

Information about University Honors Designations

Honors students have many unique opportunities to receive special designations for their hard work. These honors are recorded on students' transcripts and help give students that "extra edge" when applying for scholarships, internships or jobs. Some of the designations below may be earned throughout a student's college career, others are earned upon graduation. (Please see www.honors.ilstu.edu/designations)

Students may be awarded *multiple* Honors designations in certain categories. The three Program/University Honors categories (Honors Program Scholar, Certificate in University Honors and University Honors Scholar) are mutually exclusive and thus only one may be earned. However, a student may also earn in addition to the Program/University Honors designations, either or both the designations, "School of Biological Sciences Honors Scholar" and/or a "Degree with Distinction".

It is also possible to earn the designation "School of Biological Sciences Honors Scholar" without obtaining Program/University Honors designations, provided that the student is a participant in the University Honors Program in good standing and that all requirements for the "School of Biological Sciences Honors Scholar" are met. Please see the list of these requirements at the Honors Program website: (www.honors.ilstu.edu/downloads/departmental_honors/biology.pdf).

Types of Earned Designations at Graduation:

Honors Program Scholar
Certificate in University Honors
University Honors Scholar
School of Biological Sciences Honors Scholar
Degrees with Distinction

Types of Designations Awarded or Earned Prior to Graduation:

(Please click on the links at www.honors.ilstu.edu/designations for details)

Presidential Scholar
Sophomore Honors Scholar
Honors Coursework Designations
Dean's List

Summary of Information about University/Honors Program Designation Requirements:

Honors Program Scholar

In order to receive this honor, students must meet the following conditions:

1. A minimum of 3 semesters of participation in the Honors Program (which may include the semester of graduation).
2. A minimum of 9 Honors hours with grades of A or B, (this may include hours being completed in the semester of graduation).
3. A minimum 3.3 cumulative GPA and in good standing with the Honors Program, which means you are not currently on Honors suspension and will not be suspended at the end of the semester .

These are the minimum requirements for the designation.

You must complete 3 hours of Honors credit each semester you are in the program, including the semester in which you will graduate. The only exceptions to the Honors participation requirement are: student teaching, study abroad, National Student Exchange, full-time internships or co-op experiences, or if you have completed 24 hours of honors credit.

This designation is indicated on student transcripts and in the Commencement Booklet. Honors Program Scholars wear a red cord at Commencement. Students will be contacted 3 weeks prior to Commencement to pick up their cords.

Summer term is not included as one of the semesters required for participation credit. Students may petition the Honors Program, providing a compelling rationale, for an exception.

This designation is indicated on student transcripts.

Certificate in University Honors:

In order to receive this honor, students must meet the following conditions:

1. 3.5 - 4.0 Cumulative GPA
2. A minimum of four semesters of participation in the Honors Program *
3. A minimum of 12 hours of Honors coursework with grades of "A" or "B" **

One of the following Honors experiences:

Advanced Honors Colloquium (IDS 202.XX)

Undergraduate Research Participation (IDS 285 or IDS 286, at least 3 hours)

Independent Honors Study (299, at least 3 hours)

Honors Thesis (IDS 395, at least 3 hours) (available beginning Fall 04)

Students must be in good standing with the Honors Program in order to earn Honors Program designations, which includes fulfilling participation requirements. You must complete 3 hours of Honors credit each semester you are in the program, including the semester in which you will graduate. The only exceptions to the Honors participation requirement are: student teaching, study abroad, National Student Exchange, full-time internships or co-op experiences, or if you have completed 24 hours of honors credit.

*Summer term is not included as one of the semesters required for participation credit. Students may petition the Honors Program, providing a compelling rationale, for an exception.

**credit/no credit is not acceptable for Honors coursework

This designation is recorded on the student's transcript.

University Honors Scholar:

In order to receive this honor, students must meet the following conditions:

1. 3.65 - 4.0 cumulative GPA
2. A minimum of four semesters of participation in the Honors Program *
3. A minimum of 24 hours of Honors coursework with grades of "A" or "B" **

Two of the following Honors experiences:

Advanced Honors Colloquium (IDS 202.XX)

Undergraduate Research Participation (IDS 285 or IDS 286, at least 3 hours)

Departmental Honors Scholar

Honors Research Mentorship

Independent Honors Study (299, at least 3 hours)

Honors Thesis (IDS 395, at least 3 hours) (available beginning Fall 04)

Students must be in good standing with the Honors Program in order to earn Honors Program designations, which includes fulfilling participation requirements. You must complete 3 hours of Honors credit each semester you are in the program, including the semester in which you will graduate. The only exceptions to the Honors participation requirement are: student teaching, study abroad, National Student Exchange, full-time internships or co-op experiences, or if you have completed 24 hours of honors credit.

*Summer term is not included as one of the semesters required for participation credit. Students may petition the Honors Program, providing a compelling rationale, for an exception.

**credit/no credit is not acceptable for Honors coursework

This designation is recorded on both the transcript and diploma.

Degrees with Distinction

A student must have completed at least 50 semester hours at Illinois State University to be eligible for a degree with distinction. Eligible students may graduate with traditional Latin-named degrees with distinction:

cum laude

GPA of 3.65 through 3.79

magna cum laude

GPA of 3.80 through 3.89

summa cum laude

GPA of 3.90 through 4.00

Students' ability to be recognized at commencement ceremonies is based on the cumulative GPA calculated during the semester prior to graduation. Transcript notations of graduating cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude are based on the total GPA, including the final semester prior to graduation.

Students who qualify for degrees with distinction wear a neck cord as part of their academic gown at Commencement, their names appear in the Commencement program as being awarded degrees with distinction, and they are acknowledged at graduation.