HONORS PROGRAM

The honors program at Fordham College at Lincoln Center is an opportunity for talented and motivated students to explore many areas of learning in a small intellectual community of student scholars and faculty. The program is limited to approximately 16 students in each year and is directed by a faculty member who stays with each class through their four years. The honors program gives students a solid grounding in the major academic disciplines, and then prepares the student for independent learning and research, culminating in a senior thesis or project.

Students are selected for invitations to the honors program in the spring before their freshman year. On rare occasions students are admitted to the program in the middle of their freshman year or at the beginning of their sophomore year. The honors curriculum replaces the regular Core Curriculum of the college with a series of intensive seminars. A dedicated honors seminar room on the ninth floor of the Lowenstein Building is available for honors classes and other activities. Students enrolled in the honors program gather outside of class for occasional dinners, visits to museums and libraries, and theatre trips.

For more information
Visit the Lincoln Center Honors Program web page.

Requirements

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During the first year the honors student takes four honors seminars (two each semester) in philosophy, English, theology, and history. In addition students take a year of a lab science (e.g., Natural Science I and II with Natural Science Lab I and II or General Biology I and II and General Biology Lab I and II) or mathematics at the level of calculus or higher. Freshmen also take a year of a modern or classical language at the intermediate level or higher. (If a student starts a new language, four semesters will be required.) The course of study is rounded out with a fifth course each semester chosen by the student; it may be an elective course or the beginning of a major course of study. Freshmen also take instruction in composition and public speaking.

In sophomore year honors students have more choice in their schedule. Each semester they take two interrelated honors courses. The other six courses taken in sophomore year are chosen by the student in consultation with the class adviser.

In the junior year, the student’s primary focus is on the major course of study, but students also complete an honors course from among the following options:

- They may elect to study abroad in a program approved by the honors committee.
- They may complete a tutorial designed by the student and one or more faculty and approved by the committee.
- They may arrange a special internship/tutorial (e.g., work with an artist, writer, or scientist, with directed academic readings), approved by the committee.
- They may undertake a yearlong directed reading course (outside the student’s major) with written and oral examinations, approved by the committee.

In addition, juniors-in-residence will participate in the organization of cocurricular forums designed to enhance the intellectual experience of participants in the honors program at all levels. In the senior year, honors students will participate with their peers in the Honors Senior Values Seminar. Finally, to receive honors, a student will have to show the committee that he/she has successfully completed a thesis or the equivalent (i.e., completed a special scientific research project or artistic project) in the major. Departments will be encouraged to conduct a public thesis examination for honors students in the honors program meeting room.