Mission Statement
Modeling a commitment to liberal arts and cross-disciplinary education, the Honors College celebrates outstanding students and encourages them to strive for a high level of academic excellence. We prepare students to become forces for positive change in the life of the campus and the broader community through scholarship, co-curricular activities, service, teamwork, and leadership. We motivate students to examine and refine character, become active global citizens, and value life-long learning. Honors is about the business of preparing leaders for the 21st century.

Philosophy Statement
Leadership Development Through Community Investment
We believe that an honors education should instill in students the desire to be active, contributing members of their societies. Our aim is summarized best in our motto: To be honorable is to serve.

The Honors College at West Chester University achieves this theme of leadership development through service by providing an exciting environment for academically gifted and highly motivated students to interact in a learning community of peers, faculty, administrators, and staff to challenge and enrich their college experience. Grounded in the liberal arts tradition, the Honors College seeks cross-disciplinary connections to develop students' natural intellectual abilities and challenge them to employ those gifts in the larger community. At West Chester University, honors is more than a matter of strong grades: it implies a decision to use the gift of knowledge to be an active problem solver in the campus community and the world. The Honors College seeks to build character and foster a commitment to lifelong learning that prepares leaders for the 21st century.

A core of nine sequenced courses helps students define and address community challenges. Additionally, they select a minimum of two 320/400-level special topics seminars that rotate each semester. The culminating experience, a three-credit capstone project, provides students with the opportunity to identify, investigate, and address creatively an issue in a community business, nonprofit agency, or research laboratory.

Honors is a supplement to, not a substitute for, an academic major. The honors core, plus one additional science or mathematics course, fulfills the University’s general education requirements for students in the core program.

The Honors Core
The 27-hour honors core incorporates 100-, 200-, and 300-level courses. The three courses at the 100/200 level, to be completed during the first year in the program, focus on personal development, including physical and psychological well-being, communication, and ethics and morality in a technological age. Courses at the 300 level, completed by the middle of the third year, build upon students' knowledge of self and address broader perspectives of community and social change. Students view significant historical and contemporary figures, literary works, and the context in which they helped mold society. Students become aware of the economic realities that impact change and discover how educational and political structures, science, and the fine arts influence society.

Courses in the Core
HON 100 Self-Awareness and Development
HON 211 Decision Making and Public Discourse
HON 212 Ethics and Moral Choice in a Technological Age
HON 310 Theories and Strategies of Community Change
HON 322 Developing Leadership with English Language Learners
HON 311 Stewardship and Civic Responsibility
HON 312 Educational Systems and Social Influence
HON 313 American Government, Democracy, and Public Opinion
HON 314 Science, Technology, and Environmental Systems
HON 315 Community and the Arts
HON 490 Capstone Project, which involves students in planning, executing, and assessing a potential community enhancement and following up with a sustainability plan.

Membership in honors is competitive with a maximum of 40 seats open each fall. Generally, membership...
includes students from 44 different academic majors, 72% women, 28% men, and 12% multicultural. High school seniors with a minimum SAT score (combined math and verbal only) of 1200 who are in the top 20% of their graduating class are eligible for review. Additional criteria include a minimum GPA of 3.5 and academic achievement in high school honors and AP courses. Qualified candidates are invited to apply and attend an on-campus interview. Final selection is made on the basis of commitment to service, leadership potential, and fit with the college’s philosophy. If chosen, students are expected to maintain a 3.25 GPA, progress through the honors core, and actively participate in campus/community life and service to remain in good standing.

Honors alumni pursue graduate and professional studies at such institutions as Yale, Johns Hopkins, Temple, and Washington universities; Princeton Theological; Eastman Conservatory/University of Rochester; and the universities of Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

Benefits to Honors Membership

- Alternative general education program of cross-disciplinary courses built around community investment and leadership development through untraditional classroom experiences
- Numerous community service opportunities (students engage in over 3,000 hours)
- Small, intimate seminar classes (20–30 students)
- Honors housing on the seventh floor of Allegheny Hall, guaranteed for all four years: a friendly, open, and fun community-based environment, including air conditioned, suite-style rooms with private bath; wireless Internet; free laundry; honors lounge (with a projection system); Mac lab and printer for class projects; and music practice room
- Access to honors staff and house as an information and support center
- Additional faculty advisers (Honors College director and honors faculty)
- Honors Student Association membership (2011 Organization of the Year; 2012 and 2013 Service Organization of the Year)
- Enhanced scheduling
- Senior project linked to a community-based internship
- Opportunities to serve on the student executive board and hold committee chair positions
- Opportunity to participate in PASSHE summer honors programs (locations rotate annually)
- Opportunity to travel with honors faculty to South Africa for a unique research and service experience
- Opportunity for affiliation with the National Collegiate Honors Council
- Qualification for honors scholarship awards, and additional special recognition for outstanding performance in academics, leadership, and/or service
- Formal recognition of Honors College membership and completion at commencement and on the official university transcript

Transfer students are eligible for membership in the Honors Seminar Certificate Program of the Honors College. Interested candidates should review the website and download an application at http://www.wcupa.edu/Honors/admissions.asp. Find out more about the full Honors College offerings at http://www.wcupa.edu/honors/.

About West Chester University

A comprehensive, public institution, West Chester University of Pennsylvania offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degree programs in more than 100 subject areas, as well as certification and certificate programs. As the largest member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition. More than 15,800 graduate and undergraduate students, as well as 1,600 faculty and staff, study and work on the picturesque, 406-acre campus. Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor between New York City and Washington, D.C., West Chester University is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington.