Honors Programs and Transferring from Black Hawk College

Kristian Clayton

Honors Program Advisor

Purpose

The purpose of the Honors Program and Transferring Document is to accumulate information about honors programs from various colleges and universities with the hopes it provides clarity for students who want to join an honors program at another institution. I hope other Black Hawk College honors program coordinators, faculty members, and advisors can use this document to help their students take one more step towards finding a good fitting transfer school.

This document will list Black Hawk College's top 12 transfer schools based on average transfer data from 2018 to 2020 and compile information about the institution's honors program. This will include information about the program's entry qualifications, program requirements, service projects, leadership opportunities, benefits provided to students, and transferability of BHC's Honor's Program to the institution. Information will be gathered through a combination of: institution website research, transfer databases, and outreach to honors program coordinators.

The Top 12

Transfer data from 2018 to 2020 was used to identify Black Hawk College's Top 12 Transfer Schools. Over these three years, an average of 990 Black Hawk students were attending the top 12 schools annually, having selected the school as their initial choice. BHC students were enrolled at the transfer school at all academic levels (freshman through senior). The transfer percentage is calculated by dividing the school's 3-yr average of attending BHC students by 990. Transfer Percentage has been rounded to the nearest hundredth. The transfer data has been included in the following table.

Top 12 Transfer School Destinations	3-yr avg 2018-2020	Transfer Percentage
Western Illinois University	135	13.64%
Augustana College	78	7.88%
St. Ambrose University	69	6.97%
University of Iowa	47	4.75%
Illinois State University	46	4.64%
Iowa State University	43	4.34%
University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign	33	3.33%
Northern Illinois University	23	2.32%
University of Wisconsin – Platteville	23	2.32%
Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville	18	1.81%
Bradley University	17	1.71%
Monmouth College	17	1.71%
Courses National Chudent Cleaninghouse CTUDENTTRACKE		DODT ANALYCIC OF

Source: National Student Clearinghouse STUDENTTRACKER AGGREGATE REPORT: ANALYSIS OF INITIAL TRANSFERS.

The remainder of this document will detail the honors programs found at these various intuitions starting with the most transferred to institution, Western Illinois University, continuing sequentially until reaching the 12th most transferred to institution, Monmouth College.

Western Illinois University

Centennial Honors Program

Program Entry Qualifications

- Western Illinois University has separate qualifications for transfer students. Transfer students must have a 3.4 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) with 12 or more semester hours earned.
- Students will need to complete an honors application to enter the Centennial Honors Program.

Program Requirements and Projects

- Students must maintain a 3.4 GPA
- GE 299 Honors Colloquium must be completed
 - o A 1 credit course with varying subjects each semester
- 3 of 4 General Education Honors Courses
 - There are a wide variety of General Education Honors Courses at WIU, but they complete 1 of 4 general education requirements. Student should consult their advisor at WIU for potential course selections.
 - GH courses ending in 01 count towards humanities
 - o GH courses ending in 02 count towards the social sciences
 - o GH courses ending in 03 or 04 count towards mathematics and natural sciences
 - o GH courses ending in 07 count towards multicultural
- Major Specific Requirements
 - Each Major at WIU will have varying requirements for their honor students. However, they usually require some or all of the below.
 - In-course Honors Projects
 - Independent Study/Research
 - Senior Honors Thesis
 - Major Specific Courses
 - WIU students located at the Quad Cities campus may have a different set of requirements for their major and should consult their advisor.

Service and Leadership Opportunities

WIU's Honor Program does not have service and leadership opportunities specifically for Honors Students.

Student Benefit

Scholarships and Grants

Students have the opportunity to apply for various scholarships and grants as an honor student. Some grants are rewarded to students for projects and research while others are for travel. Some scholarships are general while others are intended for specific majors. An application is needed for these scholarships and the student must already be a part of the honors program.

Honors Advantage Rewards

Students will receive a Centennial Honors Sticker to attach to their WIU ID. Showing this sticker to local businesses in the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses can provide the student with extra discounts. Participating businesses may change from year to year.

