Frequently Asked Questions about the East Central University Honors Program
for Current Students

1. What does it take to qualify to apply for the Honors Program?
Current ECU students must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.3 and provide the names of two full-time ECU faculty members who can recommend them.

2. How do I apply?
Go to ecok.edu/honors. Click on the link that says "Honors Application: Current ECU Students."

3. When are applications due?
Applications are accepted until available Honors course seats are filled. Apply early for the best chance of securing a place.

4. What does it take to stay in the Honors Program?
Maintain a cumulative 3.3 GPA, make steady progress toward fulfilling your Honors requirements each semester, and fulfill community service hour requirements (currently four hours per semester).

5. What is the difference between University Honors and Departmental Honors?
Departmental Honors is designed for students who join Honors during their junior year. University Honors is designed for students who join Honors during their first year in college, but current and transfer students can also do University Honors if it fits their course plan.

6. What does it take to graduate with University Honors?
You must complete seven challenges to graduate with University Honors:

- 4 Honors seminars that fulfill general education distribution requirements, usually taken during the first two years
- 2 semesters of upper-division research or creative projects (two Honors projects or a single, two-semester Honors thesis)
- 1 off-campus engagement experience (internship, study abroad, Oklahoma Scholar Leaders Enrichment Program, etc.)

It is possible to complete all of these challenges in three years.

7. What does it take to graduate with Departmental Honors?
You must complete three challenges to graduate with Departmental Honors:

- 2 semesters of upper-division research or creative projects (two Honors projects or a single, two-semester Honors thesis)
- And either 1 Honors seminar or 1 off-campus engagement experience (internship, study abroad, Oklahoma Scholar Leaders Enrichment Program)

It is possible to complete these requirements in one year with advance planning.

8. How will I begin my participation in the Program?
You may begin the Program by taking an Honors seminar, by submitting an Honors project or thesis proposal, or by signing up for an Honors off-campus engagement experience.

9. Is there added expense?
There is a one-time $50 fee.

10. Are Honors seminars much more difficult than regular General Education courses?
No. We don't tell Honors instructors to make the courses more difficult; we tell them to make the courses discussion-based. Because these courses usually admit no more than fifteen students, it is easier to make the courses more interactive and engaging. Students in Honors seminars usually find that their grades are about the same, and often higher, than those they get in traditional courses.

11. Can I be in the Honors Program while I'm an athlete, a cheerleader, a band member, or while I have a part-time job?
Yes. Several current Honors students and recent graduates have been varsity athletes, cheerleaders, members of the band and choir, and leaders of student government and Greek organizations. Many also hold down part-time jobs, and some complete Honors requirements while raising a family.

12. What if I'm not certain I can handle it?
Try it for a semester. If it's not for you, you can continue your studies at ECU as a traditional student without delaying your progress towards graduation.

13. Is special scholarship money available for Honors students?
Yes. After completing one semester in the Honors Program, students who joined Honors after their first semester at ECU are eligible for a competitive $750 per semester housing fee waiver or a competitive $1,750 per semester tuition fee waiver (tuition fee waivers are only available to Oklahoma residents). These awards are limited and may not be combined.

The Allyson and Talor Stewart Honors Scholarship awards $500 each semester to a student who joined the Program without receiving the Honors tuition waiver offered to incoming first-year students. Students who complete most Honors requirements by the end of their junior year are also eligible for scholarship awards.

14. Do Honors students get any housing benefits?
Yes. Both returning and first-year Honors students who choose to live in an Honors wing of Briles can expect to have other Honors students as suitemates and neighbors.

15. What are the top things students in the Program value about Honors?
The community, the trips, the discussion-based classes, and opportunities to work one-on-one with professors in their major.

16. What if I have more questions?
Call us at 580-559-5877.
Email us at honors@ecok.edu.
Or drop by the Honors Center at Linscheid Library room 404.