

University Honors Program

Student Handbook

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Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to the University Honors Program – and congratulations on being chosen to join us. The selection process for admission to the Honors Program is rigorous. You were selected because we believe that you have the capacity both to learn from and to contribute to our program. We value curiosity and original thinking; we seek to nurture these and other attributes in ways that will enhance and deepen the education you get at George Washington University. Our program opens to you a community where students and faculty learn from each other and are inspired by academic challenge.

The Honors Program is characterized by:

- Small, seminar-style classes with enrollments usually capped at 15 – 20 students. Adapted for undergraduates from the graduate seminar model and thus called “proseminars”, these courses ask students to engage in informed conversation and active, collaborative exploration of topics and issues.
- Faculty dedicated to working with undergraduates; they serve as mentors, models and guides in the learning process.
- Classroom approaches that call upon and develop students’ curiosity, creativity and resourcefulness. Students are presented with problems to solve, questions to answer, or real-world cases to analyze and understand and are expected to initiate inquiry, work collaboratively and drive the exploration and learning process.
- A range of curricular offerings that include courses that nurture inter- or multi-disciplinary inquiry as well as courses that enable students to immerse themselves in a very specific topic and/or approach and to benefit from the particular expertise of the professor.
- Global or cross-cultural perspectives and course content: Many honors program courses are designed to expand students’ knowledge and understanding beyond the familiar. Often, they explore other cultures and value systems and deepen awareness of global issues and interdependencies.

By the end of their four years, Honors students will have completed coursework in the humanities, sciences, social sciences, and arts. This curriculum is designed to provide Honors students with the resources to make educated decisions about majors. The curriculum will equip students with the capacities to think critically, broadly, and deeply; to write clearly and persuasively; and to approach questions and complex problems with both confidence and humility. In sum, students will be well prepared to succeed in upper-level coursework within their chosen disciplines.

Through the Honors curriculum, honors opportunities in the majors, independent or mentored research projects, the senior capstone course, and community co-curricular programming, the program aims to:

- Offer you a compelling intellectual experience to hone your analytic and expressive powers, deepen your understandings, broaden your perspectives, and spark your passions, curiosity and personal aspirations;
- Provide you with a rigorous, participatory intellectual experience that you will share and have in common with your colleagues in the Honors Program community;
- Lead you to think and understand beyond the limits of a particular academic discipline or specialized, pre-professional course of study;

- Develop your understanding of other cultures and the spectrum of human and social differences;
- Encourage you to integrate and make connections among your academic learning, values, life experiences and personal observations;
- Help you to cultivate in yourself the intellectual breadth, depth and literacy expected of wholly educated persons and leaders in the 21st century.

Essential to the accomplishment of any of these aims is your active participation in, and assumption of responsibility for, your own learning. We provide opportunity. It is your responsibility to engage.

Finally, the most practical piece of advice: please use the resource of your Honors Program Officers who will serve as your UHP academic advisors. When in doubt, ask them the question. When in trouble, meet with them. Plan ahead – with them. Worried or confused about academic policies or graduation requirements? See them. Stay in touch throughout your four years in the program.

Schedule an advising appointment online by visiting our website (www.gwu.edu/~uhpwww). We are looking forward to getting to know you and working with you in the months and years ahead.

Maria Frawley, Ph.D.
Executive Director, University Honors Program

Your Four Years in the Program

When in doubt about anything regarding the Honors curriculum or any other questions you may have, please ask your Honors Program Officers!

To remain in good standing in the Honors Program, you must fulfill the following program requirements.

Scholastic Requirements

- Successful completion of the Honors Program curriculum and fulfillment of all Honors thesis requirements
- Minimum load of 12 academic credit hours every semester
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 at the end of freshman year and a 3.4 at graduation
- Obtain a grade of C- or better in all Honors courses

Freshman Year

- HONR 1015-1016, the Origins and Evolution of Modern Thought
- HONR 1033-1034, Scientific Reasoning & Discovery or an Honors-designated science course alternative

“Origins and Evolution of Modern Thought” immerses students in the exploration of significant exemplars, milestones and developments of human thought from ancient to modern times. Firsthand encounters with foundational and representative thinkers and texts from both Western and Eastern traditions provide students with an appreciation for the diversity and complexity of humanity’s attempts to articulate responses to universal questions, problems and aspirations. The fall semester focuses on the ancient origins of modern thought and serves as a **University Writing 1020 course**, while the spring semester addresses key developments and trajectories in human thought and inquiry into modern times.

For students in all schools, the fall semester of this course will fulfill the freshman UW 1020 writing requirement. Additionally, Origins will fulfill the following general curriculum and elective requirements for each school:

- **Business School:** 1 humanities elective
- **School of Engineering and Applied Sciences:** 2 humanities electives
- **Columbian College of Arts and Sciences:** 3 of 6 humanities GPAC credits
- **Elliott School of International Affairs:** 1 of 3 humanities required

“Scientific Reasoning & Discovery” uses a variety of approaches to explore major topics and issues in science. Students will learn to identify hidden regularities and patterns in nature that may indicate fundamental unifying principles and laws; apply the “scientific method” to unearth these laws and principles; evaluate scientific information; describe the limitations of the scientific process; understand the importance of collecting accurate and precise data; and develop a valid scientific hypothesis. Students’ investigations will use the tools and methodologies of geology, chemistry, physics, biology, anthropology and other disciplines necessary to the task.

