HONORS PROGRAM

The Undergraduate Honors Program is designed to provide a distinctive learning environment for a select group of high-achieving (top 10 percent) Bentley students. Honors courses are limited in size and follow a highly interactive seminar format, with an emphasis on students’ own contributions in written and oral form. Honors students are provided a variety of resources that are geared to meet their distinctive academic needs, including advising and an honors living community among others. Those who successfully complete the program receive a special distinction on their transcript and at commencement. Students are required to complete an honors capstone project under the guidance of a faculty advisor in an area of their choosing. Co-curricular activities, designed to foster community and to enrich the student’s cultural and intellectual experiences include on- and off-campus social activities. For more information on the Program, please see our homepage (https://www.bentley.edu/academics/honors-program).

HOW TO APPLY

Initially, the Office of Admission handles first admission to the Honors Program. However, other students who have an excellent academic record and are motivated to work at the honors level may apply for admission to the program. Applicants must be within their first three full semesters at Bentley and have maintained at least a 3.4 GPA while at Bentley. If admitted, students must complete 27 credit hours of Honors course work including two or three courses in their major, and a capstone research project or class. In addition, students are required to adhere to the required overall GPA throughout. Admission is at the discretion of The Honors Leadership, in tandem with the Honors Faculty Council.

IF YOU WISH TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM AFTER A FULL SEMESTER AT BENTLEY, PLEASE DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Write a 300-word statement to the Director of the Honors Program explaining your interest in the program, your reason for applying, and why the Honors Program is a good fit for you. Be sure to include your name, email address, class code, student ID number, and probable major.

2. Request two statements of support from Bentley faculty members who know you and your work. At least one, but preferably both, should be from a full-time faculty member. The statements, in the form of a letter or email, should be sent directly to the director.

3. Academic research can be defined as the process of original discovery, or original interpretation or revision of existing research or knowledge in a society. With that definition as context, write a 450-word original essay answering: “Why is research important to the learning process, and how can research make a positive impact on society?”

4. If you are within the first three semesters at Bentley, you may submit your application materials between December 15 and January 10. If you are applying in the spring, you may submit your application materials after May 1 but no later than May 31.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Students in the Honors Program must meet the overall GPA requirements detailed below. Additionally, they must adhere to honors-defined academic integrity standards. Honors students are required to take at least nine courses (27 credits) within the Honors Program. They are also required to complete a service-learning experience during their second year in the form of either a 4th credit Service Learning class or an embedded Service Learning course, as defined by the Service Learning Center. Honors coursework is typically composed of six general education or elective courses, two courses within a student’s major, and the senior Honors capstone project. However, the exact composition of the course requirements can vary by major.

OVERALL GPA REQUIREMENTS

End of the first full semester at Bentley University: 3.3
End of the second full semester at Bentley University: 3.3
End of the third full semester at Bentley University: 3.4
End of the fourth full semester at Bentley University: 3.4
End of the fifth full semester at Bentley University to graduation: 3.5*

* All Honors students must graduate with at least a 3.5 overall GPA, regardless of circumstances.

Honors Probation

If a student does not achieve the required GPA at the end of a semester (fall, spring, or summer), the student will be placed automatically on honors probation within the program and be given the subsequent semester after the term in which they fell below to raise their overall GPA to the required standards. At the same time, the student must see an academic advisor and the director of the program. Failure to raise their required GPA upon the completion of the subsequent semester will result in dismissal from the program. If the student is on leave or study abroad the subsequent semester, the first semester in which the student returns to campus will apply in raising their overall GPA to the required standards. Students who fall below the required overall GPA more than once will be dismissed from the program.

Appeals can be made for dismissal only after honors probation. The Honors Leadership, in tandem with the Honors Faculty Council, will evaluate whether or not the extenuating medical circumstances directly and clearly adversely affected the student’s academic performance as well the student’s potential for satisfying program requirements for graduation. Students whose appeals are granted will receive one additional probationary semester to meet the required GPA minimum. No other grounds for appeal will be considered.

