

Ogden Honors College Student Handbook

Welcome to the Ogden Honors College

This handbook envisions your path through the LSU Roger Hadfield Ogden Honors College: four years of excellence, community, and leadership. The handbook is organized to correspond with your four-year Ogden Honors experience. Sections for each year explain how to proceed, noting opportunities to consider and important steps to take.

Use the handbook throughout the year for guidance and suggestions, in regard to both the academic requirements of the College and the opportunities that will enhance your education and life. The handbook, like the College website, is a great informational resource, but know also that the staff of the Ogden Honors College is always ready to provide you with personal guidance as you create your path.

OH!Portal

The LSU Ogden Honors College's OH!Portal (ohportal.lsu.edu) provides informational resources and a platform for structured interactions between students, faculty members, and staff to support progress through the curriculum and the delivery of personalized student support and enrichment opportunities. Services include arrangement of Honors Option Agreements, requests for OH!Pass tickets, and steps within thesis and upper division program processes.

The Graduate

As an Ogden Honors College graduate, you will be aware of the world in which you live, and know how to act skillfully, justly, and confidently in that world. You will understand the critical challenges in your discipline and your community; and, having already contributed to these areas, you will be equipped to understand and address those, and future, challenges. You will be able to reason, synthesize information, and communicate effectively, and will have demonstrated your ability to apply these skills in a professional manner as researcher, innovator, and communicator. You will be a knowledgeable citizen, a confident leader steeped in professionalism and experience, and a decision-maker who values the health and wellness of a community and its diverse peoples.

Four years will have enriched your heart and mind, and prepared you to be a leader in industry, graduate school, government, service, or in whichever area you choose to excel. And you will have memories of a great time in a unique place — the LSU Roger Hadfield Ogden Honors College.

The Ogden Honors College is the fullest expression of excellence at LSU. Across the campus, Ogden students in seminars and thesis defenses, in libraries and laboratories, studios and stages, are working independently and in groups, engaging in the most up-to-date research and innovation, surpassing expectations, and going beyond requirements. Their understanding and inventiveness are guided by an historical and intellectual awareness, a confident yet humble curiosity, and the faculty and staff of Louisiana State University.

The Skill Set

Academic

A breadth of knowledge across many disciplines and depth of knowledge within one. Placing events, processes, and ideas into interdisciplinary and disciplinary context. Using refined research methods—modeling, testing, and thinking critically about the relationships revealed.

Communication

Speaking comfortably to large groups, writing proficiently, and using the most current technology to express complex ideas with clarity. Listening, questioning, debating, and demonstrating understanding without difficulty.

Leadership

Taking initiative, making decisions, inspiring peers, delegating authority, and assuming responsibility for one's actions.

Innovation

Creative problem identification and problem solving. Following curiosity, exploring intuition, and playing with combinations.

Wellness

Being mindful and making healthful lifestyle choices professionally, socially, and personally.

Citizenship

A familiarity with the diverse voices, needs, and activities in the community, environment, and world. Knowing when, and how, to act.

Themes

Freshman: Service (Orienting)

The freshman year is a time of orientation and exploration. You, along with your peers, are entering a community while creating a new one. You are establishing your developing self in a network of new relations stretching out to a larger community. Your actions, civic and academic, can positively impact the world. This is a first year of partnering, understanding, serving, aiding, and learning. Through reflection and realization in light of ability, responsibility, experience, and opportunity, you will find out who you are and what you can do.

Sophomore: Study Abroad (Expanding)

Your sophomore year is a time of expanding your worldview, your responsibilities, and your capabilities. Hop on a plane and check out a different continent — study abroad. This is a year of adventure, resilience, and flexibility in the face of change and the unknown. You will discover how life is lived elsewhere and make connections with different cultures.