****If you would prefer to take an Honors-designated science course alternative to fulfill your Honors science requirement, please visit our website for the most current information on available alternatives.**

Scientific Reasoning & Discovery fulfills the following general curriculum and elective requirements for each school:

- **Business School:** The 2 freshman-year science requirements, fulfills entirely
- **School of Engineering and Applied Sciences:** 2 electives. **Students in SEAS should speak to their faculty advisors to overview how these courses will fit into their overall degree programs.*
- **Columbian College of Arts and Sciences:** 8 out of 6 science GPAC credits, fulfills entirely
- **Elliott School of International Affairs:** 1 of 1 science requirements, fulfills entirely

First-year students may also take Honors introductory courses and special topics courses. Honors introductory courses offer students a chance to work closely with faculty in entry-level courses that can fulfill a general requirement. These courses are smaller than departmental offerings, allowing a more in-depth examination of topics traditionally covered in non-Honors entry-level courses. Special topics Honors courses are upper-level Honors courses geared towards upperclassmen in the program. First year students may register for these courses if given permission by the instructor and provided they have fulfilled any pre-requisites.

Sophomore through Senior Years

- HONR 2047-2048, Self & Society
- HONR 2053W-2054W, Arts & Humanities
- HONR 2016, Enlightenment East and West (Sophomore Admits Only)

Students must complete one section each of HONR 2047 and HONR 2048.

In **Honors 2047**, students choose from a selection of social science introductory courses, such as Comparative Politics, Cultural Anthropology, Sociology, Micro-Economics, Macro-Economics, General Psychology, and Human Geography. These courses provide a foundation in the language, perspectives, methods, and research approaches of a specific social science discipline. In addition, each course is limited to fifteen students, enabling authentic dialogue and discussion.

In **Honors 2048**, students fulfill their second Self & Society requirement by enrolling in a multi-disciplinary thematic course on a contemporary social issue, problem, or question. The specific themes of each section will differ, engaging issues such as terrorism, gender and violence, women in American politics, authoritarianism, international development, urban poverty, and nationalism, to cite a few examples. As with Honors 2047, these courses are typically limited to fifteen students.

Topics for this course will vary on a section by section basis. Section topics will be released prior to registration.

This course fulfills the following general curriculum and elective requirements for each school:

- **Business School:** 2 non-business electives (lower or upper) or unrestricted electives
- **School of Engineering and Applied Sciences:** 2 social science electives. **Students in SEAS should speak to their faculty advisors to review how these courses will fit into their overall degree programs.*
- **Columbian College of Arts and Sciences:** 6 of 6 social science GPAC credits, fulfills entirely
- **Elliott School of International Affairs:** *Fulfillment of requirements will be determined on a section by section basis. This information will be provided to you prior to registration for these courses.*

Students complete one section each of 2053 and 2054 between their second and fourth years.

Honors 2053 courses offer a thematic, multidisciplinary, and cross-cultural analysis of the humanities and artistic expression. Recently offered themes include built space and cultural heroes, the place of nature in the arts, historical memory, and the emergence of popular literature as an aspect of modernity.

Honors 2054 courses provide an in-depth exploration of important topics in the humanities and are grounded in specific disciplines. These courses are designed to develop the academic skills required to engage in research in the students' particular areas of interests within the humanities. Recent

offerings include courses on Nietzsche and the crisis of modernity (political philosophy), Buddhist Philosophy (religion), Victorian-era literature (English), and the concept of belief (philosophy).

The course fulfills the following requirements:

- **Business School:** 2 non-business electives (upper or lower) or unrestricted electives
- **School of Engineering and Applied Sciences:** 2 humanities electives
- **Columbian College of Arts and Sciences:** 3 of 6 humanities GPAC credits
- **Elliott School of International Affairs:** 1 of 3 humanities requirements. *Some Arts and Humanities courses may fulfill regional requirements - this will be determined on a section by section basis and will be provided to you prior to registration for these courses. Individual course petitions to ESIA are also possible. Students are encouraged to discuss their individualized curriculum with their ESIA and UHP advisors.*

HONR 2016 is a course required exclusively for students admitted as sophomores to be taken during the fall of their sophomore years. Students admitted as sophomores must also complete the remaining requirements for Self & Society, Arts & Humanities, capstone, thesis, GPA and credit hours.

Sophomores should also begin to think about the options that will be open to them in the years to come—study abroad, research fellowships, etc.

Junior Year

During their junior year, most students in the Honors Program choose to:

- Pursue advanced course work in their major
- Perform undergraduate research
- Consider Special Honors in their degree
- Enroll in other Honors courses
- Prepare for graduate admissions tests or fellowships
- Visit the Career Center

Senior Year

- HONR 4199, Honors Capstone
- Departmental or “special” honors, **or**
- HONR 4198, Honors Senior Thesis

Senior Honors students come together for a final capstone Honors senior seminar, which may be taken in either semester of the senior year (or junior year when applicable) for one credit hour. Honors students are also expected to pursue special honors in their major or complete an independent Honors senior thesis through the Honors Program.

