



BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN THE HONORS PROGRAM AT WESTMINSTER COLLEGE

- *Academic distinction:* the Honors designation on the student's transcript shows graduate schools and employers that he or she has achieved academic success in rigorous classes and worked with some of the college's finest teachers and students. The challenging curriculum also allows students to grow as thinkers, writers, and speakers.
- *Small class size:* restricted enrollment ensures classes have an intimate, seminar-style feel and allows for close student-professor interactions and mentoring—an important benefit when students require personal and informed letters of recommendation for jobs and graduate school.
- *Excellent faculty:* professors teach Honors classes by choice and are some of the college's most committed and energetic instructors. Two professors in every Honors seminar make for a vibrant learning environment.
- *Enhanced support, advising, and mentoring:* Honors students attend an early, supplemental day of orientation activities to help ease the transition to college life. They also have the Honors director assigned to them as an advisor in addition to their major advisor. Finally, incoming Honors students are grouped with peer mentors—upper-class Honors students with extensive experience in the program—who can help guide them during their first year at college.
- *Interdisciplinary approaches:* the interdisciplinary nature of Honors seminars brings students and teachers from different departments together, ensuring an exciting class atmosphere and preparing students for the interdisciplinary approach of most top graduate programs and professional fields.
- *Alternative Liberal Education experience:* the Honors curriculum offers a unique learning experience that goes beyond the standard L.E. classes. Honors also offers students a more efficient method of satisfy L.E. requirements, thus freeing up time to fit in double majors, multiple minors, extracurricular activities, intensive research projects, and other enhanced academic experiences.
- *Research opportunities:* the seminar-style approach to learning, the emphasis on writing and research in classes, and the program support of outside research allow students to investigate their academic interests more fully and create opportunities for the presentation or publishing of their work. The program also awards three independent summer research grants annually to Honors students.
- *Sense of community:* Honors students take core classes together and interact with Honors faculty and students in other academic and social events, which helps establish a sense of belonging to the college community. The Honors program is housed in Nunemaker Place. Built in 1977, this architecturally striking building provides Honors students and faculty with a variety of distinctive spaces, including a resource/scholarship library, the office of the Honors director, meeting areas, reading and study spaces, a lounge in which students socialize, and computer work stations. Located next to beautiful Emigration Creek, Nunemaker opens out onto a tree-lined patio where students and faculty can eat lunch, read, and relax.
- *Access to supplementary resources:* for example, the Honors program listserv; the "Pizza with Profs" lecture series; the Honors program resource library; the Honors program newsletter; special enriched learning experiences such as attendance at cultural events and other field study; funding to attend and give papers at academic conferences; leadership training opportunities like the student Honors Council; special recognition opportunities like the Honors seminar book awards; financial support to investigate graduate schools out of state; and opportunities to participate in special meetings with distinguished visiting scholars and lecturers.