



Honors Program

Tip Sheet for Honors Coordinators and Undergraduate Staff

Eligible Programs for Honors: Students may pursue honors in only one major or joint major. This must be one of their declared majors. If a department offers multiple majors, the student cannot choose to do honors under a different major in the department other than their declared major. Students who have two declared majors must choose one of those for honors, though they may design an interdisciplinary project that draws on both disciplines with approval from their departments and thesis advisor. Students cannot pursue Honors in a declared minor.

Graduating early or late: Students may pursue Honors on an alternative timeline with their department's permission and in coordination with the College Honors Program Administrator (ec.honorsprogram@emory.edu). The timeline should align with the student's final two semesters (not including the summer semester) in the College. Typically, this would be a student graduating one semester early (i.e., they begin the thesis in the spring of their junior year, and complete and graduate in the fall of their senior year).

GPA: Please ensure that students meet eligibility requirements before submitting student rosters. All students in Honors must have a cumulative GPA of 3.7 when they begin the program (except for students who submitted a GPA petition). Business students wishing to enroll in the Honors Program require a 3.7 GPA in their combined careers (ECAS and GBS). Departments should hand-calculate a combined GPA from both programs to determine eligibility.

Honors Course Registration: A student must be registered for all required courses in the department's Honors program to be considered a participant and must enroll in at least one credit of honors in their final semester.

Continuing Writing Credit: Students can only receive continuing writing credit for the second semester of the Honors Program, not both semesters. In other words, students may not enroll in 495W, 495BW, or the writing version of honors more than once, or before their final semester in honors.

Faculty Committees: For guidelines on faculty committees, see the Honors Program website. Among other requirements, only regular Emory faculty may serve as core

members of committees. There is a petition process for emeritus, visiting, and other non-regular faculty. Once a petition is approved, it remains valid for three years.

Dropping the Honors Program: If a student decides to drop the Honors Program, immediately notify the College Honors Program Administrator and the departmental Honors Coordinator using the [drop form](#). If dropping after the College withdrawal deadlines, a student must work with their advisor and/or honors coordinator to complete work to earn credit for the honors course. The student will not defend the thesis or graduate with honors.

Defenses: The Honors Program now allows defenses to be held in person, online, or in a hybrid format.

4+1 Programs: Students enrolled in a 4+1 Program, which allows current students to pursue a bachelor's and master's degree in five years, must complete the Honors Program before the end of the bachelor portion of their program (i.e., their senior year in the College).

Emory/Georgia Tech Dual Degree Program: Students involved in the Emory/GA Tech dual degree program should complete the Honors Program, including the defense of the thesis, by the end of the student's coursework at Emory before moving to Georgia Tech (typically the end of the third year). The Honors Program will continue to track these students to ensure they receive the appropriate recognition at the end of the program at Georgia Tech when they graduate and receive both degrees.

Proposing New Programs: Departments that are proposing new majors in the College must also submit a proposal to offer an honors program for that major to the College Honors Committee. This includes any joint majors, which must have an approved proposal to offer Honors.

Alternatives to the Written Thesis: Departments may not offer honors students the opportunity to submit an alternative project (e.g., websites, video) in lieu of a written thesis without the approval of the College Honors Committee. Some departments (especially in the arts) already have this approval. A proposal must be submitted to the Honors Committee to revise the departmental requirements and approved in advance before an alternative option can be offered to an honors candidate.