Department Honors or Honors Senior Thesis

Honors students must fulfill this requirement, as well as all other Honors Program requirements, to earn the “Graduate, University Honors Program” designation upon graduation. If you are unclear about how to pursue an honors thesis in your department or the Honors Program, be sure to speak with a program officer prior to your senior year.

For students in CCAS, SMPA, ESIA: *Some departments do not grant special honors.* If you are unable or choose not to pursue departmental honors, then you must take HONR 4198, Honors Senior Thesis, as outlined in Option II of this section.

For students in GWSB, SEAS, SPHS: Your University Honors Program senior thesis requirement is automatically fulfilled by successful completion of your school’s regular senior requirements (GWSB course, SEAS and SPHS projects). Make sure to confirm your plans with an advisor when signing up for your senior courses.

Option I. Special or Departmental Honors

The Honors Program encourages you to pursue special honors in your major as the best means to fulfill your Honors Senior Thesis Requirement. Some departments will require that students take more than one course to pursue special honors; therefore, you must successfully complete all special honors requirements within your department to fulfill your Honors senior thesis requirement. Please visit the Appendix of this handbook, and speak with your Honors and major academic advisors for more information on departmental honors.

Option II. Honors Senior Thesis Course

HONR 4198 Honors Senior Thesis

The student is responsible for finding a full-time faculty member as an advisor willing to advise him/her in preparing a senior thesis and who will be responsible for grading the final product. It is highly recommended that students organize a senior thesis committee with multiple readers, but this is not required as only one faculty member will have authority for giving the final grade. The student may take HONR 4198 for either one or two semesters and may either write a library-based research paper, a primary research-based paper, or complete a creative project (generally for Fine Arts and Creative Writing majors). For information about the registration process for this course, please contact the Honors Program Officers.

Honors Research Opportunities

In addition to the Honors curriculum, Honors students are welcome to enroll in research assistantships, independent or mentored Honors undergraduate research courses. These courses are complementary to the Honors education and do not replace any of the required courses within the Honors curriculum.

The University is full of opportunities for undergraduate research and research assistance, from working one-on-one with faculty on their interests or yours, to contributing to the mission of one of

GW's many research centers and institutes. The Honors Program Officers are happy to meet with you about your interests. Please turn to Appendix D at the end of this document to find out more about the Center for Undergraduate Fellowships and Research, as well as see a few select research opportunities that Honors students have commonly taken advantage of in the past.

Honors Research Guidelines

Generally, students in all schools may take the Honors undergraduate research course for credit with a member of the University's faculty. All of the Honors research courses require a contract between the student, the professor, and the Honors Program.

The Honors Program Officers will register a student for the courses mentioned below when the student submits a completed Honors contract along with an add/drop form that has been approved by the program. Please contact a Program Officer for more information on this process.

Honors Undergraduate Research

HONR 2184:10 (0-4 credits)

The Honors Program gives credit for independent and mentored research work completed in cooperation with a full-time professor, resulting in a significant written product or project. Each student needs to select a faculty member to oversee his or her project and assign a letter grade. The student and professor should meet at least ten times during the semester.

Honors Research Assistantship

HONR 2185:10 (0-4 credits)

Students providing substantive assistance to a full-time faculty member engaged in scholarly or scientific research in a directed research project may elect this course. Students participating in HONR 2185 will be actively engaged in the scholarly research of the supervising faculty member.

Honors Senior Thesis

HONR 4198 (3-4 credits each semester)

The Honors Senior Thesis is a one- or two-semester thesis under guidance of a full-time member of the faculty. The student and professor should meet at least ten times during the semester.

Sigelman Undergraduate Research Enhancement Awards (SURE)

Thanks to a generous endowment from GWU professors Carol and Lee Sigelman, the University Honors Program (UHP) last year announced new research enhancement grants available to UHP students to promote and provide support for their research experiences. Any current UHP student – from freshman to senior year – who is engaged in research may compete for an individual grant of up to \$500 to support his or her research activities. The SURE Awards are available to support a variety of uses or activities related to research and scholarly activity by students in all undergraduate programs at GWU (including the humanities, the arts, science and engineering, business, and public health). They include (but are not limited to) the purchase of equipment or supplies necessary for a research project; support of conference presentation through coverage of

registration or associated travel costs; support of travel to libraries or archives; and videography costs associated with the documentation of performances. Contact Catherine Chandler at cbrady@gwu.edu for more information about the UHP/SURE Award.

To learn more about these and other research opportunities at GW, contact the persons listed below or the Center for Undergraduate Fellowships and Research by email at fellcent@gwu.edu or in person in Colonial Crossroad, Marvin Center 505.

Research Assistantships

To promote original or creative intellectual contributions by talented undergraduates, the University Honors Program matches qualified and motivated Honors students with faculty around the University to participate in research assistance for academic credit.