National Honors Organizations

Students in WIU's Honors Program are encouraged to participate various national honors organizations found on campus. Participation in these honors programs may provided students with more resources and recognition.

BHC Course Transferability

Western Illinois evaluates external honors courses on a course by course basis. Learning Objectives are needed for the course evaluation. That being said, HONR 200 is listed as a "General Elective" transfer.

Contact Information

Phone: 309-298-2228

Email: <u>Honors@wiu.edu</u>

Webpage: http://www.wiu.edu/centennial_honors_college/

Augustana College

Interdisciplinary Honors Minor

Augustana has 2 different Honors programs. One is for Freshman called the First Year Honors (FYH). The other is for Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors called the Interdisciplinary Honors Minor. The information below will only detail the Interdisciplinary Honors Minor since our transfer students will only be able to participate in it.

Program Entry Qualifications

Program Entry Qualifications for transfer students are currently being determined by Augustana College; however, the process will be similar for current Augustana Students. Normally, students would either need to:

- Complete an application and be accepted if they were not a part of Augie's FYH.
- Earn a B+ or higher in their First Year Inquiry classes
- Send in a short writing sample
- Schedule an interview

Or

• Be an FYH student in good standing

Transfer students will more than likely follow the first set of requirements since they would not be able to complete the FYH program.

Program Requirements and Projects

- Student must remain in academic good standing
- 4 HONR classes
 - o HONR 201, 202, 301, and 302
 - The subjects of these courses vary academic year to academic year. Students should consult their Augustana advisor when choosing their options.
- Capstone Project

Service and Leadership Opportunities

There are not any service or leadership opportunities specifically for Augie's honor students.

Student Benefit

The Honors courses offered at Augustana will complete at least one graduation requirement and potentially even more. The Honors Minor can complete many of Augustana's "perspective" requirements. The student should consult their Augustana advisor on which courses best fit their academic requirements.

BHC Course Transferability

Direct course transferability is not as likely based on my conversation with the Honor's program director. Course equivalences are not listed. However, Augustana is very welcoming to Black Hawk's Honor students.

Program Director:	Megan Havard-Rockwell (meganhavard-rockwell@augustana.edu)
Webpage:	https://augustana.edu/academics/honors-program

St. Ambrose University

Honors Program

St. Ambrose's honors program is separated into two parts: The Honors Foundation for First-Year students and Honors Research Experience. Transfer students can still participate in the Honors Program; however, they only complete the Honors Research Experience. Therefore, the information below pertains to the experiences transfer students can participate in.

Program Entry Qualifications

- The student must have a 3.5 cumulative GPA (based on a 4.0 scale) and Sophomore credit status
- The student must send in 2 letters of recommendation from faculty members in their major/area of study.
- Students must complete an online application for the honors program and submit a 2-4 page statement on the student's research goals and areas of interest.

Program Requirements and Projects

- Students must maintain a 3.5 cumulative GPA.
- Required Courses
 - Interdisciplinary Research Perspectives
 - Thesis Proposal Preparation
 - Honors Thesis
- Students must participate in the Undergraduate Scholars Conferences during the Spring term of their senior year.

Service and Leadership Opportunities

St. Ambrose's Honors Program does not list service or leadership opportunities specifically for their honor students.

Student Benefit

Social Activities and Building Community

A part of St. Ambrose's Honors Program is building a community of learners. The honors program hosts a variety of activities and events for honors students for both academic and social enrichment. Students also have access to the Honors House which can be used for events, studying, and as a general space for honor students.

Miscellaneous

Honor students will also receive small perks from St. Ambrose including the ability to register for classes early and move on campus early.

BHC Course Transferability

Courses are evaluated on a course by course basis

Program Directors:	Marianne Fenn & Tanya Randle
Email:	Honors@sau.edu
Phone:	563-333-5701

Illinois State University

Honors Program

Program Entry Qualifications

Illinois State's Honors Program has separate entry qualifications for transfer students.