Junior: Internship/Research (Focusing)

Experience gained through independent work in your courses and through internships, paired with further depth in your major studies, will begin to clarify your understanding and focus your vision. Beginning to apply your knowledge, and using your initiative to direct such application, you will develop valuable new skills and gain increased confidence. Professorial and professional guidance through the topics and problems of your discipline will simultaneously introduce you to the applied and theoretical methods of your field.

Senior: Thesis (Performing)

Through the thesis project, you will demonstrate your ability to gather and interpret information, to formulate an approach to answering a question or solving a problem, and to display a process and its results. This demonstration completes your undergraduate education, but also serves, in conjunction with your digital portfolio and resumé, to support your transition to post-graduate life.

Academic Requirements

(from the *General Catalog*)

College Honors

Noted on both the diploma and the LSU transcript, College Honors is the culmination of the Honors College curriculum. Students who earn College Honors at graduation will receive special recognition at LSU commencement. To graduate with College Honors a student must meet all requirements as established by the student's own college including at least 32 hours of Honors classes as follows:

- a minimum of six hours of Honors coursework;
- 12 hours at 3000+ level, following upper division departmental honors programs, where they exist;
- senior thesis or project, following thesis guidelines;
- 3.5 GPA in cumulative, LSU, and Honors coursework.

Upper Division Honors Distinction

Students achieving this distinction will receive recognition at LSU commencement and on their transcripts. Students working toward upper division honors distinction are expected to indicate their intention, in person, to the Honors College upper division advisor who will furnish them with detailed requirements including the following:

- 12 hours of honors courses at the 3000-level or above, including three to six hours of thesis or project;
- Senior honors thesis or project following thesis guidelines;
- 3.50 GPA in both cumulative and LSU coursework, and for all honors courses used in the student's Upper Division program.

Sophomore Honors Distinction

Recognition includes a notation on the transcript and a certificate awarded after the end of the fourth semester. This designation will be subject to approval by the dean of the student's college upon recommendation of the dean of the Honors College. To achieve this distinction, students must complete the following by the end of their fourth regular semester in college:

- 20 hours of Honors or departmental honors courses, including a minimum of six hours of Honors courses;
- A 3.50 GPA in cumulative, LSU, and Honors coursework.

Good Standing

All students must be in good standing to participate in the Honors College, register for honors courses, and be eligible for priority registration. Following the initial semester in the Honors College, an honors student is considered to be in good standing if they maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 and successfully complete a minimum of two honors courses (five to six hours) per academic year in residence.

First Year

Orienting

Whether you are starting with six hours of advanced placement or thirty, this time is a beginning. Whether you are from right off campus, out of state, or another country, life at LSU is going to be new. You'll be getting your bearings for a while, adapting to new opportunities and challenges, new routines and schedules, and learning how to plan and assess your path and its progress. You have help during this transition, with access to a vast array of student support, and you'll learn from your peers as you share one another's experience; don't hesitate to take advantage of peer mentoring and discussion with professors and advisors as you need it. But, from the start, this is your path, your time to connect, explore, plan, reflect, and serve.

Choosing Honors Courses in The First Two Years

Participation in the Honors College entails taking Honors courses to enhance your academic degree program (see Academic Requirements). Similar to your major, Honors course offerings evolve over four years from general education and foundational courses to more focused, major-specific, and independent course work. The first of these stages includes departmental and Honors College (HNRS) courses that fulfill general education or foundation requirements.

HNRS courses

The Honors College offers courses (HNRS) that are writing- and communication-intensive and explore connections between different subject areas, such as art and history, science, and commerce. In offering HNRS courses, the Honors College draws on faculty members from across the campus. By doing so, we create courses that can focus on particular topics in the professor's research area of expertise. These seminars give you a chance to dive into a topic that is the instructor's passion in a discussion-oriented classroom format, fulfilling general education requirements and/or area requirements of your major in the process. Because these courses often span several subject areas, they can count flexibly toward your degree requirements.

