

University College

Jamie Cooper, Dean and Vice Provost for Student Success

Founded in 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 General Education Program, Winthrop's distinctive foundational academic experience. Winthrop's General Education 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 Leadership Studies minor, the International Center, the McNair Scholars Program, TRiO, the University College Academic Advising Office for students who have not declared a major, the Office of Undergraduate Research, the Academic Success Center, the Common Book project, and the Office of First-Year Experience. Programs housed in Student Affairs, 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 Courses** 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.
- **Special Topics seminars** that fulfill General Education requirements
- **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 (1 credit hour) or one honors special topics seminar (3 credit hours) must be completed.
- **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-depth essays and contributions to class discussions.

Interdisciplinary courses are 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.

Special topics seminars that fulfill General Education requirements. These courses will contribute to the fulfillment of requirements in the areas of Global Perspectives, Historical Perspectives, the Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, and the Natural Sciences. Recent courses include The Psychology of War, Texts You Won't Find in the New Testament, Theory in the Flesh and The Culture of the Cold War.

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 project

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

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

To remain in good standing, Honors Program students should have completed at least 6 credit hours of honors coursework by the end of the freshman year, 12 credit hours by the end of the sophomore year, 19 hours by the end of the junior year, and 23 credit hours by the end of the senior year.

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 satisfactory completion of 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: Michael Lipscomb, PhD.
Honors Program Director
The Honors Center at the Courtyard
803/323-2320 or honorsprogram@winthrop.edu

University College Advising Office

Students who have not decided on a major are advised in University College. Undeclared majors who have completed 45 semester hours will not be permitted to register for courses until they have declared a major.

The UC Academic Advising Office also provides support services and programming for post-traditional and transfer student populations. The Learning Excellent Academic Practices (LEAP) Program is also part of the UC Advising Office.

For more information, contact: Jasmine Howze
Director of University College Academic Advising
ucadvising@winthrop.edu
108 Dinkins Hall

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 2020 is The Girl with Seven Names by Hyeonseo Lee. Previous Common Books include Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson, Something Must Be Done about Prince Edward County by Kristen Green, Spare Parts by Joshua Davis, The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls, Where Am I Eating?, by Kelsey Timmerman, The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba, Where Am I Wearing? by Kelsey Timmerman, Make the Impossible Possible by Bill Strickland, 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.

Leadership Studies Minor

Winthrop University's Leadership Studies Program enriches the college experience by developing and enhancing leadership skills for highly talented and motivated students. This program creates a community of learners who pursue leadership opportunities while acquiring, focusing, and using new leadership skills.

Students will gain enhanced knowledge and understanding of specific leadership theories, concepts, and models, preparing them for leadership responsibilities in their careers, in their community, and in the world. Leadership Studies, with its courses and attendant opportunities, will broaden the undergraduate educational experience for motivated and socially responsible students. See the minors section, page 136, for specific courses.

For more information, contact: Anthony Davis
Assistant Dean of Students
803/323-4503 or davis@winthrop.edu
<http://www.winthrop.edu/Leadership/>

Office of Nationally Competitive Awards

The Office of Nationally Competitive Awards (ONCA) allows Winthrop University to be more intentional and proactive 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: Leslie Bickford, PhD
Director, Office of Nationally Competitive Awards (ONCA)
803/ 323-3906

Academic Success Center

Winthrop University's Academic Success Center focuses on helping students achieve academic excellence and earn their college degrees. Designed to improve academic performance, the Center provides services and programs that motivate students to be more efficient and effective learners.

Mission. The mission of the Academic Success center at Winthrop University is to support the academic pursuits and life-long learning of undergraduate students as they persist to graduation and beyond. The Academic Success Center serves through a variety of personalized and structured experiences and resources that help students succeed academically, such as:

- One-on-one consultation

- Individual and group tutoring opportunities
- Academic skill development
- Development of academic action plans and success contracts
- Referrals to other university support services
- Individual and group study spaces
- Specialized services for students on academic probation
- Web-based instruction and resources
- A dedicated computer lab for online testing and other specific testing situations

The ASC's goal is for students to develop and refine thinking skills, learn and use self-management skills, and create structured learning strategies while earning higher grades. The Center's environment is respectful, nurturing, and challenging. Students are expected to take an active role in their learning.