Faculty members submit to the UHP descriptions of research projects along with desired student qualifications. Students apply to work on a project of interest, and faculty select the student from applicants. The Honors Program oversees a satisfactory experience for both, and provides academic credit to the student through HONR 2185:10.

Students work with the UHP to discuss their goals and expectations and to register for academic credit toward their research work. Students seeking three credit hours should expect to dedicate an average of six to nine hours a week, with the understanding that some weeks may be busier than others!

Students seeking two credit hours should expect four to six hours a week, and those seeking one credit hour should expect between two and three hours a week.

To be registered for the research assistantship once they've been selected by faculty, students must contact the UHP and fill out the contract form and RTF to be registered. Faculty must sign the RTF-EZ and specify whether the course will be for a letter grade or pass/no pass.

University, Departmental and Program Honors Recognition

Types of Honors Recognition

There are several types of Honors at GW:

Latin Honors

Determined by the University based on cumulative GPA: cum laude 3.40-3.59, magna cum laude 3.60-3.79, summa cum laude 3.80-4.0. Appears on diploma.

Special Honors in your major/school

Students should consider pursuing special honors (also called departmental honors) in their major. Not only is it an additional honor, but it recognizes outstanding achievement in the student's major on recommendation of the major department. The student must fulfill all of the requirements set by the department/school. Pursuing special honors and taking the required departmental course fulfills your Honors senior thesis requirement.

University Honors Program

Graduate, University Honors Program

Honors students who have successfully completed all their Honors Program requirements will have "Graduate, University Honors Program" noted on their final transcripts.

Scholar, University Honors Program

Current students in good standing will have their transcripts annotated "Scholar, University Honors Program."

Member, University Honors Program

Seniors who, as of the fall of their senior year, do not have the mathematical possibility to meet the 3.40 GPA requirement may continue participation in the Program through the spring with a notation of "Member, University Honors Program" on their transcript for the spring semester. Any student who is removed from the Honors Program will receive the "member, UHP" status for the semester during which they were removed.

Honors Societies

Many national honors societies have chapters at GWU. Some are based on academic performance, some are invitation only, some require demonstrations of leadership, community service, or significant contributions to a particular field. Some societies have membership criteria that may require you to take certain classes or have other achievements early in your academic year. You are advised to seek out information about societies you'd like to join well before your graduation semester.

Honors Sororities and Fraternities

There are a wide variety of "Greek" honors sororities and fraternities at GWU. Some focus on fields of study, others may focus on volunteer work.

Policies and Procedures

You, as a student of the Honors Program and of the University, are responsible for your academic choices and performance. If any policies of the Honors Program or of the University are unclear to you, ask for clarification!

Credit Hours

You must take a minimum of 12 **academic** credit hours* per semester. Regardless of academic standing, all Honors students are expected to maintain full-time status each semester they are enrolled at GW. Students enrolled part-time for even one semester are subject to removal from the program. Students in their final semester of undergraduate study are exempt from this requirement, but should check to see if part-time status affects their financial and/or merit aid. Students enrolled part-time due to medical reasons or other extenuating circumstances must speak with an Honors Program Officer at the start of the semester in question to receive written approval for a reduced course load.

In addition, please note that Honors students have been granted special permission to take up to 18 credits each semester at no extra charge during their freshman and sophomore years. Honors students will adhere to regular GW policy in their junior and senior years, and will only be able to take up to 17 credits per semester at no extra charge.

**Please note that exercise and sport activities courses do not count as academic credit*

Semester Grade Review

Honors students' academic performances are reviewed at the end of each semester. Students who have not met the GPA, curriculum, credit load or any other requirements of the program will be notified and subject to probation and/or removal from the program.

Course Registration Procedures

Typically, registration takes place during the first weeks of November and April. Details about registration can be found on the Honors Program website (gwu.edu/~uhpwww) and blog (honorsprogram.gwublogs.com). Both of these information sources contain details about Honors courses, including course descriptions and times. Updates about registration will be sent via e-mail newsletters. It is your responsibility to make sure you are on the newsletter email list and to read registration communications.

***REMEMBER:** Honors Program Officers can only remove CCAS advising holds. The Honors Program cannot remove holds placed on your account by other schools or offices of the University such as Student Health, Student Accounts, Student Judicial Services or the Library.

Due to the structured Honors curriculum, Honors students will have privileged registration for their second, third, and fourth semesters.

Academic Integrity

The Honors Program is committed to the integrity of academic inquiry and scholarship. Academic dishonesty is contrary to its ideals and goals. Therefore, it is expected that the work of all Honors students will be original, their own, and that the work of others will be properly attributed to them.

Students found guilty of academic dishonesty may be expelled from the Honors Program. GW's Code of Academic Integrity can be found at: <http://www.gwu.edu/~integrity/code.html>.

Study Abroad

All you have to do for the Honors Program is fill out a Study Abroad form. This can be done online by visiting the Forms and Documents page at <http://www.gwu.edu/~uhpwww>. Because you will not be taking Honors courses during the semester(s) you are abroad, a grade review will not be conducted and your transcript will not be annotated.