Departmental Honors courses

Departmental Honors courses are usually Honors versions of an equivalent course in the same department, designed by that department in partnership with the Honors College with high-achieving Honors students in mind. For example, CHEM 1421 Honors General Chemistry is the curricular equivalent of CHEM 1201 General Chemistry, with both carrying the same prerequisites and degree credit. Departmental Honors courses may be applied in the same way as their equivalent toward any foundation or general education requirement of your major. In this type of course, you may find a smaller class, a higher-level approach to the subject, or an independent project-based syllabus, depending on the course and professor. Often taken as prerequisites for later major courses, departmental Honors courses strengthen your foundation.

Beyond Requirements

Taking Honors courses and planning to get the right number of courses for the distinctions are the basics, but you also need to plan the timing of your courses and include other experiences that go beyond just the basic requirements. Doing research now can successfully equip you to complete your thesis through the skills and subject experience you gain, as well as through the relationships you develop with faculty and research team members. Beginning foreign language study can enable you to study abroad in the next years. Participation in campus life and co-curricular programs can get you involved with fellow students and engaged with developed programs that complement your academic curriculum. There is a wealth of resources at your disposal at LSU and the Honors College. You will probably find yourself making some tough

choices about what to include in your plans. Use the features in this section to begin investigating what each opportunity offers you.

Service

Service to community is a foundation for your four years in the Honors College and is meant to foster life-long participation in community-based leadership and service. Service can also provide you with the opportunity to apply knowledge you have gained in the classroom to real world problems, not only through participation in community-based projects but also through participation in Honors College and LSU clubs and student organizations.

Honors College service events are scheduled throughout the year and will give you the chance to create, plan, and lead such events and programs. The following are good places to start to look for ways to get involved:

- Project 225 — sustained service projects in the Baton Rouge community, led by Honors College students
- Laville Service Saturdays — check “This Week in Honors” for updates on these events
- Service-Learning courses – look for this designation when scheduling
- Service-oriented student organizations – go to the Student Organizations Fair to learn about these opportunities

Louisiana Service & Leadership (LASAL) Scholars

LASAL is an Honors College program designed to produce leaders who will use their knowledge and experience to change Louisiana. Students who are interested in social justice and solving Louisiana’s chronic social and environmental problems are encouraged to apply.

Recruitment takes place in the fall semester of the freshman or sophomore year and includes informational meetings and a formal application process.

Check “This Week in Honors” for details.

Honors College Advising

The Honors advisors can assist you with planning your four years at LSU to include all of the experiences you find in this handbook. With so much to consider, see an advisor at least once per year. When you need some guidance, or confirmation of your plans, make an appointment through *LSU Navigate*, or take advantage of the drop-in times for quick questions or more immediate needs. The Honors College advisors are accessible when you need them either in person, on the phone, or through email. Ensure a productive advising session by exploring helpful resources beforehand: the General Catalog, this handbook, and your major department and college web resources can prepare you for your discussion with the advisor.

The academic advisors comprise the core advising staff, but specialized advising is also provided for fellowships, research, internships, and service activities. Honors advising is delivered with high-achieving students in mind, so see them for assistance tailored to your needs.

“This Week in Honors” and Social Media

Each week, you will receive an email announcing news, events, and opportunities available to you as an Ogden Honors College student. This is one of the primary ways that the College keeps you informed about special opportunities for you to enrich your education.

Reading this weekly email will keep you up to date on scholarship and fellowship opportunities, special study abroad programs and travel funding, Honors-specific internships, service opportunities, innovative research, cultural events, and much more.

You can follow along with the Ogden Honors Community on Twitter (@LSU_Honors), Facebook (/LSUHonorsCollege), and Instagram (@LSU_Honors). Share your activities and keep yourself informed.

