

JOHN E. SALLSTROM HONORS COLLEGE



STUDENT HANDBOOK

AT GEORGIA COLLEGE
& STATE UNIVERSITY

.....

2026-2027 Edition



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Get to Know Honors

Where are we located?



Honors College staff and student assistants are located in the Humber-White House, located on West Hancock Street. The Humber-White House serves as a hub for Honors activities as it houses study spaces, a seminar room for Honors events and classes, a student lounge, and a coffee bar! The Humber-White House is open 24/7 through swipe card access, so you can stop by and take advantage of our amenities at any time!



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Get to Know Honors

Meet our Staff!

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The Honors College's Faculty Affiliates and student assistants are listed on our staff website: gcsu.edu/honors/staff.



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Benefits of Being in Honors

- ♦ Being a part of the Honors community
(networking opportunities!)
- ♦ The Humber-White Honors House, with
lounge, seminar room, and study rooms
- ♦ Small classes taught by some of the college's
dynamic professors
- ♦ The Honors lending library (textbooks for
select Honors courses)
- ♦ Laptop lending program
- ♦ Holistic advising with the dean and/or
assistant director
- ♦ Team building experiences
- ♦ Informal faculty-led presentations and
book/film discussions
- ♦ Eta Sigma Alpha social and service events
- ♦ Transformative Experience Funding and
Saladin Scholarships
- ♦ Alumni Mentoring Program



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Eta Sigma Alpha



Eta Sigma Alpha is Georgia College's Honors Student Association. Eta Sigma Alpha organizes numerous service, social and other events and activities. All Honors students are required to join Eta Sigma Alpha and remain in good standing by participating regularly in Honors and Eta Sigma Alpha events. Students are asked to contribute \$75 in their first year and \$10 per year thereafter. These fees may be waived for students receiving federal financial aid and pro-rated for collegiate entry and transfer students. Fees are used to cover the cost of food for Eta Sigma Alpha events and for some events (such as Honors Convocation) jointly sponsored with the John E. Sallstrom Honors College. The fees also underwrite the cost of supplies for the coffee/tea/hot chocolate bar in the student lounge and cover the graduation banquet for graduating seniors and two family members as well as all the big events ESA will put on during your four years. ESA events are posted on the Honors GC Connect page.



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Eta Sigma Alpha



Past ESA Events



Escape Room



Album Discussion



Fall Festival



Ice Cream Social



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Honors Events

Each semester, the Honors College offers a number of faculty-led presentations, book discussions, and film discussions. These informal "learning beyond the classroom" experiences stimulate thought and discussion and promote student-faculty interaction.



Each semester, up to two students will also be selected to serve as presenters, giving students an opportunity to learn from each other. To apply, please click [here](#).



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GC Connect Page

Membership on the GC Connect page is required for all students in the Honors College. Here you will view upcoming events and announcements as well as RSVP for events. You will also be able to view any important materials related to each event, such as a video or article you may need to read in advance.

You can access the GC Connect page through your Unify account.

Unify -> Log In -> Start Here Tab -> GC Connect -> Honors College -> View More Events



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Honors Points

Earning Honors Points

Students earn honors points by attending Honors events & ESA events. These events vary in point value, with most ESA events and faculty presentations worth one point, while book & film discussions are worth two. Presenting at a research conference earns you three Honors points.

Logging Honors Points

Honors points will be logged via the Honors College's "course" in Georgia View.

Students earn a gold, silver, or bronze graduation medallion for averaging 7-10, 4-6, or 1-3 points per academic year, respectively, with appropriate adjustments made for students graduating early or studying abroad. The total number of points earned will be divided by the total number of academic years, with half a year figured as 0.5.



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Graduate with Honors

Requirements

- Maintain a 3.30 or higher institutional GPA. A student whose institutional GPA falls below a 3.30 will be placed on one semester of Honors academic probation.
- Complete at least 18 Honors credit hours to graduate with Honors. Students who earn at least 24 Honors credit hours will be recognized as earning “Honors with Distinction” and will be awarded a special stole at the Honors Awards and Graduation Banquet.
- Maintain reasonable progress toward completion of Honors credit hours—typically 6 each year until the minimum of 18 has been reached.
- Be a member of Eta Sigma Alpha (the Honors Student Association).
- Complete an exit survey prior to graduation.



