

A Student's Guide

to the

Lander University

Honors College



What is the Honors College?

The Honors College is both a form of recognition and an enrichment program to broaden your education. It consists of a variety of smaller, more active course options to fulfill your general education requirements, along with outside-of-class challenges to explore your world. The Honors curriculum fits alongside your major and is tailored to your interests.

Who is eligible to join the Honors College?

Acceptance to the Honors College is competitive. Incoming freshman may apply based on their high school academic achievements. The program was designed for students with above-average test scores and strong high school academic records. **Successful applicants score a minimum 1170 or higher on the SAT (math + critical reading) or 24 or higher on the ACT (composite). They also have a strong high school GPA or class rank**, preferably with honors-level or AP classes.

Transfer students and continuing Lander students may apply with a *minimum* university GPA of 3.25 higher and other documentation of success. Accepted students generally have a 3.5 university GPA or above.

What are the benefits of the Honors College?

Honors courses are small, personal, and engaging—you'll get to know your classmates and faculty members quickly and well. Honors College students are also eligible for special opportunities like:

- early registration for classes
- field trips
- social events
- prestigious internships
- designated Honors Hall in campus housing
- Global Scholars Study Abroad Scholarship Program

An Honors education also greatly enhances your marketability for careers and graduation programs. Students who complete all Honors College requirements receive special recognition at graduation.

Most of Lander's academic scholarships are administered by the Admissions Office, but a few small scholarships are available directly from the Honors College. (No separate application needed: all students are considered.) Continuing Honors College members may apply for Global Scholars Program study abroad scholarships to help fund study abroad or destination internship costs.

How do I apply?

The Honors College enrolls new members to begin each fall semester. The application is available at the end of this packet and also on the Honors College webpage at www.lander.edu/honors. Approximately 40 spots are available each year.

Applications received	Decision letters mailed
by December 1	by December 15
by February 1	by February 15
by April 1	by April 15
after April 1	On a rolling basis: Honors College often has a waitlist by April, but additional students will be accepted as space becomes available.

What happens once I am accepted?

Your Honors experience breaks down into four stages: the Gateway, the Core Courses, the Break Away, and the Capstone.

The Gateway

Everyone starts with the same 4 credit hours of coursework in their first semester in the Honors College. HONS 211 (3 hours) is a reading-and-writing class on a special topic related to the human experience. HONS 210 (1 hour) is a companion class that focuses on travel skills and cultural adaptability: it features a **university-funded overnight field trip** to a major American city. Students typically take these courses together.



HONS 210 fieldtrip to New York City

The Core Courses

After the Gateway, you'll pick which Honors College classes you want to take. Honors classes rotate every semester, so there's always a new variety to consider. Most Honors courses fulfill general education requirements and fit with any major. Recent course topics included nanotechnology, banned books, Alexander Hamilton, psychology of dogs, ethics, and the history of the late 1960s.

To complete the program and earn the Honors Medal, **you'll choose at least three additional Honors core courses** (9 credit hours)—courses numbered HONS 291 through HONS 398—before graduation. If you're having trouble fitting these classes into your schedule, talk to Dr. Craton about creative solutions.

We also expect Honors students to be involved on campus or in the community. Join groups. Volunteer. Work as a tutor. Attend campus events and cultural activities. Pick what's right for you, but get involved.

Students must be in good standing with the Honors College to continue access to Honors courses and privileges like early registration and honors scholarships. To continue in the Honors College, students should plan to remain active in an Honors course or activity each year and maintain a 3.0 GPA.

The Break Away

At some point you'll take on a big challenge that fits your goals and interests. Honors students spend some time going beyond the traditional classroom experience. That might be **a semester of study abroad, a semester in Washington, a high-profile internship, a summer research project**, or a creative plan of your own design. You design your own Break Away based on your interests and goals.

Want more info about the types of adventures students seek out for their Break Away? Check out some of their reflections on the experience in the Lander Travels blog:

<http://landertravels.blogspot.com/>

Does that sound intimidating? Don't worry. The Honors Advisors will help plan the right experience for you. You develop a proposal with your advisor and lots of help and advice from the Honors College.

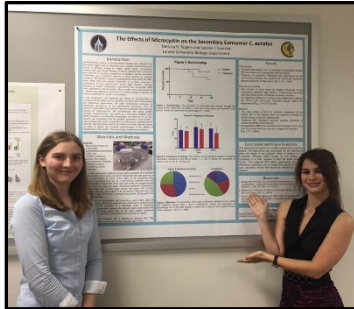


Honors students on Break Away in Washington DC, Italy, and England.

The Capstone

After your Break Away, you'll start your Capstone experience. This comes in the form of two one-hour courses that may be taken together or in different semesters.

In HONS 489, you'll reflect on what you learned from your Break Away and practice marketing your new skills. In HONS 499, taken shortly before graduation, you'll plan a conference presentation that builds your résumé.



Students presenting their own research at capstone conference presentations

The Payoff

Students who decide to complete all these requirements—the Gateway, Core Courses, Break Away, and Capstone—and have a 3.25 GPA or higher are named Honors Medalists. Honors Medals are presented at the annual Academic Awards Ceremony and Medalists receive special acknowledgement during the graduation ceremony.



Recent Honors Medalists at graduation

Appendix: Application Forms



Lander University Honors College Application: *For new first-year students*

Please return your application by email to lcraton@lander.edu or by mail to Dr. Lillie Craton, Lander University Honors College, 320 Stanley Avenue Greenwood, SC 29649. Applications will be evaluated three times each year:

Applications received	Decision letters mailed
by December 1	by December 15
by February 1	by February 15
by April 1	by April 15
after April 1	on a rolling basis: Honors College often has a waitlist by early April, but additional students will be accepted as space becomes available.

