

Western Carolina University

Honors College

General Information



The Honors College at Western Carolina University provides an academic community in which high-achieving students challenge themselves to meet and exceed their own academic goals and to carry that success beyond graduation. As the oldest and one of the largest residential honors colleges in the University of North Carolina system, The Honors College at WCU attracts students from diverse backgrounds with diverse aspirations who live and learn together and push each other to excellence.

Admission to The Honors College

Admission to The Honors College is very selective. Students must meet *at least one* criterion for consideration. Students meeting *more than one* criterion are more competitive for admission and Honors College scholarships:

- **High-school students:**
 - High School weighted GPA of 4.2 minimum
 - High School unweighted GPA of 3.8 minimum
 - High School class rank in the top 10%
 - ACT score of 30 minimum or SAT score of 1370 minimum
 - Note: Students entering WCU as new incoming first-year students will not be considered for admission to The Honors College if their high school unweighted GPA is below 3.5, regardless of test scores or class rank.
- New freshman students must be accepted into WCU before they are eligible for admission to The Honors College. Once accepted, The Honors College reviews their academic profile and record and determines their eligibility. If selected, they will receive a letter in the mail. No additional application is required.
- New freshman students are **STRONGLY** advised to have their application submitted and complete by the Early Action Deadline in order to be fully considered for available Honors College scholarships as well as Honors College admission. The Early Action Deadline is November 15 and is a non-binding application.
- **Transfer students** must have at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA (with at least 15 credit hours) at their most recent, accredited institution and must complete an online application available at honors.wcu.edu. Transfer students from Honors Programs at select North Carolina Community Colleges may transfer into The Honors College at Western Carolina University with up to twelve Honors Credits. Consult with your Honors advisor to ensure your credits transfer.
- **Current WCU students** who have completed at least 15 credit hours at WCU and have a GPA of 3.5 or higher are eligible to apply for Honors admission. Online applications are available at honors.wcu.edu.

Benefits of Being in The Honors College

- Being part of a learning community of support that is facilitated by engaged membership.
- Smaller Honors courses taught by dedicated faculty that explore topics of interest in depth.
- Eligible to participate in the Honors Cohort of Catamount Gap, a summer session offered to incoming freshman that consists of three Liberal Studies courses carrying a total of seven hours of Honors credits.
- The opportunity to live in Honors residence halls, Balsam and Blue Ridge – premium housing located in the heart of the main campus. Opened in 2009, these dorms feature A/C, private bathrooms, and an academically focused environment.
- Honors College offices located in Balsam Hall, providing direct access to Honors College staff.
- Consideration for Honors College scholarships.
- Priority registration for classes each semester.
- Library privileges equivalent to those of graduate students.

- The opportunity to participate in The Honors College Student Board of Directors.
- Recognition of outstanding academic achievement with the receipt of an Honors College medallion and diploma at graduation, upon successful completion of requirements.

Academic Advising

Associate Dean April Tallant, Director of Honors Advising Emily Sharpe, and Honors Advisor Colin Townsend advise Honors students who have not yet declared a major. After declaring a major and being assigned a major advisor, Honors students *retain* their Honors advisors as secondary advisors for their *entire time* at WCU.

Pre-Professional Advising for students who seek admission to professional schools (including, but not limited to: medicine, veterinary medicine, and law) are advised by the Director of Honors Advising, Emily Sharpe. Pre-professional advising is open to all Honors students, regardless of major.

Contact Information

The Honors College

HC101 Balsam Hall | Western Carolina University | Cullowhee, NC 28723

Phone: 828-227-7383 | Fax: 828-227-7387 | Email: honors@wcu.edu | Website: honors.wcu.edu

Jill Granger, PhD

Dean of The Honors College

828-227-7383 | jngranger@wcu.edu

April Tallant, PhD, RD, LDN

Associate Dean of The Honors College

828-227-3276 | atallant@wcu.edu

Emily Sharpe, MA

Director of Honors Advising

828-227-3277 | easharpe@wcu.edu

Colin Townsend, MA

Honors Advisor & Director of Communications

828-227-2900 | cctownsend@wcu.edu

Meredith Searcy

Executive Assistant

828-227-7383 | msearcy@wcu.edu

WCU Office of Undergraduate Admissions

102 Camp Building

Cullowhee, NC 28723

Phone: 828-227-7317

Toll Free: 877-928-4968

Fax: 828-227-7319

Email: admiss@wcu.edu

WCU Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid

118 Killian Annex

1 University Drive

Cullowhee, NC 28723

Phone: 828-227-7290

Fax: 828-227-7042

Email: finaid@wcu.edu