The Rules

(Last Updated: August 2016)

The Honors College at UMass Lowell is a campus-wide honors program. To graduate with a Commonwealth Honors designation the honors student must satisfy four CHP requirements.

They are:

**CHP 1:** Earn a cumulative **3.25 grade point average.**

**CHP 2:** Successfully complete the 8 Honors course requirements, the **H1 – H8.** These are not designed to be extra courses, but just different courses.

**CHP 3:** Complete and submit at least one approved **Enrichment requirement (E1)** for each semester active in the Honors College.

**CHP 4:** Create and present either an **Honors Project or an Honors Thesis.**

### The H1 – H8 Honors Course Requirements

All Honors students must fulfill eight honors course requirements, **H1 - H8.** For most students, these are **not extra courses,** but different versions of courses that will satisfy credits necessary for graduation. Dedicated honors courses are typically lower enrollment, more engaging, seminar-like classes. Please note that **students must earn a “B” or better in an honors course for it to fulfill an Honors requirement.**

*Deviations from any of the H1 – H8 honors requirements must be formally requested by submitting an Honors Petition for Exception which can be obtained from [www.uml.edu/honors](http://www.uml.edu/honors). The petition must be approved by the Dean of the Honors College.*

The H1 through H8 Honors Course Requirements are:

**H1:** Take HONR.1100 First Year Seminar in Honors (**FYSH**). This course also satisfies an Arts and Humanities (**AH**) general education course requirement.

**H2:** Take an honors section of ENGL.1020 - **College Writing II.**

**H3:** Take **any dedicated honors course.** Honors Calculus I (MATH.1410), the honors section of Introduction to Sociology (SOCI.1020), and the honors section of Professional Communication (MKTG.2010) are three examples of dedicated honors courses.
H4:  Take either an **Honors general education course or an Honors Seminar**. Please note that the **H4 cannot come from the same department as the H3**.

H5:  Take either a **dedicated honors course offered at the 3000/4000 level**, augment any **300/400 level non-honors course with an honors-by-contract**, or take any **graduate course**. Graduate courses have 5000 course numbers or higher.

H6:  Take an **Honors Seminar course**. A complete list of approved honors seminars is given at [www.uml.edu/honors](http://www.uml.edu/honors). Honors seminar courses are 3000/4000 level approved honors courses that are low-enrollment, engaging, and seminar-like. The most common examples of Honors Seminars are HONR.3200 Special Topics in Honors, HONR.3300 Special Topics Arts & Humanities Perspective, and HONR.3400 Special Topics Social Science Perspectives.

H7, H8: **Satisfying these two course requirements vary according to your chosen major.** These courses typically serve as the foundation for either your **Honors Project (3 or 6 credits)** or your **Honors Thesis (6 credits)**. There are many ways to meet these requirements. One way is for the student to twice enroll in a **Directed Studies** course within their major. Another way is to use a major’s existing and mandatory capstone project course(s). To learn more precisely how you would satisfy the H7 and the H8 within your major, please consult [www.uml.edu/honors](http://www.uml.edu/honors).

**The Enrichment Requirement (E1)**

For each semester you are enrolled as an Honors student, you must fulfill what is referred to as the **E1 Requirement**. Completing the E1 requires two things. **First**, you need to **attend or participate in an enrichment event** that is reasonably considered outside of your major. This is generally a university sponsored event and it cannot be a class requirement. **Second**, you must **fill out and submit an E1 form with the corresponding response paper** within two weeks of the event. When filling out the E1 form, you will be asked to describe and reflect upon the event you attended. If necessary, it is possible to attend a cultural, scholarly, or service-learning event off-campus, but you should first obtain approval from the honors E1 Coordinator.

**The Honors Project or the Honor Thesis**

The **Honors Project or Honors Thesis** is the capstone of the Honors student experience, and Honors students must complete an Honors Project or Thesis to graduate as a Commonwealth Honors Scholar. Working on either an **Honors Project or an Honors Thesis** is one way for UMass Lowell students to grab hold of a learning experience that truly engages them. This is an opportunity to become creative and pursue a topic for 6 months to a year (one or two semesters). Honors students will be able to choose their own faculty mentor to work with the individual student, or team of students, through this process. Honors Projects and Honors Theses are varied. An Honors Project pursues either a solution to an applied problem or the creation of an artifact, such as an artistic display or scientific project. An Honors Thesis strives to create new knowledge. A student’s Honors Project or your Honors Thesis will culminate in a final document and an individual presentation. The document will be put on high-quality paper, hard-bound, and then placed into the Honors Thesis archives.