

Departmental Honors Program

In addition to the General Honors Program, the St. Andrews Departmental Honors Program offers independent study opportunities for superior students in designated disciplinary majors.

Students must have achieved and maintained a cumulative 3.00 GPA on all coursework attempted, and a 3.30 GPA or better in major courses. Students must also receive recommendation to the Departmental Honors Program from the faculty in which the honors are to be taken. In addition, students must be certified as eligible for Departmental Honors by the Dean of the College.

Program Requirements

Unless otherwise specified by a particular department, to graduate with the designation “honors in (the major),” in addition to meeting graduation requirements for the B.A., B.F.A., or B.S. degree, students must: successfully complete and earn not fewer than 6 credits and not more than 12 credits of 497 Independent Study covering work in at least two regular semesters with a GPA of 3.30 or better in each independent study; present an honors thesis or honors project acceptable to the academic program faculty that offers the major; complete a comprehensive oral examination on the subject matter of the honors thesis; or, for students with majors in the visual or performing arts, an appropriate critique of the honors project/performance; and, complete any additional requirements specified by the academic program faculty that offers the major. More specific requirements are listed with the major requirements.

An honors committee, consisting of at least one faculty member in the academic program, one faculty member outside the academic program, and one additional examiner who may be from off-campus, will certify the oral examination, exhibit, or performance as worthy of the designation “graduation with honors.”

The faculty member supervising the student’s independent study will be responsible for reporting grades and certifying successful completion of the Departmental Honors Program.

Students who pass the independent studies but who are not certified for graduation with honors will receive appropriate course credit and grades for independent study, as determined by the supervisor in consultation with the program faculty and examination committee.

Sophomore Honors

Sophomore Honors are conferred each spring. Students with sophomore standing who are enrolled in the Spring Semester and have earned a minimum GPA of 3.25 on all coursework attempted through the end of their sophomore Fall Semester qualify for Sophomore Honors. Sophomores are not eligible for Sophomore Honors if they have received a grade of F in any College course, or if they are on academic or social probation.

Dean’s List Honor Roll

The Dean’s List Honor Roll recognizes all degree-seeking students who have met all four of the following conditions: have earned a minimum semester GPA of 3.50 at the end of either a Fall or Spring Semester; have completed a minimum of 12 credits for that semester; have earned a grade of C or above in each course; and have not received a grade of I (Incomplete) in any course in the semester.

Exchange students are eligible for the Dean’s Honor Roll if they have met all other academic qualifications for inclusion.

St. Andrews Honor Society

Membership in the St. Andrews Honor Society is awarded to students with junior or senior standing who are enrolled during the Spring Semester, or who have completed graduation requirements since the last commencement, and who have earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50 in all coursework attempted, and on a minimum of 49 credits earned at St. Andrews. Eligibility is determined at the end of the Fall Semester for students enrolled at St. Andrews. Students are ineligible if they have received a grade of F in any coursework at St. Andrews, or if they are on academic or social probation.

Alpha Chi

Alpha Chi is a national coeducational honor society with the purpose of promoting academic excellence and exemplary character among college and university students. Its name derives from the initial letters of the Greek words Aletheia, meaning “truth,” and Xarakter, meaning “character.”

In addition to honoring scholarly achievement, Alpha Chi seeks to find ways to assist its members in cultivating those habits of mind and heart that, according to the Alpha Chi constitution, “make scholarship effective for good.”

As a general honor society, Alpha Chi admits members from all academic disciplines. Students with junior or senior standing and a minimum of 24 credits at St. Andrews who meet the requirements established at the national level are eligible for induction into Alpha Chi.

Commencement Honors

St. Andrews bestows special recognition upon those students whose academic work has been of superior quality. To be eligible for distinctions, students must have earned a minimum of 55 credits at St. Andrews. Distinctions for graduation honors will be awarded in accord with the cumulative GPA on all courses attempted, as described below:

Summa Cum Laude for students with a cumulative GPA of 3.90 or higher.

Magna Cum Laude for students with a cumulative GPA of 3.75 to 3.89.

Cum Laude for students with a cumulative GPA of 3.50 to 3.74.