

Founded on July 1, 2003, University College brings together programs focused on increasing student achievement and engagement across the university. The College coordinates and guides programs from both academic affairs and student affairs across disciplines to ensure that all Winthrop students, regardless of their ultimate goals, have a common academic foundation as they commence their course of major study.

University College is home of the Touchstone Program, Winthrop's distinctive foundational academic experience. Winthrop's Touchstone Core--ACAD 101: Principles of the Learning Academy, WRIT 101: Introduction to Academic Discourse, HMXP 102: The Human Experience: Who Am I, and CRTW 201: Critical Reading, Thinking, and Writing--captures the dynamic quality of Winthrop's academic environment that provides students with a framework for learning and responsible decision making that they will use throughout their lives.

Also located in University College are the Honors program, the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards, the Distinction in Leadership Program, the International Center, the LEAP program, the McNair Scholars Program, TRiO, the Undeclared Advising Office for students who have not declared a major, and the Common Book project. In addition, the Teaching and Learning Center provides professional development opportunities for faculty and staff and orientation for faculty new to Winthrop. Programs housed in Student Life, such as Orientation and the Academic Success Communities, as well as programs in Career and Civic Engagement, coordinate with University College to enhance students' opportunities for intellectual, civic, and personal achievement.

Programs for Superior Students--Honors Program

Honors Mission Statement. Winthrop University's Honors Program is designed to enrich the college experience for highly talented and motivated students. Through interactions with outstanding faculty and peers, a vital community of scholars is created that embraces the pursuit of knowledge for the enhancement of intellectual and personal growth.

Distinguishing Features. The Winthrop Honors Program has evolved into one of the university's most exciting offerings. During the first semester of the freshman year, students are invited to take honors courses based on their high school grade point average and ACT/SAT score. The program requires completion of at least 23 hours of honors courses and a service learning course/project. To receive honors credit for a course, the student must complete the course with minimum grade of B. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.30 is required to enroll in honors courses.

Winthrop's Honors Program courses include:

- **Symposia** that bring together talented students and exceptional teachers in a small group setting.
- **Interdisciplinary Seminars** that integrate information from different areas of study.
- **Instructional alternatives** such as team-teaching, guest lectures, or visits to sites or events associated with the subject of study.
- **Learning enrichment** through multicultural and international studies.
- **Civic engagement and service learning** in independent and cooperative settings.
- **Special privileges** including extended library checkout during honors thesis work, honors advising, and honors residence hall accommodations.

Requirements for the Honors Program Degree:

- **General Education Component:** HMXP 102H, CRTW 201H (6 credit hours).
- **Coursework Component:** Completion of 15 credit hours of honors coursework with a minimum of 6 credit hours in the major and 3 credit hours outside the major.
- **Cultural Component:** One honors symposium must be completed (1 credit hour).
- **Independent Study Component:** A senior thesis/project must be completed in the major (may count as 3 credit hours in the major or as HONR 450H - Honors Thesis for 3 credit hours) and completion of HONR 451H - Thesis Symposium (1 credit hour) at the time the thesis is written.
- **Service Learning Component:** A service learning class/project must be completed.

In addition to the Honors Program Degree, Winthrop encourages honors students to participate in international study abroad opportunities by offering an Honors Program Degree with International Experience.

Requirements for the Honors Program Degree with International Experience:

- Same **Components** as for the Honors Program Degree above.
- **International Experience:** Completion of an extended experience outside the U. S. in a learning environment. A semester of study abroad in an exchange program, or other university program, is the best and most common way to meet this requirement. The equivalent of a semester abroad, comprised of several short international experiences of at least three weeks each, will also meet this requirement.

Honors Course Categories

Honors sections of regular courses are smaller, more selective versions of standard courses. For example, instead of a lecture class with standardized tests, honors sections may consist of 15 students graded on the basis of in-

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depth essays and contributions to class discussions.

Special topics courses are generally interdisciplinary in nature, sometimes taught by two faculty from different disciplines. Food and Power: Politics, Public Policy and Hunger; The Arthurian Tradition; and The Films of Orson Welles are examples of recent special topics courses. Such courses make it possible to cover subjects of particular interest to current honors students.

Contracted honors courses allow honors students to earn honors credit in subjects for which no formal honors courses are available. Any course is eligible, provided the student contracts with the professor to do work of sufficient sophistication, either in place of, or in addition to, the regular requirements of the course. A written agreement must be drawn up within the first few days of the semester and approved by the Honors Director.