It is also important that you give some thought to what classes you plan to take the semester you return. The Honors Program Officers are happy to help you select courses for your time abroad and for your return to GW, but the UHP cannot approve transfer credits. Please consult the Study Abroad Office and the relevant departments about approving and transferring your credits from abroad.

Staying Informed

Ensure that you receive the Honors newsletter as it contains important registration updates. We send you all the information you need to make sure you meet all appropriate deadlines for the UHP and for other information crucial to your success in the Honors Program. It is **your** responsibility to read our messages and ensure you are informed of all requirements. You can also read the UHP blog at honorsprogram.gwublogs.com or visit us on [facebook.com/theUHP](https://www.facebook.com/theUHP) or twitter.com/theUHP.

Course Evaluations

All Honors courses use the University's Online Course Evaluation system operated by the Office of Academic Planning and Assessment according to their calendar - see <http://www.gwu.edu/~oapa/onlinecourseevaluation.html> for scheduling and more information. Reminder emails are sent out on the first day of the evaluation period to students and faculty that alerts them the evaluations are live. Students will have approximately two weeks to complete the evaluations anonymously, and a report of the results will be available to faculty through the online system after grades are due.

The OCE has a general question set of about fifteen generic questions that precede the questions designed by the Honors Program to address your own course, whether it be a part of one of our curricular areas or a special topics course. The entire evaluation, with questions and time for comments, should take students fifteen to twenty minutes in total.

Please take the evaluation process very seriously. Faculty place a high value on your anonymous feedback, and evaluation results often play an important role in promotion and hiring at GW and other universities. Your honest and thoughtful feedback is invaluable to the Honors Program and all the other departments at GW!

What Your Program Officers Can Do For You

The Importance of Advising

Academic advising is a key benefit of membership in the Honors Program. Students have access to Honors Program Officers who are located in the Honors office and work closely with the Director. These officers are especially good resources for exploring opportunities in general education and academic enrichment. They are also the primary advisors for CCAS Honors Program students who have not yet declared a major and are supplemental advisors for all Honors students. You can schedule an appointment online by visiting www.gwu.edu/~uhpwww.

Making Sense of it All

Sometimes understanding academic requirements proves challenging. Program Officers are here to help make sense of it all. They provide students with an understanding of how the UHP curriculum interacts w/ school requirements.

Meet with the Honors Program Officers

It is recommended that all students consult their Program Officers regularly for long-term academic planning and prior to registering for courses. The Program Officers can help you update your academic plans to your life and goals beyond GW. Proper planning early in one's academic career can help toward a timely degree completion. You can schedule an appointment online by visiting <http://www.gwu.edu/~uhpwww>.

How Can I Get the Most out of Advising?

Be prepared for your meetings with your Program Officer. Establish a relationship with your officers.

Think about your entire academic career, not just the semester for which you are registering. Get to know The George Washington University and its academic programs. It is especially important to be familiar with the various rules, policies and procedures that can affect you. Especially if you are experiencing difficulty, consult with your Program Officer in time to correct the problem. You can schedule an appointment online by visiting www.gwu.edu/~uhpwww

Meet with the Fellowship Advisors

If you have a question about a specific fellowship, scholarship or research opportunity, or just have questions in general, you can meet with the staff of the Center for Undergraduate Fellowships and Research. Turn to page 15 for more information.

Honors Community

Events, Activities and Traditions

Stay up to date on events and activities outside the classroom:

- [Facebook.com/theUHP](https://www.facebook.com/theUHP)
- honorsprogram.gwublogs.com
- gwu.edu/~uhpwww/calendar.cfm

Throughout the academic year, the Honors Program sponsors a number of activities both on campus and in the greater DC community. During the semester the program sponsors popular events like the Honors hike and day trips throughout the region. Other programming takes advantage of the vibrant cultural life of the District of Columbia, and students and faculty enjoy lectures and discussions with visiting thinkers, faculty-led excursions to performances (such as *Silent Hamlet* at the Synetic Theatre), museum and gallery exhibits, film screenings, or appearances by notable figures. At the end of each semester, the Honors Program invites students and faculty to mingle at the Student-Faculty Dinner. Honors programming is student-driven, so each year there are new and different opportunities to socialize, discuss issues, meet with faculty and explore the arts. Check the events calendar at our website, and read honorsprogram.gwublogs.com and [Facebook.com/theUHP](https://www.facebook.com/theUHP) to find out about upcoming events.

SUGGEST EVENTS!

The University Honors Program encourages Honors students to suggest events that the Honors Program can develop or sponsor. Like your participation in the classroom, your active citizenship in the Honors community gives back to you as much as you contribute. Please engage with us, tell us your ideas, and share your interests. You can help to shape our community life. Email uhp@gwu.edu with your programming ideas or bring them to the attention of the Director at the breakfasts and lunches she regularly schedules in order to meet with Honors students.

Student Peer Advisors (SPA)

Student Peer Advisors are UHP students dedicated to providing comprehensive support from students with real experience, ranging from balancing honors with school requirements to where to find the best late night snack. The SPA serves as an additional resource for UHP students with student advisors able to draw on their unique experiences in order to make life easier. With areas of expertise including time management skills, living abroad, transitioning to a big city, specific majors, holding part time jobs, athletics, getting enough sleep, balancing extracurricular activities, dorm life, and how to explain your crazy major to your parents— the SPA helps connect students to someone who's been there.