1. First and last names (and name you prefer to be called, if different):

2. Contact information:

Preferred phone number:

Preferred email address:

Preferred mailing address:

3. Highest SAT (Math /Critical Reading) or ACT composite scores:

(Accepted applicants have a minimum ACT composite of 24+ or SAT score of 1170+. If you have sent your scores to the Lander Admissions Office, we can access it. If not, you may send a photocopy or scanned copy of your score reports to the contact info at the top of this form.)

Highest scores are already on file with Admissions

Highest scores will be sent directly to Honors College.

4. Please indicate whether your transcript is already on file with the Admissions Office. If not, please provide an unofficial copy of your high school transcript to the Honors College:

(If you have already sent your transcript to the Lander Admissions Office, we can access it there. If not, you may submit a photocopy or scanned copy of your transcript to the contact info at the top of this form.)

Transcript is already on file with Admissions

Transcript will be sent directly to Honors College.

5. What other information you would like us to consider? Please send one or more of these items to help the Honors Committee gain a better understanding of who you are.

Academic Writing Sample (You may submit an example of your writing such as an essay or term paper. Electronic submissions are welcome.)

Artistic Portfolio (You may submit examples of creative writing, artistic images, recordings, etc. Electronic submission are welcome.)

Letters of Recommendation, including one from someone who knows your academic work (You may attach letters or have recommenders send them to the address or email above.)

Interview (Please email lcraton@lander.edu to schedule.)

6. In 300-500 words, please respond: Why is curiosity important and how has it shaped your life?

"I think, at a child's birth, if a mother could ask a fairy godmother to endow it with the most useful gift, that gift would be curiosity." — Eleanor Roosevelt



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Please return your application by email to lcraton@lander.edu or by mail to Dr. Lillie Craton, Lander University Honors College, 320 Stanley Avenue Greenwood, SC 29649. Applications are evaluated at least three times annually:

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by December 1	by December 15
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by April 1	by April 15
after April 1	on a rolling basis: Honors College often has a waitlist by early April, but additional students will be accepted as space becomes available.

1. First and last names (and name you prefer to be called, if different):

2. Contact information:

Preferred phone number:

Preferred email address:

Preferred mailing address:

3. Highest SAT (Math /Critical Reading) or ACT composite scores:

(Accepted applicants typically have a minimum ACT composite of 24+ or SAT score of 1170+. If you have sent your scores to the Lander Admissions Office, we can access them. If not, you may send a photocopy or scanned copy of your score reports to the contact info at the top of this form. ***Students who would prefer that we not emphasize test scores in their application should send an additional item from #5.***)

Highest scores are already on file with Admissions

Highest scores will be sent directly to Honors College.

4. Please indicate whether your transcript is already on file with the Admissions Office. If not, please provide an unofficial copy of your high school transcript to the Honors College:

(If you have already sent your transcript to the Lander Admissions Office, we can access it there. If not, you may submit a photocopy or scanned copy of your transcript to the contact info at the top of this form.)

Transcript is already on file with Admissions

Transcript will be sent directly to Honors College.

5. What other information you would like us to consider? *Please send one or more of these items to help the Honors Committee gain a better understanding of who you are. Students who would prefer that we not emphasize SAT/ACT scores in their application should send two or more items from this category.*

Academic Writing Sample (You may submit an example of your writing such as an essay or term paper. Electronic submissions are welcome.)

Artistic Portfolio (You may submit examples of creative writing, artistic images, recordings, etc. Electronic submission are welcome.)

Letters of Recommendation, including one from someone who knows your academic work (You may attach letters or have recommenders send them to the address or email above.)

Interview (Please email lcraton@lander.edu to schedule an interview.)

6. In 300-500 words, please respond: Why is curiosity important and how has it shaped your life?

"I think, at a child's birth, if a mother could ask a fairy godmother to endow it with the most useful gift, that gift would be curiosity." — Eleanor Roosevelt



Honors College Application

For continuing Lander students & transfer students with 30 or more credit hours.

Please return your application by email to lcraton@lander.edu or by mail to Dr. Lillie Craton, Lander University Honors College, 320 Stanley Ave., Greenwood, SC 29649. Applications will be evaluated periodically throughout the year:

Applications received	Decision letters mailed
by December 1	by December 15: LU freshmen should wait until fall grades are posted before applying.
by February 1	by February 15
by April 1	by April 15
after April 1	on a rolling basis: Honors College often has a waitlist by early April, but additional students will be accepted as space becomes available.

1. First and last names (and name you prefer to be called, if different):

L#, if you have one:

2. Contact information:

Preferred phone number:

Preferred email:

Preferred mailing address:

3. An unofficial copy of your university transcript (A printed or scanned copy is fine. You may attach it here, have it mailed to the address above, or email it to lcraton@lander.edu. Accepted applicants must have a *minimum* university GPA of 3.25 and above and typically have a university GPA of 3.5 or higher.)

4. What other information you would like to share? *Please submit one or more items of your choice.*

Academic Writing Sample (You may submit an example of your writing such as an essay or term paper. Electronic submissions are welcome.)

Artistic Portfolio (You may submit examples of creative writing, artistic images, recordings, etc. Electronic submission and disks are welcome.)

Letters of Recommendation, including one from someone who knows your academic work (You may attach letters or have recommenders send them to the address or email above.)

Interview (Interviews will be scheduled during EXPO or by appointment.)

5. In 300-500 words, please respond: Why is curiosity important and how has it shaped your life?

"I think, at a child's birth, if a mother could ask a fairy godmother to endow it with the most useful gift, that gift would be curiosity." — Eleanor Roosevelt