Goals of the Unity College Honors Program
The Unity College Honors Program offers an engaging challenge for academically talented and motivated students from all academic disciplines. The Honors Program takes an integrated approach, valuing permeable boundaries between learning environments and disciplines. Through a variety of curricular and co-curricular components, Honors students will be encouraged to reach their potential as independent thinkers and creative problem solvers.

As an Honors student, we know you are a motivated and capable scholar. Therefore, we want to provide challenges that support your growth in new directions. We expect all Honors students to:

- Seek experiences to expand knowledge and grow as scholars
- Integrate knowledge and skills across curricular and extra-curricular experiences
- Apply their sustainability science education to their careers and daily lives
- Develop skills in transdisciplinary problem solving
- Be effective leaders and communicators

Support for Honors Program Students
If you have questions or need advice about the Honors Program, you are welcome to get in touch with the Honors Program Co-Directors:

Michele Leavitt
Unity House
mleavitt@unity.edu
x399

Aimee Phillippi
TLL 109
aphillippi@unity.edu
x192

The following members of the Honors Committee can also provide assistance:

Ellen Batchelder: ebatchelder@unity.edu
Pam MacRae: pmacrae@unity.edu
James Spartz: jspartz@unity.edu

Entry Requirements into the Honors Program
Entry requirements for incoming students include either a minimum combined SAT score of 1800 (or ACT of 25), or high school GPA above 3.50 on a 4.0 scale. Demonstrated motivation to succeed and exceptional achievements (e.g. creative abilities, overcoming obstacles, and extensive community service) are also considered. Transfer students with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.50 at their previous college may also enroll in the Honors Program and may apply up to 9 credits of Honors credits that were accepted in transfer to Unity College towards the Honors Program.

Students who did not enroll in the Honors Program their first semester at Unity College and who meet the Honors Program requirements may apply to the program at any point during their time at the College. To apply, a student must complete the Honors Program Application Form and provide one letter of recommendation from a Unity College faculty member to the Honors Program Director. This application may be submitted at any time during the academic year and during a student’s time at the College; however, beginning the Honors Program after a student’s third semester may make it difficult to complete in time for graduation. With that in mind, any student intending to apply to the Honors Program is encouraged to meet with the
Director prior to beginning the application process. The application and letter must be submitted electronically, and the student will be notified (also electronically) about the outcome of the application within two weeks of receipt of all materials.

**Honors Program Curriculum**

All students must complete 21 credits of Honors courses to complete the Honors Program. These 21 credits can be obtained a variety of ways:

**Required Courses**
HN 2061 Honors Seminar
HN 4063 Honors Transdisciplinary Capstone
One course from the Honors Menu Courses with Honors Project

**Additional Honors Courses**
BL 1164 Honors Biology: Diversity of Life
BL 2064 Honors Population and Community Ecology
CM 1063 Honors Composition and Communication I
CM 1163 Honors Composition and Communication II
HN 2061 Honors Seminar (repeated)
HN 3063 Honors Multidisciplinary Independent Study
MA 2063 Honors Elementary Statistics
Additional courses from the Honors Menu Courses with Honors Projects

**Honors Menu Courses**
AR 2013 Painting
AR 3043 Designing with Nature
AS 4123 Sustainable Enterprise
BI 3654 Microbiology
BI 4243 Genetics and Molecular Biology
BI 4423 Ecosystem Ecology
CL 3224 Crime Scene and Investigative Techniques
CM 3113 Documentary Film
ED 2003 Experiential Theory and Practice
ED 3443 Teaching Science in the Secondary Schools
EH 2213 Introduction to Environmental Writing
EH 4213 Writing for Publication
ES 3213 Applied Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
ES 3183 Limnology
GL 3044 Surface and Groundwater Hydrology
GL 4003 Global Change
HN Foreign Study
MA 3443 Calculus II
PL 3413 Environmental Advocacy
PR 4123 Interpretive Methods
PS 3303 Green Building: Assess, Design, Retrofit
WF 3013 Population Assessment and Management
**Process for Enrolling in Honors Menu Courses**

The Honors Menu courses may be taken as regular, non-honors courses or as an honors course with an associated project. To take an Honors Menu course for honors credit, you must:

1. Register for one of the courses on the Honors Menu list.
2. Talk with the professor teaching the course to let him/her know of your intention and to discuss possible project ideas. This discussion needs to occur before the end of the semester prior to the semester you will be taking the course to allow for sufficient planning by both you and the professor (i.e. if you are taking the Honors Menu course in the fall semester, you should discuss your plans with the professor before the end of the spring semester prior).
3. In consultation with the professor of the course, complete the [Honors Menu Course Project Agreement Form](#) and submit it electronically to the Honors Program Director by the end of the second week of classes.
4. The Honors Program Director will notify you and the professor electronically on the review outcome of the agreement form within one week of receipt. The agreement form will either be accepted or you will be asked for revision. If a revision is requested, you will have one week to resubmit.