Honors symposia are 1 credit hour special interest courses generated by faculty with expertise in a specific area. Recent Honors Symposia include: Breast Cancer, Women and Society; Nontraditional Conflict in the 21st Century; and The Individual and Community: Sources of the Sacred in American Culture.

Independent study, in the form of research or creative work, is required for an Honors Program degree at Winthrop. Prior to the beginning of the semester in which the work is to be undertaken, a prospectus must be approved by the faculty project director, the appropriate department chair and dean, and the Honors Director. Student researchers are encouraged to submit their findings to the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, a meeting which brings together scholars from honors programs throughout the United States, or to the Southern Regional Honors Council Conference, a meeting of scholars from honors programs in the southeast.

Sample Timetables

Freshman: WRIT 101H (if needed), HMXP 102H, honors course in major

Sophomore: CRTW 201H, honors course, international experience*

Junior: honors course, honors symposium, service learning course

Senior: honors thesis, HONR 451H

Freshman: HMXP 102H, honors course

Sophomore: CRTW 201H, honors course, international experience*

Junior: honors course, honors symposium, service learning course

Senior: honors thesis, HONR 451H

Freshman: HMXP 102H, CRTW 201H

Sophomore: honors course, international experience*

Junior: honors course, honors symposium, service learning course

Senior: honors course, honor thesis, HONR 451H

**required only for students who desire an Honors Program Degree with International Experience.*

Degree with Recognition - Transfer Students

Transfer students to Winthrop can pursue an Honors Program Degree or a Degree with Recognition. Students who have participated in an honors program at an accredited four-year college or university are encouraged to continue in the Winthrop Honors Program. These students may receive honors credit for honors study completed at the other institution. With the approval of the Honors Director, students who transfer to Winthrop as sophomores may receive up to six hours of honors credit. Students transferring as juniors may receive up to nine hours of honors credit, and senior transfer students may receive up to twelve hours of honors credit.

A student who transfers to Winthrop with no previous honors hours and a minimum number of hours left to earn the degree may choose to pursue a Degree with Recognition. The Degree with Recognition Program is restricted to transfer students entering with and maintaining a 3.3 GPA, receiving transfer credit for at least 60 hours, and needing 75 hours or fewer at Winthrop. If more than 75 hours are taken at Winthrop, the student should choose to pursue an Honors Program Degree.

Requirements for a Degree with Recognition

In addition to meeting the eligibility requirements described in the above paragraph, a student will attain a Degree with Recognition through satisfactorily completing at least 13 credit hours of honors courses while maintaining a 3.3 GPA based on his or her total course work. Honors courses must be completed with a B or better to be accepted as honors credit. The following requirements must be adhered to:

- **General Education Component:** HMXP 102H, CRTW 201H (6 credit hours).
- **Major Component:** 6 credit hours of honors courses in the major.
- **Independent Study Component:** A senior thesis/project must be completed in the major (may count as part of the 6 credit hours in the major or as HONR 450H - Honors Thesis for 3 credit hours) and completion of HONR 451H - Thesis Symposium (1 credit hour) at the time the thesis is written.
- **Service Learning Component:** A service learning class/project must be completed.

For more information, contact: Kathy A. Lyon, PhD.
Honors Program Director
139 Bancroft Hall
803/323-2320 or lyonk@winthrop.edu

The Common Book Project

Winthrop University's Common Book Project is one of many programs designed to integrate students into the university environment and provide a common academic experience. Incoming freshmen receive information about the book at orientation and read the book during the summer. Reading the selected book is a shared experience that connects freshmen with other members of Winthrop University--a learning-centered community. The Common Book for 2010 is Make the Impossible Possible by Bill Strickland . Previous Common Books include Growing Up by Russell Baker, Nine Hills to Nambonkaha: Two Years in the Heart of an African Village by Sarah Erdman, The Creative Habit: Learn It and Use It for Life by Twyla Tharp, The Tipping Point, by Malcolm Gladwell, A Hope in the Unseen, by Ron Suskind, and Into the Wild, by Jon Krakauer.

Distinction in Leadership Program

The Winthrop University Distinction in Leadership (DL) Program is one of the university's most exciting interdisciplinary offerings. The program is not a major nor a minor but a didactic, experiential, and reflective program to develop leadership skills. The DL Program takes at least two years and ideally three to four years to complete. Students have various options to develop leadership skills that complement their personal and professional goals. The Distinction in Leadership program integrates Live & Learn to Lead.