All freshmen Origins sections have two SPA members assigned to them and students are encouraged to meet any of the SPA with whom they may share interests, so get to know them right away! If you're looking to find out more about the SPA, or how you can become a Student Peer advisor yourself, email uhpspa@gwu.edu.

Communication

Honors Newsletter: It's a Must-Read!

The Honors newsletter is a main source of information for all students regarding the University Honors Program. You will usually receive one email edition a week, keeping you informed of important events, special opportunities, registration information, and deadlines.

Check out the Honors Program Blog at honorsprogram.gwublogs.com. This blog will be updated almost daily, so bookmark it and visit often! You can also find us at [Facebook.com/theUHP](https://www.facebook.com/theUHP) and [Twitter.com/theUHP](https://twitter.com/theUHP)

All Honors students must make sure that they are receiving the University Honors Program weekly newsletter via their GW e-mail address, and that they are reading each issue.

Honors Housing

Honors students have the option of learning and living together in Honors residential communities - centers of cultural, social, and academic activity.

First-Year Housing

The Honors Program, Housing Programs, and the Center for Student Engagement, offers first-year students the opportunity to learn and live in an Honors residential community within a larger residence hall.

In this community, students with a wide variety of interests, but similar academic goals, come together to form a close-knit "neighborhood." For first-year Honors students, all of whom are enrolled in the freshmen Honors proseminars, the benefits of living together are apparent: the communities serve as ready-made study groups and provide a shared experience for a diverse body of highly motivated and intellectually curious students. In recognition that some students may prefer not to reside in an Honors residential setting, Honors residential programming is optional, not required.

Honors Housing for Sophomores

Honors also offers an Honors residential option for sophomore-level students. Honors housing provides an opportunity for Honors students to live together and to participate in special, student-driven programming engaging DC resources. The residential hall location varies from year to year. More information about sophomore housing will be provided to you via the blog and newsletter in the spring of your freshman year.

Equal Opportunity

The George Washington University does not unlawfully discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, handicap, veteran status or sexual orientation. This policy covers all programs, series, policies, and procedures of the University,

including admission to education programs and employment. The University is subject to the District of Columbia Human Rights Law.

Inquiries concerning the application of this policy and federal laws and regulations concerning discrimination in educational or employment programs and activities may be addressed to the Associate Vice President for Human Resources, The George Washington University, Washington, D.C. 20052, (202) 994-4433, or Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education.

Appendix A: Undergraduate Fellowships and Research Opportunities

Center for Undergraduate Fellowships and Research

GW created the Center for Undergraduate Fellowships and Research (CUFR) to provide GW undergraduates and alumni with information, guidance and support as they learn about and apply for research opportunities and national fellowship competitions. There are fellowship programs for freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors and alumni, so stop by early to learn about different opportunities.

Fellowships

National fellowships are competitive awards that provide remarkable experiences and support for students interested in study abroad, graduate study, careers in public service, international affairs, teaching, scientific research, engineering, journalism and a host of other fields. Each year dozens of undergraduates from all GW schools and majors compete for and win Fulbright, Rotary, Truman, Goldwater, Marshall, Boren, Pickering, Teach for America and many other nationally competitive awards. Fellowships provide experiences that broaden your horizons and enrich your personal and professional development.

Applying for a national fellowship is a challenging yet rewarding experience, one that will test and stretch your ideas about who you are, what matters to you, and where you want to go in life. For this reason, the Center is committed to making the application experience valuable in itself for GW students.

Research

Undergraduate research experiences offer students the chance to learn first-hand, in collaboration with professors, how new knowledge is generated. The Center actively provides information and advice to students who want to learn about GW and national opportunities to get involved in undergraduate research. The CUFR website lists a large number and variety of undergraduate research opportunities at GW and across the country. There are opportunities in every field of study, from the humanities and social sciences to the natural sciences, business, public health, international affairs and engineering. Undergraduate research experiences deepen our appreciation for the challenges and rewards of learning about the world. These experiences are

also great preparation for students interested in graduate studies, national fellowships, and the most competitive employment opportunities.

The CUFR as a Resource

Learning about and applying for undergraduate fellowships and research awards can be a great complement to your academic and extracurricular experiences at GW. Please feel free to contact the Center at fellcent@gwu.edu to set up an individual appointment.

The Center's website, undergraduate.research.gwu.edu, lists hundreds of fellowship and research opportunities, organized according to your class year (freshman, sophomore, etc.) as well as according to your areas of interest or goals (study abroad, language learning, etc.). We encourage you to visit, look around and get in touch with Center staff to learn more. Center staff are equally happy to speak to students with specific plans and to those with very general questions.

Undergraduate Research

Enosinian Scholars

Named after the literary and debating society founded at GW in 1822, the Enosinian Scholars Program is a two-semester senior thesis research program for top GW undergraduate students in all schools and all programs. Enosinian Scholars receive financial support to cover certain expenses associated with their research projects. To be considered for this program, students should have a superior grade point average within their discipline (typically 3.5 or higher), a clear idea for their senior thesis, and strong support of a faculty member. Applications are available in the Honors Program offices.