OH!Pass

A partnership of the Ogden Honors College and the College of Music and Dramatic Arts, OH!Pass provides enrichment through free attendance for Ogden students to outstanding music and theatre events throughout the academic year. Ogden Honors College students may register for tickets through the OH!Portal (ohportal.lsu.edu) until the ticket allotment is reached. For LSU campus performances, registered tickets will be available for pickup at the French House during the two business days prior to the event. Opera and Theatre performances will be issued digitally.

Sophomore

Expanding

Now you are putting the pieces of your plans in place. With the experience of your first year, you know better how to use your time at LSU and take full advantage of the University's resources; now oriented, you challenge yourself by expanding the limits of your perspective: put yourself in a global context and watch as your discoveries change your outlook and planning. To this development, the emphasis for your sophomore year is study abroad.

Continuing in Honors

The sophomore year is a continuation of the first stage of Honors course work. Continue with departmental and HNRS courses as you pursue and explore your interests but check your progress in light of College Honors and alter your approach as needed. If you took only two Honors courses in the first year, you'll take more this year, but if you took several Honors courses the first year, you may find yourself tending to other aspects of your plans.

With advanced placement, you may have access to junior-level coursework in your sophomore year. The benefits of moving into junior courses include early opportunities to work closely with your department's faculty, space for additional options in the latter years of your degree, and ease in completing your thesis, minor programs, or a double major due to your early progress. You are encouraged to begin this advanced work, but not if it will delay the completion of foundation and general education requirements as outlined by your department.

Plan for your Upper Division Honors thesis program in the beginning of your sophomore Spring semester. In some major colleges, an application is required. Scheduling for your junior Fall starts in March of the sophomore year; you will want to know your first steps to take by this point. Get informed about the program by attending the Upper Division Honors information session presented in the spring semester. Follow up to plan for the specifics of your program through an appointment with the Upper Division advisor.

Sophomore Honors Distinction

Sophomore Honors Distinction should not be an end in itself, but a useful marker of successful progress. Noted on your official transcript, the award serves as a benchmark on your way to College Honors. While you can achieve College Honors without Sophomore Honors Distinction, you'll know you're on the right track if you've met its requirements. If you don't receive the award, it's a useful indicator that you will need to either focus on your GPA or increase your Honors course hours.

Completing 20 hours of Honors course work, including six hours of Honors College (HNRS) courses and a 3.5 in your overall, LSU, and Honors GPA, you will be well positioned to begin the Upper Division Honors program, the thesis program of your major. With Sophomore Honors Distinction, you are well on your way!

Study Abroad

Studying abroad will give you a unique learning experience. There are several ways to study abroad, and which arrangement you choose will depend on how long you want to be an expatriate, if you will study in another language, and the many individual features of specific programs (such as courses, professors, excursions).

Attending an institution abroad is the most rewarding and most challenging approach to studying abroad — a complete study abroad experience. You will likely study in a language and academic

environment quite different from your own. Negotiation of transfer credit is necessary in this case. Exchange programs can facilitate use of your scholarships and coordination with host universities. Pursuing this type of arrangement is more involved, but with this approach you will be completely immersed in the culture of your host country — a life-altering experience.

Attending another American university's program abroad is another way to go. In this case, you transfer credit from that institution back to LSU. This approach to study abroad may include brief visits, longer stays, or courses in English. These programs often have excursions or planned activities in addition to coursework, as well as convenient living arrangements.

LSU programs abroad are, for the most part, shorter summer programs. You and a group attend LSU courses with LSU faculty abroad. Benefits of this approach include overall simplicity of arrangement and no need to transfer credit.

The Office of Academic Programs Abroad can assist you with any study abroad experience. It is your main resource for information about various programs, procedures, regulations, and scholarships. In any scenario that requires transfer of credit, it is essential that you secure approval of course credit transfer (including Honors acceptance of credit) before you go. <www.lsu.edu/studyabroad>

Undergraduate Research

Undergraduate research (UR) is hands-on learning through the creation of new knowledge, where you work independently under the guidance of a faculty mentor. The Honors College promotes opportunities and supports the development of original scholarship based on the UR experience—through the Honors thesis, presentations, journals, and other venues.

