Frequently Asked Questions about the East Central University Honors Program

1. What does it take to qualify to apply for the Honors Program?
High school applicants must have a 3.5+ high school GPA and either a) an ACT composite score of 24 or higher or b) 12 college credit hours with a 3.5+ college GPA. Transfer students and continuing students at ECU must have a GPA of 3.3 or higher and recommendations from 2 faculty members.

2. How do I apply?
Go to ecok.edu/honors.

3. When are applications due?
We take applications until all seats are taken and all scholarships distributed. We recommend that high-school students apply by the end of October of their senior year and attend an Honors Early Acceptance group interview in November or December, but we usually accept applications throughout the spring.

4. What does it take to stay in the Honors Program?
Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher, make steady progress toward fulfilling your Honors requirements, 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 start the Honors Program during their junior year. University Honors is designed for students who start the Honors Program during their first year in college, but continuing 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 (these seminars meet general education distribution requirements and are usually taken during the student's first four semesters on campus)
- 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 (see description above)

It is possible to complete all of these challenges in one year.

8. Is there a program enrollment fee?
First-year students pay a one-time $75 fee on joining the program; continuing and transfer students pay a one-time $50 fee.

9. 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. These courses usually admit no more than fifteen students.

10. 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.

11. 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. The Honors seminars you complete will still count toward applicable general education requirements.

12. Are scholarships available for Honors students?
Yes. Incoming first-year applicants who are Oklahoma residents are eligible to be considered for a limited number of four-year Honors scholarships worth up to $14,000 ($1,750 per semester as a tuition-fee waiver for up to eight semesters). First-year applicants who are out-of-state residents are eligible to be considered for an in-state tuition waiver and a $750 per semester housing-fee waiver for up to eight semesters.

13. Do Honors students get any housing benefits?
Yes. Both upper-division and first-year Honors students who choose to live in the Honors housing community in Briles can expect to have other Honors students as suitemates and neighbors. Limited availability. First-come, first-served.

14. Is entrance to the Honors Program limited to recipients of Honors tuition waivers?
No. For most of our history at ECU, the Honors Program has consisted entirely of students who chose Honors for its intrinsic benefits. About half the students who are in the Program are not receiving Honors scholarships. Most of them are receiving scholarships that offer more money than the Honors Program scholarship does.

15. What kind of trips do Honors students go on?
Every spring, we go on "Global Faiths Tours," where we visit a Hindu temple, a Buddhist monastery, an Islamic mosque and a Jewish synagogue. In recent years, we've also taken Honors students to Madrid, Spain; Mexico City; San Francisco; and New York City. The Honors Program subsidizes a substantial portion of travel costs for these longer trips, which are optional. Recently, students paid $275 for 5 days in Mexico City and $550 for 10 days in Spain, plus meals—approximately one-quarter of the total cost.

16. What are the top things students in the Program value about Honors?
The community, the trips, the close working relationships with faculty, and the discussion-based classes.

17. 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 404 (we're open Monday to Thursday afternoons when school is in session during the fall and spring semesters).