- Must have at least 3 semesters remaining until graduation
- Have a Cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Complete application for admission to the Honors Program
 - Priority Application is usually open from February to Early March
 - Applications will be accepted and reviewed up until July 1st though
- Students must be admitted to Illinois State before applying to the program

Program Requirements and Projects

- Students must complete HON 102A17 during their first semester in the program
 - o Honors Mindset Seminar
 - o Discusses Illinois State's Six Dimensions of Honors Learning
 - Must earn a "B" or better
- Must maintain a 3.3 cumulative GPA
 - There is an Honors Academic probation period (2 semesters) for students to improve their GPA if it falls below a 3.3
- Students are required to complete 1 Honors Learning Experience each semester
 - There are 6 Honors Learning Experiences students can choose from: Honors Sections, Honors Research, Honors Contracts, Honors Explorations, Honors Seminars, Honors Travel. More information on these can be found here: https://honors.illinoisstate.edu/academics/honors_learning/index.php
 - Honors experiences that are credit-generating may not be taken pass/no pass and must
 - result in a grade of "C" or better.
 - Students who complete multiple Honors Learning Experiences in one semester may "bank" one experience to use in a future semester.
 - Only one Honors Learning Experience can be "in the bank" at a time.
 - Honors Learning Experiences are not required in the summer; however, a summer Honors Learning Experience can be banked if the bank is "empty" or can fulfill the participation requirement for the following fall semester.
 - A variety of types of Honors Learning Experiences is encouraged.
- When students are enrolled in the following experiences, they are not required to complete an Honors Learning Experience.
 - Study abroad (semester programs)
 - Student teaching (registered for STT 399)
 - Fall semester of Professional Development School Internship
 - Field-based semesters for Special Education majors (not practicum)

- Full-time internships (12 credit hours; for example, Criminal Justice Sciences or Exercise Science)
- Full-time clinical rotations (Medical Lab Science)

Service and Leadership Opportunities

There aren't service and leadership opportunities specifically for honor's students.

Student Benefit

Scholarships

All students admitted to the Honors Program are considered for an Honors Program Transfer Student Scholarship. Student also have a good chance at getting other scholarships geared towards high GPA and academic performance.

Honors Advising

Illinois State has Honors Advisors who work with students on their Honors requirements and academic/educational goals.

Miscellaneous

Students in the Honors program receive priority registration and academic/social programing throughout their time in the program.

BHC Course Transferability

BHC's HONR 200 and 205 will come in as Elective credit.

Phone:	309-438-2559
Email:	HonorsProgram@illinoisState.edu
Webpage:	https://honors.illinoisstate.edu/

University of Iowa

Honors at Iowa

Program Entry Qualifications

Transfer students have different entry requirements which are listed below.

- Students can apply to the program in either semester. Spring entry has a December deadline and Fall entry has a May deadline.
- Students must complete an Honors Application
 - Students must be admitted to the University of Iowa before applying for honors
- There are not formal minimum requirements but there are characteristics of a successful applicant
 - A cumulative GPA of a 3.5 or higher
 - Completion of an essay prompt

Program Requirements and Projects

- Must enroll in at least one honors class by their first fall semester in the program
 - Typically, students take HONR:1300 or HONR:1310 unless their major deems a different class is more appropriate
- A minimum of 12 semester hours are required which must be completed in the first 4 semesters in the program
 - There are a wide variety of Honors courses offered at University of Iowa. It is encouraged students meet with their advisor to discuss which options work best for them and their major
- An additional 12 semester hours of Honors Courses are required
 - Which brings the total to 24 semester hours before graduation
- Must meet with a Peer Mentor at least once a year. Peer Mentors are current students who have been in the program for some time. They review your progress and provide support.
- Maintain a 3.33 cumulative GPA
- Must complete the Honors Reflection Process
 - Pre-Experience Questionnaire, Post-Experience Questionnaire, Narrative Submission Form

Service and Leadership Opportunities

Some Honors Experiences can include Service Learning including a couple credit bearing courses and noncredit bearing volunteer service opportunities.

Student Benefit

Miscellaneous

Honors students have the option of living in Honors Housing to build membership community. The honors program also has specific honors events and opportunities. Honors students can utilize specific honors staff and peer mentors.