All students in the program are committed to undertaking a two-semester senior thesis. Students can earn up to three credits in the fall semester and three in the spring. Students who have completed senior theses for their departments in the fall semester may apply to join The George Washington University Enosinian Scholars Program in the spring to expand their work.

All George Washington University Enosinian Scholars theses will be reviewed in an oral examination with outside reviewers between April 15 and May 7.

Advisor: Contact the CUFR at fellcent@gwu.edu for more information.

George Gamow Undergraduate Research Fellowship

The George Gamow Undergraduate Research Fellowship is co-sponsored by the Office of Graduate Studies and Academic Affairs and the Center for Undergraduate Fellowships and Research. The Gamow Program provides either academic year or summer funding to undergraduate students in all schools of the University who submit a proposal with the support of a full-time faculty member to conduct research, scholarship, or creative activity in the humanities, creative arts, social sciences, sciences, engineering or other disciplinary studies at GW.

The Gamow Undergraduate Research Fellowship is named for George Gamow, a distinguished theoretical nuclear physicist who was on the faculty at GW from 1934 to 1956 and who is best known for developing the "Big Bang Theory." The goal of the Fellowship is to nurture the careers of students by enabling them to participate in meaningful, mentored research experiences in which they can learn how knowledge is generated in their field, develop research skills, and prepare for advanced study, advancing the research programs of GW faculty in the process.

In establishing this program, the University has several objectives:

- to enrich the educational experience of GW's most academically talented undergraduates by involving them in the process by which knowledge is created;
- to afford these students the many benefits that are derived from establishing a close relationship with a faculty mentor and working toward a goal as part of a team;
- to call attention to the value of undergraduate involvement in research, motivating more students to seek out research opportunities and more research-active faculty to make research opportunities available to students; and
- to contribute to the development of the next generation of scholars and researchers.

Eligibility: Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors are eligible to apply for Gamow Fellowships.

Award: Student researchers receive an award of \$3,600 for summer research projects or \$1,000 plus an additional \$1,500 living stipend for academic year projects. Faculty mentors receive a stipend of \$500.

Contact the CUFR at fellcent@gwu.edu for more information.

Luther Rice Collaborative Fellowships

Luther Rice Collaborative Fellowships are part of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences comprehensive undergraduate initiative to promote discovery- and inquiry-based education throughout the undergraduate experience at GW. The Rice Fellowships offer support for student-initiated research carried out in collaboration with, and under the guidance of, at least one faculty mentor. The research should undertake a significant, focused examination of an idea or an area of inquiry and result in work that could merit presentation or publication in a scholarly venue.

The Fellowship may take place over any increment of time -- from weeks to semesters and may or may not be associated with a credit-bearing course. The idea of the Rice Fellowships is to provide substantial support for the promotion of working research alliances between students and faculty on advanced inquiry on topics initiated by the students.

Eligibility: Student applicants must currently be Columbian College sophomores or juniors, a minimum GPA of 3.4, a declared major, and no judicial or disciplinary findings against them. Funding must support work undertaken during the junior or senior year (or the summer before the junior year). Students may not receive both a Luther Rice and a Gamow award for the same project. Faculty mentors must be full-time faculty.

Award: Luther Rice Fellowships offer up to \$5,000 to the student for research-related expenditures, including living expenses, travel, materials, equipment. The faculty mentor receives up to \$1,000 for salary or professional development. Budgets must be feasible and must reflect the time frame of the project and the nature of the inquiry.

Contact the CUFR at fellcent@gwu.edu for more information.

Cotlow Research Awards

Since 1990, the Lewis N. Cotlow Field Research Fund has supported anthropological research around the world by GW students. It was created by a \$150,000 bequest from the estate of Lewis Cotlow, an explorer, author, and filmmaker who attended GW.

Any topic relevant to anthropology's four fields is appropriate. Among the work the Cotlow Fund has supported are studies of children's folklore in San Francisco; ceramic production in South Africa; a neo-pagan movement in California; HIV/AIDS education in Thailand; Maasai cultural change; and tracking seasonal variability in the ancient Near East.

To prepare a strong proposal, it is important to work with a faculty mentor or mentors in the Anthropology Department. For more details, contact the chair of the Cotlow Award Committee, Prof. Barbara Miller (phone 994-7257; e-mail barbar@gwu.edu; office in 2112 G St., room 101).

Eligibility: Currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students at the George Washington University are eligible to apply. Preference is given to continuing students (that is, students not in the final year of their degree program), to students in anthropology majors or concentrations, and to those who have done well in anthropology.

Awards: Funds are used for travel, research assistance, and other expenses related to field research; they cannot be used for tuition or fees. Most awards are between \$250 and \$1500. Grant recipients are required to submit a report on their research and to account for how they spent the money. They also are required to make a presentation at the annual conference on student research.

