



INTS HONORS PROGRAM STUDENT HANDBOOK



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Department of
International Studies



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OVERVIEW

The INTS Honors Program is designed to provide advanced work, individual mentoring, and expanded opportunities for academic research experience and superior scholarly achievement for academically distinguished INTS majors.

The INTS Honors Program guarantees talented students a continuous mentoring relationship with one of our INTS faculty members from the time of their enrollment, access to limited enrollment courses or course sections, experience as a Teaching Assistant for an INTS course, as well as, during their senior year, an honors capstone thesis under the close direction of their faculty mentor. Overall, the Program seeks to enhance the academic experience of outstanding INTS majors in a way that is particularly – but not exclusively – valuable to those who might have interest in pursuing a graduate education.

In recognition of superior achievement, students who complete the INTS Honors Program will receive the INTS Honors designation on their official transcript. Participation in the INTS Honors Program does not exclude students from participating in other Honors Programs on campus – in fact, the INTS Honors Program requirements overlap with many of the requirements for the [University Honors](#) and [Liberal Arts \(Cornerstone\) Honors](#) programs.

ADMISSION

Admission to the INTS Program is reserved for current and future high achieving INTS majors who are able to maintain a 3.5 GPA or above. Admissions are competitive and enrollment in the program will be limited to 20 new students every academic year.

- **PROSPECTIVE FRESHMEN**

- To be eligible for INTS Honors, incoming freshmen need to have at least a (V+M) 1250 (SAT taken prior to March 2016) or 1310 (SAT taken during or after March 2016) or 28 ACT, and rank in the top ten percent of their high school class (if applicable).
- Prospective Freshmen can submit their application by email to the Honors Advisor (intsadvising@tamu.edu) or the Honors Program Director, Dr. Maddalena Cerrato (mcerrato@tamu.edu) after their admission to Texas A&M and no later than the first week of May. The application is available on the INTS website at the following link: <https://ints.tamu.edu/honors-program/>

- **CONTINUING STUDENTS**

- To be eligible for INTS Honors, a continuing TAMU student needs to have a minimum 3.5 GPA or higher at Texas A&M.
- Continuing students can be admitted to the program on a competitive basis when spots are available, after consultation with the Honors Program Director and the Honors Advisor to establish whether they will be able to comply with the program requirements in time for their planned graduation.



- Admissions to the Program for continuing students are reviewed three times a year:
 - September 1st
 - January 15th
 - May 15th
- **TRANSFER STUDENTS**
 - To be eligible for INTS Honors, a transfer student needs to have a 3.5 GPA or higher at their previous institution, dual credit coursework included.
 - Transfer students can submit their application by email to the Honors Advisor (intsadvising@tamu.edu) or the Honors Program Director, Dr. Maddalena Cerrato (mcerrato@tamu.edu) after their admission to Texas A&M and no later than the first week of May. The application is available on the INTS website at the following link: <https://ints.tamu.edu/honors-program/>

REQUIREMENTS

To remain in the INTS Honors program and receive Honors distinction at graduation, INTS Honors students must:

- Maintain a 3.50 cumulative GPR
- Maintain a 3.25 GPR in Honors course work
- Make progress toward curriculum requirements by taking at least twelve (12) Honors credits by the time they leave for their international experience
- Participate in the annual INTS Honors meetings
- Meet with their faculty mentor at least once per semester (beginning in the second semester of enrollment in the Program) to discuss their progress towards their INTS degree, in the Honors Program, and future career and/or educational goals.

PROBATION AND DISMISSAL POLICY

Honors students need to consistently comply with program requirements. Students may be subject to probation or dismissal from the program under the following circumstances:

- Students who do not have a 3.50 cumulative GPR at the end of the Fall semester will be placed on probation during the upcoming Spring semester. Students who do not have a 3.50 cumulative GPR at the end of the Summer semester will be placed on probation during the upcoming Fall semester. Students placed on probation will be required to meet with the Honors Advisor during their probation semester.
- The minimum 3.50 cumulative GPR and 3.25 cumulative Honors GPR (all Honors credit, not just courses fulfilling distinction requirements) are necessary to graduate with an Honors transcript distinction from Texas A&M University.
- Any type of violation of the Honor Code will result in a review of the student's status and in a possible dismissal from the honors program.



CURRICULUM

INTS Honors students are required to complete 18 hours of Honors coursework. The coursework for the Honors Program is as follows:

- Six (6) hours of honors core curriculum courses either in Communication (KCOM), Literature, Language, Philosophy and Culture (KLPC), Creative Arts (KCRA), Social and Behavioral Sciences (KSOC), American History (KHIS), or Political Science (KPLL or KPLF)¹
- Six (6) hours of any upper-division honors courses in ARAB, ASIA, CHIN, EURO, FREN, GERM, INTS, ITAL, JAPN, MODL, RUSS, or SPAN
- Three (3) hours of INTS 201H: Introduction to International Studies, Honors Section²
- Three (3) hours of INTS 481H: Senior Seminar in International Studies, Honors Section; or INTS 497: Independent Honors Study

Honors credit can be received in the following ways:

- Registering for a stand-alone honors course
- Registering for a stacked honors course section
- Contracting an honors course with an instructor

HONORS COURSES are intended to be “enriched,” not accelerated. Although the content of an Honors course will be largely the same as a non-honors course, the class activities will require a student to interact differently and at a deeper level than in a non-honors course.