BHC Course Transferability

BHC Honor courses have not been evaluated by University of Iowa

Program Director:	Shaun Vecera
Phone:	319-335-1681
Email:	honors-program@uiowa.edu
Webpage:	https://honors.uiowa.edu/

Iowa State University

University Honors Program

Program Entry Qualifications

Transfer students have a separate qualification process

- Must have a transfer GPA of 3.5 or above
- Must have at least 60 credits remaining before graduation
- Must complete a University Honors Transfer Application
- Attend the College Information Session and complete a Program of Study in your first semester

Program Requirements and Projects

- Maintain a Cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Attend your College's Honors Orientation Meeting
- Each of ISU's Colleges will have varying Honors requirements; however, they usually consist of:
 - Honors Courses and seminars
 - At least 2 honors courses and 2 honors seminars
 - An Honors Project
 - o Honors Poster Presentation
 - This link takes you to the various ISU colleges and their honors requirements: <u>https://www.honors.iastate.edu/program/uhp/college-reqs</u>

Service and Leadership Opportunities

ISU does not have specific service and leadership opportunities for Honors students.

Student Benefit

Scholarships

ISU does have some scholarship opportunities for their honors students. Some scholarships are more general while others are for specific colleges. Scholarships can be found on this page:

<u>https://www.honors.iastate.edu/scholarships</u>. The scholarships can range from nationally competitive awards to grants for research and travel. Students generally need to apply or be nominated for these opportunities.

Staff

ISU has staff members dedicated to the Honors program and students can connect with Honors Ambassadors who are students who have been in the honors program for some time.

Access to the Honors Building

Honors students have access to the Martin C. Jischke Honors building which allows for student-oriented activities and has classrooms, a project room, computer lab, resource room/kitchenette, and lounge/meeting area. Honors administrative staff offices are also located in this building.

BHC Course Transferability

HONR 200 and 205 may come in as General Transfer Electives, but are officially assessed by the college/academic department to see if they come in as a specific course.

Contact Information

Honors Staff Directory and Contact: <u>https://www.honors.iastate.edu/about/staff</u>

General Webpage:

https://www.honors.iastate.edu/

University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign

Campus Honors Program & James Scholars

The University of Illinois – UC has a more general Campus Honors Program; however, it is only offered to incoming freshman. Transfer students cannot utilize this opportunity. The University also has "James Scholars." James Scholars Honor Programs and requirements are determined by the specific college/academic department students are admitted into. There does not appear to be a localized honors program for transfer students. Each College has varying qualifications, requirements, opportunities, and benefits. These are usually a combination of major specific courses, projects, independent studies, and thesis requirements. Students are encouraged to consult with their UofI – UC Advisor about their college's specific requirements and details. Students can also follow this link to learn more about their college's honors program: https://admissions.illinois.edu/Discover/Academics/honors.

BHC Course Transferability

HONR 200 transfers as an elective while HONR 205 is not listed as a transferable course.

Northern Illinois University

University Honors Program

The Honors Program at Northern Illinois University is split into two groups, Full University Honors and Associate University Honors. The information below is for both programs unless otherwise specified. There is a separate online application for Transfer and Continuing Students.

Program Entry Qualifications

- Must have a GPA of a 3.30 or higher
- Complete the Transfer and Continuing Student Application
 - No more than a 500-word essay
 - Awards and honors received at other institutions
 - Leadership, involvement, service, and work experience
- Meet with an Honors Advisor after acceptance

Program Requirements and Projects

Full University Honors

- 6 honors courses (at least 3 credits per class)
 - 3 classes outside of major
 - At least 1 university honors seminar
 - 1 honors capstone
- 4 Honors Engaged Experiences
 - These are approved co-curricular experiences at NIU. It is advised you talk with your Honors Advisor about opportunities while attending
- 2 additional Honors Electives
 - Which can be 2 classes, 2 engaged experiences or 1 of each
- Maintain a 3.30 GPA
- Meet with Honors Advisor once a semester

Associate University Honors

- 3 honors courses (at least 3 credits per class)
 - At least 1 class outside of major
 - At least 1 University Honors Seminar
 - Honors Capstone is optional
- 2 Honors Engaged Experiences
- 1 additional Honors Elective
 - 1 class or 1 engaged experience
- Maintain a 3.30 GPA
- Meet with Honors Advisor once a semester

Service and Leadership Opportunities

NIU's Honors Program has a handful of service and leadership opportunities specifically for their honors students. Many can be found through their Honors Engaged requirements; however, they also have other extra-curricular options.