Research — occurring everywhere at LSU — is an essential thread in the four-year Honors curriculum, tying together experience, knowledge, and scholarship. You can even get paid. Several Honors students participate in the prestigious President's Future Leaders in Research (PFLR) program, working with their research mentor over four years toward College Honors. Many more students are recipients of President's Student Aid (PSA), a program in which a student can work as a paid research assistant in any discipline. UR also occurs in a less formalized setting (such as working with a professor in an independent study course)—and, even in an informal one—but a formal research relationship in the academic setting will quickly propel you to overall Honors success.

Whatever your path, your initial UR strategy is the same:

First, explore your major, and familiarize yourself with your professors' work and the work of your peers (look at faculty web pages, attend faculty lectures, attend LSU Discover Day, and strike up a conversation). Next, express your interest to an appropriate professor with whom you've developed a relationship, and find out where you might fit in their research program. If you are a recipient of PSA or PFLR, there are then specific final steps to take with the Office of Financial Aid in becoming a paid research assistant for that professor.

Office of Fellowship Advising

This office serves as a centralized resource for information on distinguished national and international scholarships and provides assistance in the preparation of effective and competitive applications.

Individual mentoring is the hallmark of the OFA: its staff will work one-on-one with you to advise which scholarships best fit your achievements and goals and assist in preparing and editing your scholarship applications. Informational sessions are held throughout the year and include overviews of scholarship opportunities for Honors students, eligibility requirements, and deadlines, as well as strategies for success in the application process. We also organize practice interview sessions with LSU's top professors to give you a feel for thinking and speaking under pressure.

If you are considering applying for a national or international scholarship, you should attend an informational session early in your LSU career. The application process for these awards is demanding and requires much thought, effort, feedback, editing, and rewriting. Several fellowships (such as the Critical Language, Goldwater, Udall, and Truman) are undergraduate awards and thus require action as early as your freshman year.

Ogden Honors College students have been successful in earning Rhodes, Marshall, Gates, Knight-Hennessy, Fulbright, Truman, Goldwater, Udall, NSF Graduate, and other prestigious fellowships. It is the goal of the Office of Fellowship Advising to further promote and assist Honors College students in achieving the amazing opportunities these scholarships afford. Visit www.honors.lsu.edu/fellowships for more information.

Commitment to Community

Louisiana State University is an interactive community in which students, faculty, and staff together strive to pursue truth, advance learning, and uphold the highest standards of performance in an academic and social environment. It is a community that fosters individual development and the creation of bonds that transcend the time spent within its gates.

To demonstrate my pride in LSU, as a member of its community, I will:

- accept responsibility for my actions;
- hold myself and others to the highest standards of academic, personal, and social integrity;
- practice justice, equality, and compassion in human relations;
- respect the dignity of all persons and accept individual differences;
- respect the environment and the rights and property of others and the University;
- contribute positively to the life of the campus and surrounding community; and
- use my LSU experience to be an active citizen in an international and interdependent world.

The continued success of LSU depends on the faithful commitment by each community member to these, our basic principles.

Junior

Focusing

The second half of your degree is when you begin to cultivate deeper knowledge in your discipline as you independently analyze and apply that knowledge. Focusing on your specialization through experience in unique coursework, internships, and research, you will begin to identify opportunities to contribute to your field. Engage with your professors and their work as they guide you in the steps to obtaining knowledge at a higher level and implementing that knowledge in a sophisticated way.

Choosing Honors Courses in The Upper Division

The junior year presents a significant shift in your approach to using Honors course work to enhance your degree. At this stage, increasing independence is the goal of the design. Your degree program becomes more specified with major courses in your department or area, and, using the Honors Option, you will earn Honors credit in these major courses by adding independent elements. With this independence also comes flexibility in tailoring Honors to your interests and responsibility for managing that approach in partnership with your professors and advisors. Beginning the Upper Division Honors program, you should be learning to pace and skillfully conduct research projects, while investigating topics for your thesis through these independent opportunities.