Honors courses can be identified by the section number – typically 200 or 970 – and the abbreviation “HNR” in the course title. For more information about options for honors credit, please visit <https://launch.tamu.edu/Honors/Honors-Fellows-Distinction>.

HONORS CONTRACT. A student can propose to “contract” a non-Honors course for Honors credit by suggesting a plan of alternate or additional activities to the instructor of the course. These activities should allow the student to emulate the experience of an Honors course, so not simply implying more work or more difficult work but providing the student with a deeper, more complex experience than what is described in the non-Honors syllabus. Courses can be contracted as honors at the following link: <https://launchportal.tamu.edu>. Students should work with faculty to develop their Honors contract and submit it to the LAUNCH Portal by no later than the 20th class day. Students must then work with faculty to ensure that all work for the Honors contract is completed by the end of the semester, and that final approval is given by faculty through the LAUNCH Portal. For questions about this process, please contact the Honors Director or Advisor.

¹ Prospective Freshmen and Transfer students who have completed these requirements may be permitted to substitute an alternative core curriculum requirement on a case-by-case basis

² Continuing students who have completed INTS 201 prior to being admitted to the program may substitute this requirement with an additional upper-division honors in INTS or a foreign language



HONORS THESIS

At the conclusion of their INTS Honors Program experience, all students are required to complete the Senior Honor Thesis capstone by either registering in INTS 481 - Honors Section, or in INTS 497 – Independent Honors Research (when a INTS 481H is not offered). In both cases (INTS 481 – Honors Section and INTS 497), honors students will conduct an independent research project and write a 25-35 page paper on a topic of their interest related to the student's area of specialization in the INTS curriculum (Track and Area) under the direction of a faculty member (either the student's mentor or a different faculty member identified with the assistance of the mentor).

The student's research project should be specific to the student's INTS geographic area of concentration, but a comparative context relating the topic to another region is encouraged. The focus of the thesis should be primarily on a current topic, with historical discussion in a secondary, supporting role. Finally, the research should show an ability to work with the designated foreign language.

Students are not eligible to complete either INTS 481 – Honors Section or INTS 497 until after their international experience. Students should plan to enroll in INTS 481 - Honors Section, unless advised to take INTS 497 by the Honors Advisor due to special circumstances (unable to take the course in the Fall semester, no available seats in the course, etc.). Students may be prioritized for enrollment in INTS 481 – Honors Section for specific reasons relating to their academic record (participation in the 3+2 Program, expected graduation date, etc.). Students in INTS 481 – Honors Section will still consult with their faculty mentor for guidance and support on the thesis project, and the course will provide specific support and structure for those wishing to apply for the Undergraduate Research Scholars Program through LAUNCH. Students enrolling in INTS 497 are required to complete a contract with the faculty member directing their Independent Thesis prior to course enrollment.

MENTORSHIP

Each new student enrolled into the INTS Honors Program will be assigned an INTS faculty member as a mentor by the end of their first semester in the Program. Students will be assigned to a mentor according to their INTS track and interest areas identified through a one-on-one meeting with the Honors Program Director.³

Students are required to meet with their faculty mentor once per semester beginning in the second semester of enrollment in the Program. Faculty mentors are meant to provide guidance and support to students in areas including, but not limited to, progress towards the INTS degree and Honors Program requirements, academic and professional opportunities and resources, graduate school preparation, and career goals. The faculty mentor can also act as the student's advisor for the Honors Thesis, or assist the student with selecting an appropriate faculty advisor for the thesis.

³ If at any time a student would like to discuss a potential change of mentor or any issues with the mentorship process, they can contact the Program Director.



OPPORTUNITIES

There are additional opportunities available to INTS Honors students through both the INTS Department and other areas on campus that are meant to enhance the academic experience of Honors students.

- Opportunities available through INTS:
 - Faculty mentorship
 - Student worker positions within the Department (as available)
 - Teaching Assistant positions for INTS courses (as available)
- Opportunities available through LAUNCH:
 - National Fellowships
 - Undergraduate Research
 - Honors Student Council

If you have questions about available departmental opportunities, you can email the INTS Honors Program Director, Dr. Maddalena Cerrato, at mcerrato@tamu.edu. If you have questions about available opportunities provided through LAUNCH, please email honors@tamu.edu.

ADVISING

It is recommended that all INTS Honors students meet with the Honors Advisor at least once per semester in order to plan out honors coursework in accordance with their degree plan. The Honors Advisor, Daniella Stratta, can be reached by email at daniella.stratta@tamu.edu.

The INTS Advising office holds walk-in hours from 9-11:30 AM and appointments from 1:30-4 PM every weekday. To make an appointment with an advisor, go to the following link and select an available time slot at least 24 hours in advance: <https://tamu.campus.eab.com/home>.