloquium

**Contact Hours:** 1-4 other

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter-IP

**HONR 20297 SOPHOMORE COLLOQUIUM 1-4 Credit Hours**

(Repeatable for credit) One-semester course or two-semester sequence exploring interdisciplinary ideas and issues related to a single theme, by means of readings, discussion and individual papers and projects.

**Prerequisite:** Admitted to the Honors College.

**Schedule Type:** Colloquium

**Contact Hours:** 1-4 other

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter-IP

**HONR 30096 INDIVIDUAL HONORS WORK 1-4 Credit Hours**

(Repeatable for credit) Directed independent study for juniors in any department.

**Prerequisite:** Special approval of department.

**Schedule Type:** Individual Investigation

**Contact Hours:** 1-4 other

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter-IP

**HONR 30197 JUNIOR COLLOQUIUM 1-4 Credit Hours**

(Repeatable for credit) One-semester course or two-semester sequence for juniors or seniors exploring interdisciplinary ideas and issues related to single theme, by means of readings, discussion and individual papers and projects.

**Prerequisite:** Admitted to the Honors College.

**Schedule Type:** Colloquium

**Contact Hours:** 1-4 other

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter-IP

**HONR 30297 JUNIOR COLLOQUIUM 1-4 Credit Hours**

(Repeatable for credit) One-semester course or two-semester sequence for juniors or seniors exploring interdisciplinary ideas and issues related to single theme, by means of readings, discussion and individual papers and projects.

**Prerequisite:** Admitted to the Honors College.

**Schedule Type:** Colloquium

**Contact Hours:** 1-4 other

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter-IP

**HONR 40085 SENIOR HONORS PORTFOLIO 1 Credit Hour**

Construction of a senior portfolio, consisting of a collection of artifacts and a reflective essay interpreting the student's growth during the college years.

**Prerequisite:** Senior standing.

**Schedule Type:** Individual Investigation

**Contact Hours:** 1 other

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter-IP

**HONR 40096 INDIVIDUAL HONORS WORK 1-4 Credit Hours**

(Repeatable for credit) Directed independent study for seniors in any department.

**Prerequisite:** Prior special approval of instructor; and special approval of and preregistration with Honors College.

**Schedule Type:** Individual Investigation

**Contact Hours:** 1-4 other

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter-IP

**HONR 40099 SENIOR HONORS THESIS/PROJECT (ELR) 1-10 Credit Hours**

(Repeatable for credit) Thesis or creative project.

**Prerequisite:** Special approval of department.

**Schedule Type:** Senior Project/Honors Thesis

**Contact Hours:** 1-10 other

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter-IP

**Attributes:** Experiential Learning Requirement

**HONR 40197 SENIOR COLLOQUIUM 1-4 Credit Hours**

(Repeatable for credit) One-semester course or two-semester sequence exploring interdisciplinary ideas and issues related to single theme, by means of readings, discussion and individual papers and projects.

**Prerequisite:** Admitted to the Honors College.

**Schedule Type:** Colloquium

**Contact Hours:** 1-4 other

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter-IP

**HONR 40297 SENIOR COLLOQUIUM 1-4 Credit Hours**

(Repeatable for credit) One-semester course or two-semester sequence exploring interdisciplinary ideas and issues related to single theme, by means of readings, discussion and individual papers and projects.

**Prerequisite:** Admitted to the Honors College.

**Schedule Type:** Colloquium

**Contact Hours:** 3 other

**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter-IP