In order to receive honors credit for your Honors Menu course, you must pass the course with a grade of B or higher, and you must complete your Honors Project to the satisfaction of the professor of the course. Products from your Honors Project must be submitted to the Honors Committee by the end of the semester. If you meet these requirements, the Honors designation will be added to that course on your transcript.

**Honors Project Requirements**

Honors projects associated with courses from the Honors Menu are not just “add-ons” or “busy-work”. Projects are substantive and integrative with the course content. An Honors Project may be an expansion of a project component already part of the course or it may be a stand-alone project. The Honors Project must include the following:

- Application of course content to a “real-world” scenario, issue, or problem
- Integration of learning from other disciplines
- Creative and independent thinking
- Professional presentation

Honors Projects should result in a product that you would want to share on your e-portfolio. Instructors of Honors Menu courses have already considered relevant and effective projects for their courses. Consult with the instructor about his/her ideas and share your own. Expect to spend about 12-20 hours during the semester, above and beyond the typical coursework, to complete your Honors Project.

**Honors Foreign Study Experience**

Honors students who choose a study abroad semester may earn 3 credits toward Honors Program requirement by documenting their cultural intelligence in a six-part process:

- Self-assessment of expectations and cultural intelligence prior to study abroad;
- Weekly blog entries describing how cultural assumptions have been reinforced or challenged;
- Midterm meeting via video conference or instant messaging with honors program director(s);
- Post-study abroad unpacking session with honors program director(s);
Prior to departure, students pursuing honors credit for study abroad will complete a plan detailing how they will document their experiences and reflections. The plan must be approved by the Honors Committee.

**Honors Seminar (HN 2061)**
Students in the seminar will choose a current topic of interest and explore the issue from a perspective of multiple disciplines, using knowledge and skills from the humanities and natural and social sciences. Through lively discussion and critical reading and writing, students will develop their skills in synthetic reasoning while expanding their knowledge of current issues such as water resources, food systems, or wildlife reserves. This course may be taken twice for credit.

**Honors Multidisciplinary Independent Study (HN 3063)**
The Independent Study is advanced work that allows a student to investigate a topic in depth and beyond existing course work. In this Honors Multidisciplinary Independent Study, a student will choose an issue of interest and study it from the perspectives of multiple disciplines. Examples of issues could be water pollution studied from both a chemistry and a policy perspective, or hunting ethics examined from both a biological and anthropological perspective. The Independent Study will include a culminating project with a reflection about different insights provided by the various disciplines. Students pursuing an Independent Study will complete a plan of study to be approved through the Honors Committee prior to following the procedure for applying for an Independent Study as outlined in the Unity College catalog.

**Process for Enrolling in HN 3063**
1. Identify a topic of interest and develop a proposal outlining your topic, the different disciplines from which you plan to study your topic, your planned methods of study (e.g. literature searching, interviews), and your plans for a culminating project.
2. Identify a faculty member who you feel will be able to provide support for you in your study and meet with him/her to discuss your proposal and determine if s/he will be able to be your sponsor.
3. In consultation with your faculty sponsor, complete the [Honors Multidisciplinary Independent Study Proposal Form](#) and submit it electronically to the Honors Program Director at least four weeks prior to the start of pre-registration for the semester you wish to enroll.
   (Note: If you are taking HN 3063 in a spring semester, you will need to submit the form sometime in early October. If you are taking the course in a fall semester, the deadline will be in early March. In other words, you should be writing your proposal very early in the semester prior to the semester that you want to complete HN 3063)
4. The Honors Program Director will respond electronically to you and your sponsor within one week of receipt of the outcome of review of your proposal. The proposal will either be accepted, rejected, or you will be asked for revision. If a revision is requested, you will have one week to resubmit.
5. Once accepted by the Honors Program Director, you will then have to follow the Registrar’s requirements for enrolling in an Independent Study by submitting your proposal online to the Registrar’s Office using the Application for Independent Study Form at least two weeks prior to the start of pre-registration. Your faculty sponsor is responsible for evaluating your work during the semester enrolled in HN 3063. Honors Multidisciplinary Independent Studies must be completed with a grade of B or better to count as honors credits and the product from the culminating project must be submitted to the Honors Committee by the end of finals week.