The Office of the Vice President for Research Undergraduate Research Fellowship

The Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) announced a new Undergraduate Research Fellowship. This initiative is aimed at promoting discovery and inquiry-based education during the undergraduate experience at GW. The OVPR Undergraduate Research Fellowship offers support for undergraduate student-initiated research carried out in collaboration with, and under the guidance of, at least one faculty mentor. Research should undertake a significant, focused examination of an idea or an area of inquiry and result in work that could merit presentation or publication in a scholarly venue.

The OVPR Undergraduate Research Fellowship may take place over a period of time ranging from weeks to across semesters as long as it is completed within a single academic year.

Eligibility: Student applicants must currently be freshmen, sophomores or juniors, have a minimum GPA of 3.4, a declared major, and no judicial or disciplinary findings against them. Please note that students may not concurrently hold a Rice or Gamow award during the tenure of the OVPR

Undergraduate Research Fellowship. Faculty mentors must be GW faculty (full-time, part-time, or adjunct).

Award Period: The research project must be carried out during the sophomore, junior, or senior year. A project may begin as early as the summer before the sophomore year. Research may begin as early as July and must conclude by April of the following year. A brief report describing what was accomplished during the tenure of the Research Fellowship will be required by April 30.

Support: OVPR Undergraduate Research Fellowships offer \$10,000 to the student for research-related expenditures, including wages, living expenses, travel, materials, and equipment. Budgets must be feasible and must reflect the time frame of the project and the nature of the inquiry. Contact the CUFR at fellcent@gwu.edu for more information.

Elliott School Undergraduate Scholars Program

The Elliott School Undergraduate Scholars Program is an exciting independent research opportunity for promising Elliott School undergraduates. This research experience adds challenge and depth to Elliott School education and opens doors for students to share their findings through publication and conference participation and to conduct further research through grants, fellowships and graduate study. The program promotes these goals by offering students support and guidance as they conduct independent research on contemporary international affairs topics.

In conjunction with a faculty mentor, students will apply to the Elliott School Undergraduate Scholars program during the Fall semester in order to participate in the program during the Spring semester. Upon being accepted and committing to the program, Scholars will be registered for three credits of IAFF 190W by the Office of Academic Advising & Student Services. Students may not be enrolled in courses that conflict with this course's meeting time.

Other events associated with this program include a January kickoff event, an individual lunch between each Scholar and his/her faculty advisor (paid for with the stipend), a coffee date between each Scholar and his/her graduate student mentor(s) (paid for with the stipend), and a final small conference at which Scholars will present their research.

Eligibility: The Elliott School Undergraduate Scholars program is open to Elliott School undergraduates with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 who will not graduate prior to the Spring when they must present their research.

Award: Elliott School Undergraduate Scholars will receive a stipend of \$300 to be used to further their research and to cover lunch with the faculty advisor and coffee with the graduate student mentor(s). The money could be used for such purposes as conference participation or purchasing relevant books or journal subscriptions.

Contact Annie Vinik, Associate Director of Academic Advising and Student Services, Elliott School of International Affairs at avinik@gwu.edu for more information.

Popular Undergraduate Research Opportunities

The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project accepts interns to devote 10 to 16 hours per week to the Project over the course of a semester, possibly for academic credit from the history department. <http://www.gwu.edu/~erpapers/abouterp/internships/>

The First Federal Congress Project offers unpaid internships assisting with document searching, research, transcription, annotation, proofreading, indexing and database work for 8-10 hours a week. <http://www.gwu.edu/~ffcp/internship.html>

The GW Solar Institute focuses on the economic, technical, and public policy issues associated with the development and deployment of solar energy to meet global energy needs and environmental challenges. They engage undergraduate research assistants and can be contacted at gwsolar@gwu.edu. <http://solar.gwu.edu/index.html>

The Center for Intelligent Systems Research (CISR) was chartered to advance the science of intelligent systems and foster its engineering applications and engages with undergraduate students to that end. The Center's director, Dr. Eskandarian, can be contacted at eska@gwu.edu. <http://www.cisr.gwu.edu/>

The Institute for Biomedical Engineering Undergraduate Research Fellowship offers opportunities for undergraduate students to engage in meaningful biomedical engineering research in collaboration with faculty researchers in engineering, science, and medicine. The experience is designed to expose the students to a variety of exciting biomedical engineering research going on at GW and to prepare them for future studies and employment in biomedical engineering. The applicant must have an IBE affiliated faculty member, who agrees to serve as the mentor (see www.ibe.gwu.edu for a list of IBE affiliated faculty). It is expected that the student and the mentor will arrive at a mutually agreeable understanding on the expectations of the research. The successful student will receive a \$5,000 Fellowship. For more information contact them at ibe@gwu.edu.

Appendix B: Contact Information

General Questions?

Contact the front desk student staff:
(202) 994-6816 in Foggy Bottom
(202) 242-6040 in Mt. Vernon Campus
uhp@gwu.edu

Office Locations

Foggy Bottom: 714 21st St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20052
Mt. Vernon Campus: Ames Hall Suite 101, 2100 Foxhall Road NW, Washington, D.C. 20007

Office Hours:

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday
gwu.edu/~uhpwww | honorsprogram.gwublogs.com | [Facebook.com/theUHP](https://www.facebook.com/theUHP) |
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