

# FMU Honors Student Handbook



*The policies and procedures by which FMU Honors is administered are subject to change and are discretionary; the Director, in consultation with the Honors Committee, may amend or make exception to any of the following. Like all FMU students, Honors students are subject to the policies stipulated in the FMU Student Handbook and FMU Catalog.*

# Mission

FMU Honors exists to provide the university's highest-performing and most motivated students with a unique curriculum and enhanced educational opportunities that reward inquiry, stimulate learning and promote community outreach initiatives. FMU Honors reflects the university's commitment to innovative instruction, a low student-to-faculty ratio, and out-of-classroom service and experience.

# Governance

FMU Honors is administered by the Director of FMU Honors, in concert with the Honors Committee, which is comprised of the Director, three elected members from the faculty, and one ex-officio representative of the Academic Affairs Committee. The Honors Committee advises on all matters pertaining to the Honors curriculum, instruction, student conduct, co-curricular activities, marketing, etc.

The Honors Student Advisory Council (HSAC) exists to represent the Honors student population, to advise the Director on any matters of interest to it, and to plan and coordinate co-curricular Honors activities. These activities may include but are not limited to involvement in campus events (e.g., Homecoming), Honors-specific events (e.g., Play & Pizza nights), and service opportunities.

The HSAC consists of three members elected by the Honors student population. The President must be a senior or junior; the two vice-presidents may belong to any class. Students elected to the HSAC will serve for one year but may run for re-election three times.

Candidates for the HSAC will be nominated at a reception at the beginning of each academic year. Immediately thereafter, nominees will forward short biographies/personal statements to the Director, who will assemble them as a ballot and distribute them via email to the Honors population. Elections will be conducted via email. The (non-freshman or sophomore) nominee receiving the most votes will be declared the President; those candidates receiving the second and third most votes will be declared vice-presidents.

The HSAC President will receive a stipend of \$250 each semester, to be paid in the final week of that semester. The President will be expected to be particularly proactive in organizing Honors events and to promote and positively represent FMU Honors.

The Honors Director, with the support of the Honors Committee, may remove from the HSAC any member, including the President, whose involvement he deems insufficient or counterproductive and at his discretion appoint a replacement member.

# Eligibility & Membership

Membership in FMU Honors is made by application.

Entering freshmen are eligible to apply if they have achieved an SAT combined (math and critical reading) score of 1100, an ACT score of 24, and/or other accomplishments including high school class rank, GPA, extra-curricular activities, etc.

Current FMU students are eligible to apply if they have achieved an FMU gpa of 3.25.

Transfer students are eligible to apply if they have achieved a 3.25 cumulative GPA from their previous institutions and/or membership in good standing in their previous institutions' Honors Program. No more than twelve (12) credit hours from other NCHC institutions may be applied for FMU Honors credit. These courses must be comparable to FMU Honors courses. A syllabus for courses proposed for transfer may be required. All transfer credit must be approved by the Director of FMU Honors. Exception: International exchange students will be considered members of FMU Honors and so may register for Honors courses (as available) and apply to live in Honors housing.

Remaining in FMU Honors depends upon completing a certain number of Honors hours while maintaining a minimum overall gpa. To maintain eligibility, FMU Honors students should complete Honors hours as follows:

- of the first 12 hours, 3 should be Honors at 3.0 gpa
- of the first 30 hours, 6 should be Honors at 3.25
- of the first 60 hours, 12 should be Honors at 3.25
- of the first 75 hours, 15 should be Honors at 3.25
- of the first 90 hours, 18 should be Honors at 3.25

**Probation Policy:** Students whose grades fall below Honors-eligible thresholds will be granted a one-semester Honors probation. During that probation, students may remain in current Honors courses and register for future Honors courses. If after the probationary semester students have not re-achieved a 3.25 gpa, they will be suspended from FMU Honors and removed from any Honors courses they may have registered for. Students suspended from FMU Honors may re-apply for membership once they have achieved a 3.25 gpa.

# Matriculation

To graduate With University Honors, students must meet the following requirements:

- Complete all regular University and departmental or school requirements.
- Maintain an overall GPA of 3.25 or above, including transfer courses.
- Complete a minimum of 21 hours in Honors courses, with a GPA of 3.25 or higher in all Honors Courses taken. Of the 21 hours, 3 must consist of the Honors 397/Colloquium and 3 must consist of Honors 491/Independent Study or an acceptable substitute. Grades below B in the Honors Colloquium and the Honors Independent Study do not count toward credit for the Honors degree, although they do count toward regular degree requirements.

Students who graduate "With University Honors" are recognized at the Commencement Ceremonies with FMU Honors medallions.

# Travel Opportunities

FMU Honors sponsors several travel opportunities for eligible students, as described below. All Honors students participating in Honors excursions must sign a Personal Conduct Contract and provide evidence of personal health insurance.

**FALL TRIP:** Each November—typically the week before Thanksgiving--a contingent of Honors students (usually 40) and faculty (6-8) travel by bus to New York City, Philadelphia or Washington DC. Travel and hotel accommodations are paid by the university, though students must pay \$100 and are responsible for meals and any tickets/recreation expenses. Only the first 40 students who sign-up and pay for the trip are accepted; others are placed on a waiting list.

**HONORS AMBASSADORS ABROAD:** Each spring break, 2-3 faculty members escort four Honors students selected to represent FMU at one of our exchange partners in Europe. FMU covers most of the travel expenses, including air and train fares, hotels, and a per diem dining allowance. Ambassadors will be responsible for additional costs, including – if necessary – a new passport.

All applicants must be full-time, degree-seeking, FMU Honors students and capable – individually, or with reasonable accommodation – of handling their own luggage, stairs, and walking tours. Applications will be distributed each fall and will be due November 1. Finalists may be invited to an interview with the selection committee. In consultation with the Honors Committee and faculty chaperones, the Honors Director will select the participants, all of whom are subject to approval by the Provost. Students selected will be notified by November 15.