Honors Civic Engagement Project

Their program has an Honors Civic Engagement Project which focuses on helping students become more knowledgeable, thoughtful, caring, and active citizens through activities like community volunteering.

Honors Spring Break Trips

Honors Spring Break Trips are one-week service opportunities for students at NIU. The Honors program hosts one trip every year. The trip is designed to heighten the students' awareness of critical social issues, enhance individual growth and prepare them for social action.

Student Benefit

NIU's Honors Program provides their students with a variety of benefits ranging from scholarship opportunities to engagement.

Engagement

Outside of the Service and Leadership opportunities, NIU's Honors program also has other supplementary activities. An example includes the Honors Head Start which is recommended for transfer students to help acclimate them and prepare them for the program. Honors students also have specific Career Development opportunities, workshops geared towards Equity and Diversity, and Honors Connect which is an app that helps honor students connect themselves to honors related events.

Scholarships

There are a couple handfuls of scholarships for Honors students. These are highly competitive scholarships that students can apply for every year. Application requirements and deadlines vary from scholarship to scholarship. Some can be found on this page; however, it is recommended that you talk with your NIU honors advisor with any questions: <u>https://www.niu.edu/honors/scholarships/index.shtml</u>

Miscellaneous

There are other smaller benefits Honors students can take advantage of, including: priority registration, guaranteed admission to many (not all) graduate programs, opportunity to live in the Honors House, advising from an honors advisor, and a peer mentorship program.

BHC Course Transferability

Honors courses have not been evaluated by NIU.

Contact Information

Director: Andrea Radasanu

Phone: 815-753-0694

Email: <u>honors@niu.edu</u>

Webpage: https://www.niu.edu/honors/index.shtml

Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville

University Honors Program

Program Entry Qualifications

- Application
 - \circ $\;$ Applications are reviewed no matter the student's GPA or test scores $\;$
 - However, they typically look for a 3.5 GPA or higher
 - A description of the student's involvement and accomplishments within their school and community, including:
 - Academic Achievements and Recognition, Organizations and Activities, Athletic and Artistic Endeavors, Community Activities, Volunteering and Community Service, and Work and Internship
 - Essay Prompt and Questions
 - There are two different application deadlines
 - Fall entry: August 1st
 - Spring Entry: December 15th
- Transfer Specific Details
 - Transfer students can fill out one of two applications
 - The "Transfer Express Application" for students who are currently enrolled in an honors program
 - Or, the "SIUE Honors Application for Transfer Students" for students who are not currently in an honors program

Program Requirements and Projects

- 5 core Seminar Courses (3 credits each)
 - HONS 120: Questions and the Spirit of Inquiry
 - HONS 121: Honors Rhetoric
 - HONS 250: Patterns in Human Endeavors
 - HONS 320A: Interdisciplinary Problems in Society and Culture
 - o HONS 320B: Interdisciplinary Problems in Science and Technology
- 4 "Proseminar" Courses (1 credit each)
 - HONS 100: On Education
 - HONS 200: Globalization
 - HONS 300: Special Topics
 - HONS 499: Honors Capstone on Civic Life
- 50 Hours of Community Service

Service and Leadership Opportunities

Honor students are required to complete 50 hours of community service which need to be reported. These service hours can be completed in a variety of ways including honors specific service opportunities and external community activities. The honors program does have an Alternative Spring Break trip students can participate in and the Honors Student Association periodically plans service opportunities.

Student Benefit

Community Building

Honors students are encouraged to build connections within their honors program through the Focused Interest Community (an on-campus residential hall for honors students), Honors Student Association (a group of honors students who host social and service events, town halls, and more), and peer mentorship program for incoming students.

Adjusted General Education Requirements

Honors students have the choice to continue their general education requirements through SIUE's Lincoln Plan which every SIUE student normally completes, or they can complete the Honor program's 19 credit hour liberal arts education program. Consultation with your SIUE advisor is recommended when making this decision.