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Graduate with Honors

Probation

A probationary student whose GPA rises to 3.30 or higher will return to good standing. A probationary student whose GPA rises, but does not get to 3.30, will be placed on another semester of Honors academic probation. If a student's institutional GPA has not improved at the end of a probationary semester, then the student will be removed from the Honors College with the option to submit a written appeal for reinstatement.*

*The appeal letter must include a plan for improvement. Appeals will be considered by an Honors Faculty Council appeals subcommittee. At its discretion, the Honors Faculty Council appeals subcommittee may request a hearing with the student. If the institutional GPA of a readmitted student does not improve by the end of the probationary semester following reinstatement, then the student will be removed from the Honors College and no subsequent appeal will be allowed.

**Honors students found to be in violation of the Honor Code and/or the Code of Conduct may be dismissed from the program at the discretion of the dean and the Honors Faculty Council.



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Honors Courses

We offer Honors sections of courses in most areas of the core curriculum. Many Honors classes are informally designated "Great Ideas" classes. These classes engage students with enduring ideas central to human thinking and existence—freedom, equality, democracy and others. These classes rely mostly on primary texts and sources, some of which are available from the Honors College Library. Honors courses are reading, writing and discussion-intensive and are designed to reflect and reinforce Georgia College's liberal arts mission.

To find a list of the courses being offered each semester, please visit our website under [the courses tab.](#)



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Honors Options

Honors students may also apply to do Honors Options for Honors credit in non-Honors classes. Any regular three-hour class, including GC study abroad classes, can incorporate an Honors Option with the permission of the instructor.

These Honors Options can be done on a wide variety of topics & subjects. To create a proposal, view the form [here](#).



For Honors Option questions, please email honors@gcsu.edu.



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Honors Capstone Options

Honors students enrolled in capstone courses for their majors may also apply to complete an Honors Capstone Option with the permission of the instructor.

The capstone option can serve as a springboard for many collegiate and post-graduate prospects. To create a proposal, view the form [here](#).

For Honors Capstone Option questions, please email honors@gcsu.edu.



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Credit Waivers

To encourage and to reward students for engaging in (1) study abroad/study away programs, (2) internship programs, and (3) undergraduate research programs, an Honors credit waiver will be awarded for institutionally recorded¹ (1) study abroad/study away programs,² (2) internship programs,³ and (3) undergraduate research programs (could be at GCSU or an REU or equivalent at another institution),⁴ with scope

¹ With the GCSU Registrar's Office or Career Services. Zero-credit 4999 courses would be ideal for creating a record of summertime research.

² Students are not precluded from earning additional Honors credit through programs like Honors options available with faculty-led study abroad experiences, since students are doing extra work to earn those credit hours.

³ For internships, a full-time week is defined as 35 hours. Part-time internships will be evaluated for the number of equivalent full-time weeks.

⁴ Starting in fall 2025, and applying retroactively for all currently enrolled students, the Honors College will award an Honors credit waiver for undergraduate research undertaken not only during the summer but also during fall and spring semesters. For a credit-bearing research course, the number of Honors credits waived will be equal to the number of credit hours for which the student has registered. For a zero-credit research course, the scope of the Honors credit waiver will be evaluated on the basis of hours worked (as with internships). Independent studies may count as research experiences as long as they have a significant research component (e.g., not just guided readings). Students will not be allowed to double dip (in the event of a research course



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of the waiver tied in most cases to the length of the program:

1-3 weeks: 1 credit waiver

4-6 weeks: 2 credit waiver

7 weeks-full semester: 3 credit waiver

This credit waiver does not apply to the minimum of 120 credit hours needed to graduate from GCSU or to the completion of a major or minor; it only applies to a student's Honors status.

Students must inform the Honors College of their participation in such programs by emailing honors@gcsu.edu. The Honors College will then verify it with the appropriate office and inform the student if the credit waiver has been confirmed.

that serves as a capstone, for example, meaning that one could not earn the Honors credit waiver *and* do an Honors capstone option for the same research course).



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Credit Waivers

This program was implemented in fall 2023 and applies retroactively for all currently enrolled Honors students.