HONORS CAPSTONE RESEARCH PROJECT

During the fall semester of their junior year, Honors students are required to select from one of three capstone tracks: (1) the Scholarly Project Track, (2) the Creative Project Track, or (3) the Community-Based Research Track. The Scholarly Project Track allows students to work one-on-one with a faculty advisor to complete a scholarly research project. Scholarly projects should aim to make an original contribution to the academic literature. The Creative Project Track also allows students to work with a faculty advisor. In this case, however, students are tasked with producing a creative project, such as an art installation, a musical score, poetry anthology, or any other form of artistic expression. Finally, the Community-Based Research Track brings together a team of students and tasks them with completing an applied research project on behalf of a community partner, such as a non-profit or governmental organization. A faculty advisor guides student teams.

All Honors Program students are required to complete a three-credit capstone experience. Students are expected to present their research at the Honors Conference, which is typically held during the end of the spring semester of their senior year.

and Civic Engagement Center (https://www.bentley.edu/centers/service-learning-center).
REQUIREMENTS BY TRACK

The Scholarly and Creative Track

HNR 450 Honors Capstone: Project Proposal (H) Honors Capstone Proposal (1.5 Credits)

HNR 460 Honors Capstone Project (H) Honors Capstone Project (1.5 Credits)

The Community-Based Research Track

HNR 445 (H) Honors Capstone Course

HONORS PROGRAM

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY GUIDELINES

Participation in the Honors Program is a privilege and, as such, students are subject to removal from the program for breaches of academic integrity (AI) guidelines. To encourage leadership and instill the values best reflective of the Honors Program, students are expected to voluntarily report academic integrity charges to the director of the program, upon formal receipt of charges.

The following serves as a guideline to dismissal from the Honors Program for AI breaches. Students may be permanently removed from the Honors Program under the following circumstances:

• If a student receives two or more Level I AI sanctions.
• If a student receives one or more Level II AI sanctions.

Students who are subject to the above removal criteria will be removed from the Honors Program upon a finding of a violation from the Academic Integrity Director and the Academic Integrity Board, if applicable. At such time, the Academic Integrity Director and/or the Academic Integrity Board will notify student of removal from the Honors Program, in addition to any other applicable academic sanctions related to the charges, and notify the Honors Program of the removal sanction.

To ensure consistency between current campus-wide and Honors Program academic integrity procedures, and to facilitate fairness and educate students about academic integrity, any AI incident involving an Honors Program student will automatically result in an Academic Integrity Hearing, regardless of the Level of AI violation, unless the student chooses to admit to the allegations, accept the proposed sanctions, and resign from the Honors Program. In an AI Hearing the student’s Honors Program affiliation will not be admitted and may have no bearing on the judgment of a violation. If the hearing determines the allegation to be an AI violation, the hearing shall include removal from the Honors Program in its consideration of appropriate sanctions based upon the Honors Program’s guidelines for dismissal above. If removal is determined appropriate, the student is notified in writing of the sanction and pending the result of the student’s right to appeal under the AI policy – the Honors Program Director is notified. In the situation where a pending incident report may impact graduation privileges, the AI Director will inform the Honors Program Director of the existence of a pending incident report without any details.

In the event that charges occur near the end of the semester in which the student is graduating, every effort shall be made to adjudicate the case promptly in order to determine whether the student will graduate out of the Honors Program. However, all privileges of the Honors Program, including walking with Honors at graduation and Honors transcript designations will be suspended until such time as resolution of the case occurs through the Academic Integrity process. Students can appeal the suspension of privileges in writing temporarily for the purposes of walking with Honors at graduation by requesting that the case be reviewed by the Director of the Honors Program. Temporary provisions of walking with Honors at graduation will be based on a preliminary review of all charges, circumstances and evidence available, and based upon the ability of the Director to review the case in a timely manner, and is solely for the purpose of the opportunity to walk with Honors designation at graduation. Reinstatement of this privilege in light of evidence and circumstances has no bearing on the ultimate outcome of the charges, and in no way should be interpreted as reflective of a pending decision by the Academic Integrity Board or Director.

The circumstances in which Honors Program students are subject to removal from the Program are subject to periodic review and update, and may change as University-wide academic integrity standards and policies are updated or changed.