Belmont University Honors Program
Honors Applicants
Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q.)

How difficult is it to get into Honors?
Belmont’s Honors Program is a highly selective program. Successful applicants demonstrate exceptional academic performance as well as participation in co-curricular and community activities. The application pool for the current cycle contains approximately 700 applicants with an average ACT of 30 and GPA of 3.8 as well as a wide range of academic and personal accomplishments. From this pool, we will be selecting an entering class of 72. Belmont’s Honor’s Program is a member of the National Collegiate Honors Council and follows NCHC’s best practice guidelines.

Is Honors at Belmont like Honors in my high school?
Yes and no. Like most high school programs, we seek to assemble a community of especially capable and motivated students. However, unlike some high school programs, we offer an entirely different curriculum to our students. Honors students complete the honors curriculum instead of the university’s typical general education requirements. Honors courses are not simply accelerated versions of these requirements as much as they are more innovative, engaging, and interdisciplinary. They are different, deeper and designed to broaden your experience in the liberal arts and advance your interests and abilities in a particular track (e.g. Scholarship, the Artists Studio, or Project LEAD).

How hard is Honors?
The Honors program features an array of interdisciplinary core courses and specialized tracks that lead students to discover, develop, and deploy their very best. Our students are highly skilled and motivated, so experiences are designed to be challenging, and expectations are high. Classes are small and engaging and students come ready to play. This requires considerable reading, writing, reflection, and other preparation. We provide support, opportunity, and encouragement; our students provide the initiative to succeed.

Are any majors or experiences incompatible with Honors?
The Honors Program is compatible with most university majors and activities. However, some majors create greater complexity for honors students in terms of scheduling and/or expectations. Student athletes and students seeking to enter the Pharmacy program prior to completion of a baccalaureate degree should not seek application to the Honors Program. Honors students frequently study abroad during their college
experience, but they coordinate it carefully with the requirements of their particular Track. Please contact an honors faculty member for more information or counsel in this area.

**What is a “Cohort”?**

In this case, a “cohort” is a group of students that move through their curriculum together. The honors program develops close relationships among participants because they share much of their experience with one another. Early in their experience students interact with peers that entered the program at the same time. Later they work closely with the subset of students that are in the same “Track” (see below for definition) they are pursuing. This process builds strong connections and a sense of community in the honors program.

**What is the Honors “Core”?**

The Honors Core is the set of classes that all Honors students take. They set a common breadth of knowledge and experience that informs and is integrated into other Honor’s courses. Core classes follow an historical sequence: “Classical Civilizations,” (1200 BCE - 500 CE), “The Medieval World” (500 CE to 1500 CE), “The Age of Exploration” (1500 CE-1700 CE), “Discovery and Revolution,” (1700 CE-1900 CE), and culminating in “Topics in the 20th and 21st Centuries.”

**What are the Honors Tracks?**

Honors students complete a series of interdisciplinary core classes during their first 3 semesters. After this, they apply for one of three “tracks” that will define the remainder of their honors curriculum.

- **Scholarship.** Students in this track learn about scholarship in the humanities or sciences. They participate in research and complete a major Thesis as their capstone experience.

- **The Artist’s Studio.** Students in this track engage artistic expression and process intellectually and practically. They complete a major project as their capstone experience.

- **Project LEAD.** Students in LEAD explore the charms and challenges of leading others. They hone their skills in campus and co-curricular contexts and complete a significant group project with a Community Partner as their capstone experience.