Honors Transdisciplinary Capstone (HN 4063)
Transdisciplinary studies are inquiry-based and often begin with a current and relevant question. Examples could be, “How can we reduce lead concentrations in our lake?” or “What are the largest obstacles to greater local food production in this community and how can we overcome them?” Transdisciplinary studies are also solution-oriented and collaborative. A group of two to three students will identify the question of interest, integrate the tools and knowledge of the humanities, natural and social sciences, and involve perspectives from broad constituents to develop a proposed solution. Each group will prepare a culminating project on the group’s study question. Students enrolling in the Honors Transdisciplinary Capstone will complete a plan of study to be approved through the Honors Committee prior to the beginning of the semester in which they are enrolled.

Process for Enrolling in HN 4063
1. With one or two other Honors Program students, identify a question of interest you want to pursue as a group. You may want to choose a group that includes students with varied skills and disciplinary backgrounds.
2. With your group, meet with the Honors Program Director at least one week prior to pre-registration to discuss your ideas.
3. You and your group members will pre-register for HN 4063.
4. With your group, develop a plan of study for your question. Use the Honors Transdisciplinary Capstone Plan of Study Form to guide the development of your plan. During this development, you should meet with the professor of HN 4063 and possibly the Honors Program Director for guidance.
5. Submit your completed Plan of Study electronically to the Honors Program Director at least three weeks prior to end of the semester before the semester of enrollment in HN 4063 (e.g. if you are taking HN 4063 in the spring semester, your Plan of Study must be submitted before the end of fall semester). The Honors Committee will review your Plan of Study and respond with suggestions by the end of the semester.

The professor of HN 4063 is responsible for evaluating your work in the course. Products from the culminating project of the course will be submitted to the Honors Committee by the end of the semester.
Honors Program Extra-Curricular Requirements and Experiences

Student Conference
The Unity College Student Conference is an opportunity to celebrate excellence in academic work created by Unity College students. As an Honors student, you should be seeking opportunities to publicize your academic work and receive feedback from those outside the classroom. Therefore, all Honors students are required to present annually at the Unity College Student Conference after their freshman year.

Community Service
Being an Honors student is not only about studying hard and getting good grades. Honors students take on challenges, seek out opportunities to grow, and strive to be leaders. Honors students at Unity are required to engage in community service – and many options are available, both on and off campus. These include PeaceJam, WE Lead, COOL ME, leadership in student clubs, SGA positions, and more. Speak to one of the Honors Program directors to make a plan for how you will serve the community.

Other Events
During the year the Honors Program will sponsor several events intended to broaden your horizons. These may include visits to museums, attending a conference, a trip to see an engaging speaker, or participation in a community event. The Honors Program is for the students, and we encourage student involvement in suggesting events and assistance in organizing the events. If you have ideas, please let the Honors Program Director know. Participation in these events is not required for completion of the Honors Program, but is definitely encouraged.

Remaining in Good Standing with the Honors Program
Honors students are expected to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.50 and make satisfactory progress towards completion of Honors Program requirements. Satisfactory progress includes planning for and completing the 21 honors credits, averaging at least 5 credits a year, making progress on community service, participating annually in the Student Conference after Freshman year, and practicing academic honesty in accordance with the Unity College Honors Code.

If your cumulative GPA falls below 3.50, or if you are not making satisfactory progress towards completion of Honors Program requirements, the Honors Program Director will request a meeting to review your standing. We want to be supportive of your progress in the Honors Program. Together, we will develop a plan and goals for getting you back on track with the Honors Program. If after another semester you are not making progress on the goals established, if your GPA is too low, or if you are so far behind on honors credits that completion is not possible, you will receive a letter from the Honors Program Director indicating that you are no longer in the Honors Program.

Recognition of Honors Program Students
Students who complete the Honors Program requirements will be honored at graduation with special honor cords and noted in the graduation program. Completion of the Honors Program will also be noted on your transcript.