Starting in spring 2025, and applying retroactively to all currently enrolled Honors students, students who submit a national scholarship/fellowship application through the Office of National Scholarships***** will earn a 3-credit Honors waiver.

*****To submit a national scholarship/fellowship application through the Office of National Scholarships, the student must sign a contract with the National Scholarships Coordinator, fulfill the terms of that contract regarding drafts, deadlines, etc., and submit the scholarship/fellowship application to the appropriate scholarship/fellowship organization.



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Transformative Experience and Saladin Scholarship Programs

Thanks to a generous gift from Dr. Kenneth Saladin, the longstanding research conference grant program is now part a larger Transformative Experience Grant/Scholarship program. Georgia College Honors students who have maintained an institutional GPA of 3.3 or higher may apply for funds up to a cumulative total of \$500 in a given academic year to support undergraduate research, internships, community-based learning, and/or study abroad. Applications are considered on a rolling basis for projects undertaken during the academic year in which the application is submitted. The last date on which an application may be submitted is May 1.

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Application form & additional details can be found [here](#)



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Transformative Experience and Saladin Scholarship Programs

Thanks to a generous gift from Dr. Kenneth Saladin, the John E. Sallstrom Honors College also has the Saladin Scholarship program.

Georgia College Honors students who have completed 12 credit hours of Honors coursework and who have maintained an institutional GPA of 3.3 or higher may apply for a Saladin Scholarship (up to \$2000) to support undergraduate research, internships, community-based learning, and/or study abroad undertaken to serve as a springboard for application to graduate school and/or a national scholarships program.

Application form & additional details can be found [here](#)



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National Scholarships Office

The National Scholarships Office at Georgia College assists exceptional Georgia College students and alumni in applying for nationally and internationally competitive scholarships and fellowships that support study, research, and work experiences in the US or abroad.

The National Scholarship Office provides the following services to Georgia College Students and Alumni:

- **One-on-one application mentoring.** We assist students in identifying awards appropriate to their individual skill sets and goals. We also help students learn how to produce competitive applications for these awards.
- **Awards promotion.** We work with faculty, staff, and student groups at Georgia College to help educate our campus community about nationally competitive scholarship opportunities. We seek to reach out to the entire student body to recruit students of excellence.
- **Campus awards process facilitation.** The National Scholarships Office organizes the on-campus selection process for awards that require campus endorsement. We work alongside GC faculty and staff to select the best candidates for each opportunity.



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Journey Through Honors

01

FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

As part of your first year on campus in the Honors College, you will:

- have the opportunity to live in Bell Hall—the only residence hall on historic Front Campus
- be paired with a peer mentor within the Honors College
- participate in team building exercises with other first-year Honors students and Honors faculty
- participate in GC Reads and First-Year Academic Seminars with other Honors students
- participate in co-curricular, faculty-led presentations and book/film discussions just for Honors students
- take Honors courses with some of the GC's best professors



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02

SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS

Going into your second year
in Bobcat Nation, you will:

- continue taking Honors courses to fulfill the Honors requirements
- have the opportunity to use Honors options to earn Honors credit in non-Honors courses
- have the opportunity to be a peer mentor for the incoming first-year Honors students
- continue participating in co-curricular, faculty-led presentations and book/film discussions just for Honors students



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03

THIRD-YEAR STUDENTS

Back on campus for
round three, you will:

- complete additional Honors courses and/or Honors options
- start presenting papers and research at conferences like GCHC and SRHC
- apply for Transformative Experience Funding and Saladin Scholarships to support research, internships, community-based learning, and/or study abroad
- continue participating in co-curricular, faculty-led presentations and book/film discussions just for Honors students



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04

FOURTH-YEAR STUDENTS

In your last year of the
Honors College, you will:

- complete any additional Honors courses and/or Honors options to meet the 18-credit-hour Honors requirement
 - present papers and research at conferences like GCHC and SRHC
 - continue participating in co-curricular, faculty-led presentations and book/film discussions just for Honors students
 - attend an Honors College graduation banquet in your honor
 - receive your cord and medallion (gold, silver, or bronze, based on level of participation in co-curricular programs) to wear at Commencement
 - receive special recognition at Commencement for graduation from the Honors College
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