Miscellaneous

Other benefits include priority registration, working with an honors advisor, and guaranteed admission into SIU – Carbondale's School of Law graduate program.

BHC Course Transferability

HONR 200 and 205 will transfer over as general transfer elective credit. Also, as listed above, BHC honor students can complete the "Transfer Express Application" which helps them gain admittance into the program.

Director:	Eric W. Ruckh
Phone:	618-650-2403
Email:	eruckh@siue.edu
Webpage:	https://www.siue.edu/provost/honors/about/index.shtml

University of Wisconsin – Platteville

University of Wisconsin – Platteville does not appear to have an Academic Honors program after talking with them over the phone and researching their webpage. Of course, they do have various honors societies and organizations students can join while attending Platteville. Students are encouraged to contact Platteville's Campus Life Office to learn more about Honors, Leadership, and Service Organizations. This link will take you to Platteville's Campus Life page: <u>https://www.uwplatt.edu/campus-life</u>.

BHC Course Transferability

University of Wisconsin – Platteville does not have transfer equivalences listed for BHC's Honors courses.

Bradley University

Honors Program

Bradley's website does not list a lot of specific information about their honors program, nor was I able to connect with an honors representative to learn more. More information about Bradley's honor program will be added as information is gathered.

Program Entry Qualifications

- Students must be awarded the "Bradley University Presidential Excellence Scholarship"
- Minimum GPA of a 3.50
- 1330 SAT or 29 ACT
- Online Application

Program Requirements and Projects

• Maintain a 3.4 GPA

Service and Leadership Opportunities

Service and leadership opportunities are not listed specifically for honor students.

Student Benefit

Honors program Living Learning Community

The second and third floors of Williams Hall are designated residential areas for Honors Program Students. The Learning Community also has a large lounge, opportunities for study groups, and a day early move in.

BHC Course Transferability

Equivalences are not listed for Black Hawk's honor courses.

Contact Information

Phone: 309-677-3283

Email: kdzapo@bradley.edu

Website: https://www.bradley.edu/academic/departments/honors/

Monmouth College

Monmouth College does not have a specific Academic Honors Program for students; however, Monmouth College does provide a Scholarship to transfer students in Phi Theta Kappa and students can apply for the Wallace Founders Scholarship. This scholarship is specifically for transfer students. More information about this transfer scholarship can be found <u>here</u>. Students also have the opportunity to join their academic department's honor society. Consultation with their Monmouth advisor is recommended for this consideration.

Even though Monmouth does not have an Academic Honors group at this time, they may be revitalizing or revamping one they have had in the past. I recommend staying in contact with our Monmouth representatives in case an academic honors program is developed in the future.

BHC Course Transferability

Equivalences are not listed for Black Hawk's honor courses.

Closing Statements

Black Hawk's transfer partners have a wide variety of honors programs with ranging requirements, rigor, and benefits for students. Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville appears to provide students with a wide variety of benefits and offers the "Transfer Express Application" for students currently in an honors program. Augustana College also verbally welcomed Black Hawk Honor students into their own Honors program; however, they are still working on what that process looks like officially. Many schools ask transfer students to complete an honors application once they are accepted into their school; however, the process is made easier for many transfer students who are currently in an honors program and have extra-curricular leadership, honor, and service experiences. Few schools provided limited information or may not have academic honors programs; however, students should not be turned away from these institutions just for those reasons. These schools may still provide scholarship benefits to honors students and tend to have honor and leadership organizations students can join.

The purpose of this document was to research academic honors programs at Black Hawk's top transfer schools. This document will always be a work in progress and will be updated as information is found or provided. Also, future iterations of this document could include more schools beyond our top 12 transfer locations. This document can be used by Black Hawk employees and students as a supplemental resource to learn more about possible transfer institutions and to help narrow down transfer possibilities for students interested in honor programs. However, a school's honor program should not be the only factor for a student's transfer. Since this is only a piece of the transfer equation, students should still be encouraged to connect with their preferred institution(s) to learn more about the school and their academic programs, student life, and more to make sure the institution is, holistically, the right place for them.