

Illinois Tech

Honors Program

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Summary

The Honors Program is intended to complement the current student research and intellectual curiosity. It has a foundation of ongoing intellectual curiosity which culminates in a high-quality student project under the mentorship or supervision of a faculty member. An Honors program enables Illinois Tech to highlight and support undergraduate research and cultivate community for students invested in research and cross disciplinary intellectual curiosity. Undergraduate research correlates strongly with university rankings, recruitment, and retention, and supports faculty research initiatives.

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Honors Program Mission

The Illinois Tech Honors Research Program provides a space for incoming and current undergraduate students to build self-efficacy and confidence through opportunities in research, academics, and service-learning activities.



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Inclusive Excellence

Based on standards of the National Collegiate Honors Council:

The honors program provides a locus of visible and highly reputed standards and models of inclusive excellence for students, faculty, and professional staff across the campus. It strives to serve undergraduates drawn from all of the many campus communities and explores practices that allow it to reach the broadest and most diverse populations.

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General Structure

Continuous Engagement

Continuously engage in honors research program sponsored/approved events during the academic year. This is governed by a points system that equates to roughly two events per semester.

Honors Thesis or Project

Complete an honors thesis or project, comprised of research or expression in a field of interest (not necessarily related to their major).

Sample User Journey

01

- Honors Welcome Orientation, half day (10 points)
- Art Club of Chicago Honors Excursion, half day plus essay (15 points)
- College of Computing AI panel, 1 hour plus essay (15 points)
- High school weekend chemistry workshop, half day (10 points)

02

- Research poster presentation, half day (10 points)
- Leadership workshop sponsored by Leadership Academy, half day plus essay (15 point)
- Ethics Center Symposium, half day (10 points)
- College of Arch talk on Medieval Architecture, 1 hour plus essay (15 points)

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Sample User Journey

03

- Fall study abroad (20 points)
- American Writers Museum Honors Excursion, half day plus essay (15 points)
- Design thinking workshop, half day plus essay (15 points)

04

- Honors thesis or project, both fall and spring (20 points)
- Bibliographic Research Workshop, 1 hour plus essay (15 points)
- Fermi Lab Honors Excursion, half day plus essay (15 point)

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Transfer User Journey

03.5

- Ethical Games Conference at Loyola, 2 days (20 points)
- Museum of Science Honors Excursion, half day (10 points)
- Design thinking workshop, half day plus essay (10 points)

04

- Honors thesis or project, both fall and spring (20 points)
- Bibliographic Research Workshop, 1 hour plus essay (15 points)
- Fermi Lab Honors Excursion, half day plus essay (15 point)

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Honors Project

All Honors Students are required to complete an Honors Project. The purpose of this project is to support a student in sustained inquiry regardless of area of study. Importantly, it needs to be of high academic quality and also demonstrate individual achievement and/or creativity.

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Qualifying for Honors

Applying

There are two pathways for admission into the Honors Program:

1. at the time of admission to the university or
2. as a current student of Illinois Tech.

First-Year and Transfer Students are nominated through UG admissions, and current students can apply to join the Honors Program.

Qualifying

1. Incoming students meet academic criteria and demonstrate academic/research experience AND leadership/service experience.
2. Prerequisites for existing students to apply include:
 - a. 45 credits or more remaining in their degree
 - b. a GPA of 3.0 or higher,
 - c. good academic standing

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Structure

Administrative Support Team

- VP of Academic Affairs supervises
- Academic Affairs handles day-to-day operations of program
- Admissions oversees direct admit of incoming honors students

Steering Committee

Representatives from each college that offers undergraduate programs, student-facing organizations that support student outcomes and success, and student leadership representatives.

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Graduating with Honors

Honors graduates will receive a special cord at graduation. They must have 3.0 GPA at the time of graduation and have successfully completed all requirements for honors.





**Thank
You**