Tutoring. **Peer tutors** are hired and well-trained by the center to help with a variety of general education courses. Tutoring is targeted for content mastery and skill development. ASC tutors also provide supplemental support for the dedicated campus services already in place, such as the Writing Center, Math Tutorial Center, and the College of Business Resource Room. The peer tutors are selected based on their competence in the subject areas, faculty endorsements, and effective interpersonal skills.

Workshops. **Eagle Success Workshops** are offered through the Center. These sessions can be facilitated for classes, residence halls, organizations, or other events. Workshop topics include study strategies, time management, test preparation, textbook reading and note taking, procrastination prevention, and best practices for successful students. The goal of every workshop is to help students learn how to study smarter, not just harder.

The ASC provides most services to all undergraduate students free of charge. The Center also collaborates with other campus offices to promote the success of Winthrop students. For more information regarding the Academic Success Center, please visit: www.winthrop.edu/success.

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 provides a comprehensive orientation for all new international students, offers 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 212-218 Dinkins 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, 218 Dinkins Hall, 803-323-2133, or online at <https://winthrop.abroadoffice.net/aboutnse.html>.

McNair Scholars Program

The McNair Scholars Program is Winthrop's prestigious Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. It was funded in 2009 through a nationally competitive and renewable U.S. Department of Education TRiO grant. \$220,000 a year in federal funding and approximately \$75,000 a year in Winthrop matches help 25 undergraduates who meet first generation, low-income and/or under-represented criteria prepare to succeed in doctoral programs. For more information, visit <http://www.winthrop.edu/mcnair/>.

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 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
803/323-4797 or 4794

Office of Undergraduate Research

The Council on Undergraduate Research defines undergraduate research as an inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate student that makes an original, intellectual, or creative contribution to the discipline. It is applicable to all disciplines, may be specific to a discipline, and requires a high standard identified by each discipline.

Support for the initiative is implemented through the Undergraduate Research Office, which helps students to identify research opportunities on and off campus. In addition, the office coordinates activities to increase opportunities for students to present their work and recognize and honor the students who engage in undergraduate research and the faculty who mentor those students. The office also provides funding for student travel to present their work at professional and undergraduate research focused conferences.

Undergraduate research provides valuable learning experiences to students and is one of the high-impact educational practices that increase the rates of student retention and engagement. Participating in undergraduate research can help students prepare for professional and graduate programs, and enhance professional and academic credentials to support applications for scholarships, awards, career employment, and entry into graduate and professional schools. While engaging in undergraduate research experiences students can develop one-on-one mentoring relationships with faculty members, clarify academic and career interests and goals, acquire additional knowledge in their academic fields that transcends classroom study, and enhance critical skills in communication, independent thinking, creativity, and problem solving. Moreover, they will contribute to the creation of new knowledge on the cutting edge of their academic discipline and apply that knowledge to real world problems.

Student researchers often disseminate their work at professional meetings or submit the scholarship for publication in academic journals. These activities allow students the chance to make connections with and receive feedback from a broader audience than they may encounter on campus. These experiences have value as students leave the university and enter today's workforce, where presentation, communication, and relationship skills are vital for their success.

For more information, contact: Office of Undergraduate Research
222B Dinkins Hall
803/323-3397

Office of the First-Year Experience

Winthrop University recognizes that the transition to college is challenging; consequently, a positive freshman experience is essential in fostering students' personal and academic success. The Office of the First-Year Experience offers programs and academic courses that cultivate engaged learning; enhance academic achievement; and build connections with faculty, peers, and the university community. To establish a common academic foundation, the Office of the First-Year Experience houses both ACAD 101: An Introduction to the Learning Academy and HMXP 102: The Human Experience: Who Am I? Included in course discussion is content from *The Common Book*, a shared reading that ensures all Winthrop students encounter perspectives different from their own. The Peer Mentor Program joins high achieving student leaders with individual ACAD faculty to assist in the delivery of course content as they provide the student perspective. Ongoing community building includes First Night Winthrop, Rock The Hill, Community Service projects, and other social activities.

For more information, contact: Leah Kendall
Director, FYE
233 Dinkins Hall
803-323-3908