For more information, contact: Sean Blackburn
Director, Leadership Studies and Development
803/323-3904 or blackburns@winthrop.edu

Office of Nationally Competitive Awards

The Office of Nationally Competitive Awards (ONCA) allows Winthrop University to be more intentional and pro-active about selecting the best and brightest of our student body to apply for nationally and internationally competitive awards, scholarships, fellowships, and unique opportunities both at home and abroad. There are many award opportunities for undergraduate and graduate study within both disciplinary and interdisciplinary categories. ONCA gathers and disseminates information about awards and their deadlines to all members of the campus community, as well as works with students to prepare the best portfolios possible. This office also serves as a resource for mock interviews for students, awards for faculty, and as a place to list and celebrate the competitive awards and national recognition that our students and faculty receive.

For more information, contact: Director, Office of Nationally Competitive Awards (ONCA)
803/ 323-3906

International Center and International Student Life

The International Center at Winthrop University has three primary functions: study abroad programs, international student and faculty services, and international programming. The International Center assists students in identifying opportunities, applying for and preparing to study abroad. Winthrop students have the opportunity to study abroad for a semester or academic year in a number of countries including, but not limited to, Australia, Egypt, England, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Panama, Spain, Sweden, and Taiwan. Opportunities for short-term study abroad are provided through faculty-led programs and summer programs organized by outside institutions.

The International Center is responsible for the recruitment and admission of undergraduate international students and support of all international students. Along with a comprehensive orientation for all new international students, the International Center provides immigration information and assists students and scholars in maintaining the regulations set forth by the Department of Homeland Security. The International Center is the primary support for all international students, guests, and scholars.

Finally, the International Center works with a variety of on- and off-campus groups to coordinate and facilitate international programming, including the International Education Week, Taste of the World cultural showcase, and the Asian Lunar New Year Celebration.

For more information about any of these activities, please visit the International Center in 206 Tillman Hall or online at www.winthrop.edu/international.

National Student Exchange

Winthrop students can experience the excitement of studying at another college or university for up to one year while paying Winthrop's tuition. Exchanges with more than 180 colleges and universities throughout the United States are encouraged during a student's sophomore or junior year. Information on the National Student Exchange is available in the International Center, 206 Tillman Hall, 803-323-2133.

TRiO Student Support Services Program

The TRiO SSS program at Winthrop University, first funded in 2005, is one of over 900 Student Support Services programs funded by the US Department of Education. TRiO is an academic support program designed to increase the academic performance, retention rates, and graduation rates of program participants. The TRiO program promotes academic excellence and provides participants the necessary tools to get the most of their undergraduate education, to graduate, and to seek employment and/or attend graduate school after completion of their bachelor degree.

Winthrop's TRiO SSS program services include:

- **Academic Counseling:** Academic Counselors meet one-on-one with students to discuss their semester goals, individual learning styles, grades, academic progress, time management, etc.
- **Academic Tutoring:** Upper-class students are hired and trained by TRiO staff to assist student participants with academic course work including math, chemistry, biology, history, education, economics, etc.
- **Cultural Events:** Our staff provides free travel to and from approximately 5-7 cultural events each semester. Cultural events include performances at Blumenthal Arts Center, the Charlotte Symphony, and social gatherings where students can connect with one another.
- **College Success Workshops:** To encourage well-rounded student development, TRiO staff present interactive workshops on topics such as money management, time management, professional etiquette, resume building and preparing for graduate school.
- **TRiO Computer Lab:** The TRiO computer lab, located in the center of campus, offers FREE printing for all TRiO participants.
- **Scholarship Search Assistance:** Academic Counselors help students search for scholarship assistance to best provide for college financially.

Who is Eligible? Students who demonstrate a need for academic support, are citizens or permanent residents of the US, are enrolled or accepted for the next academic year, and meet one or more of the following requirements:

- are a first-generation college student--a student whose parents or guardians did not receive a baccalaureate degree
- meet specific federal income guidelines
- have a documented disability as defined by the ADA

Program applications can be found at www.winthrop.edu/trioss or in the TRiO offices.

For more information , contact: Rose Gray
TRiO Program Director
Suite 6, Crawford
803/323-4797 or 4794