

Honors Program



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What is the Honors Program?

The Honors Program at Greenville Technical College is designed to enhance the academic experiences of selected students who desire a challenge, take responsibility for learning, and seek intellectual and cultural stimulation. In this motivated community of scholars, students have opportunities beyond the traditional classroom to develop to their fullest potential through community/college service projects, cultural engagement events, colloquia, and leadership activities that connect with their enriched academic coursework. The program serves as a catalyst for innovative development within the Honors curriculum and other courses.

The Honors Student

The Honors Program seeks to recruit, retain, and develop bright, motivated students who want to get the most out of college. Students will participate in a program which goes above and beyond career training, which challenges their thinking and considers the whole person as a member of the community. These students will continually test their intellectual limits, working creatively and seriously to reach their highest potentials as scholars and leaders. Honors students will demonstrate initiative and experience depth of study beyond the conventional expectations of a traditional classroom, with a learning process that encourages participation, creativity, and imagination.

Honors Courses

Honors classes are modeled after graduate seminars. They are small, allowing maximum interaction between the students and the instructor. Lecturing is minimal. Instead, students are expected to be well prepared for class to encourage a highly participatory process. Honors course offerings change each semester; for a current list of honors course offerings, please visit our website www.gvltec.edu/honors.

Is it just more work?

Central to our honors philosophy is the idea that honors education does not mean more work for students—it means different work. By different, we mean more give and take between the student and the instructor, greater opportunities for independent research, more difficult materials, and enhanced opportunities for creativity and individual goals.

What's in it for me?

If you are a student who is highly motivated, you'll have the opportunity of taking on a rewarding learning experience. In small classes, you'll interact more closely with faculty and a community of learners who welcome the level of challenge that you have sought. If you meet the requirements, you'll be able to graduate with honors, a designation that will be noted on your transcript and announced during the graduation ceremony. This designation on your transcript should enhance your transfer opportunities.

The Benefits

- Enhanced educational opportunities within the two-year college experience
- Small, challenging, seminar-based courses taught by Honors faculty
- Opportunities to present scholarly work in professional academic settings
- Better transfer reception by other institutions
- Honors course notation on transcripts
- Competitive edge in scholarship applications at other institutions
- Community-based service learning opportunities
- Cultural engagement opportunities
- Leadership development opportunities
- Additional extracurricular opportunities
- Comprehensive academic advising and mentoring
- Letters of recommendation by Honors Program director
- Recognition of completion of program at commencement

Who can participate?

The Honors Program is currently open to all students seeking Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees and most Associate of Applied Science degrees including nursing, visual and performing arts, and engineering transfer students. Please contact the Honors office for a full list of programs available. If your degree is not part of the Honors Program, you may be permitted to take honors courses with special permission.

Selection Criteria

- **Current Greenville Technical College students and students transferring to GTC from other colleges:**
 - a GPA of at least 3.4 in transferable courses
 - no less than nine transferable credit hours
- **High school students entering Greenville Technical College:**
 - one of the following: a high school GPA of at least 3.5, or a combined score of 1150 or better on the evidence-based reading and writing and math sections of the SAT, or 26 or better on the ACT

How to Apply

Step I

The first step is to complete an application which is available online at www.gvltec.edu/honors or pick one up in the Office of the Honors Program (Building 104 - Rm.122). Along with your application, you will submit two letters of recommendation as follows:

- **Current Greenville Technical College students and students transferring to GTC from other colleges:**
Two letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with your academic performance, at least one of whom is an instructor at the college level
- **High school students entering Greenville Technical College:**
Two letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with your academic performance, at least one of whom is a high school teacher

Step II

After you have submitted your completed application along with your letters of recommendation, we will contact you to arrange an interview with the Honors Program director.

What do I have to do to complete the Honors Program?

- Maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA or higher.
- Complete the service requirement.
- Complete the cultural engagement requirement.
- Complete at least five honors courses, one of which must be the Honors Leadership seminar.

How do the service and cultural engagement components impact students?

The intended outcome of the Honors Program is not only to develop students academically, but to also enrich students' understanding and appreciation of a diverse local community via service learning and cultural engagement activities. Thus, the service and cultural engagement requirements of the program help to foster students' commitment to the betterment of their community and are equally as important as the classroom component of the Honors Program.

What about financial aid?

Lottery funds can reduce tuition costs significantly. This is money that doesn't have to be paid back, and it's not based on income. Go to www.sctechsystem.com or www.gvltec.edu for details including a step-by-step approach to completing the process online. There are also grants, loans and scholarships to help. And, when honors students transfer, they have greater opportunity for scholarships from transfer destinations.