Also referred to as the “Thesis Program,” the Upper Division Honors program supports and includes the Honors thesis project and leads to Upper Division Honors Distinction upon graduation. Because disciplines differ in many ways, be they professional or traditional, creative, or investigative, the makeup of your program and your thesis will be specific to your department and major. The thesis program is the path to College Honors for all Honors students but is specific to your area of study, as you further explore your field with a narrowing focus and expanding independence.

Honors Option

The Honors Option adds an independent component to courses at the 3000/4000 level. Completion of this component, in addition to the requirements of the course syllabus, awards Honors credit for the otherwise non-Honors course. Your professor will work with you to design this independent component, and the Honors College allows a wide degree of flexibility. Presentations, semester projects, guided discussion sessions, primary source research, and conference reports are examples of components added to courses for Honors Option credit. The Honors Option is what you and your professor make of it — get the most out of the experience it provides. You can find more about how to set up an honors option here:

<http://www.honors.lsu.edu/academics/courses/honors-option>.

Honors Option Procedures

In order to arrange and complete an Honors Option, an Honors Option Agreement must be arranged and approved. The Honors Option may be pursued in 3000/4000 level courses and can be applied to Honors distinction and “good standing” requirements.

Honors Option Agreement –An Honors Option Agreement is established on the OH!Portal (ohportal.lsu.edu) by the student and instructor to outline the conditions to receive Honors credit. Upon agreement between the student and instructor, the Honors College Dean (or designee) will review for approval to establish the Agreement. The instructor will verify whether conditions have been fulfilled by the grade posting deadline for the semester of the course.

Contact an Honors College advisor with any questions regarding the Honors Option.

Departmental Honors seminar or readings courses

Some departments offer Honors special topics seminars or independent study courses within their junior level course offerings. These vary and are built into some departments' Upper Division Honors Distinction programs.

Internship or off-campus experience course

HNRS 3100 may be used for internships and off-campus opportunities to give you hands-on experience in applying your knowledge and abilities.

Thesis courses

HNRS 4000 is the Honors College thesis project course. In some cases, departments require that a departmental thesis course be used for one or both semesters of thesis enrollment. These courses provide credit for the research and writing work you conduct under the individual guidance of your thesis director.

In addition to these courses, you may continue to apply departmental Honors and HNRS courses to fulfill any remaining general education or degree requirements.

The junior year is an important one for carrying out many steps in your academic plan. As you get to dive deeper into your major course work, you are accumulating leadership responsibilities, applying for and participating in internships, preparing for and taking standardized tests for graduate and professional study — even beginning to present your work outside of the University. You should be establishing more specific short- and long-term career goals while engaging in these activities, as the time to begin meeting those goals draws nearer.

Choosing a Thesis Topic and Director

When deciding on your thesis topic, it is important to limit the scope of your project to a manageable breadth. Your thesis should thoroughly address your topic and be completed in two semesters. Taking on too much can result in lost time and jeopardize completion.

Beginning with an area of interest and refining to a more specific angle or issue is a suitable way to proceed. Ideally this process will include and reflect your experiences in research, internships, and coursework and independent work at the 3000/4000 level, and will be done in consultation with professors with whom you've developed relationships in those experiences. In some departments, an independent study or readings course may be available for the exploration and refinement of your thesis topic.

The thesis director serves as your guide with respect to research methods, writing style, resources, and opportunities, but also as your thesis defense committee's chair. The director supports you through the process of creating the document and leads the committee in testing its quality. Many times, a professor you have worked with extensively will offer to serve as your thesis director. This is a natural fit, as you have a history of effectively working together, and your topic will be well within the professor's research area. However, you may be referred to another faculty member with greater expertise in your topic area.

TAF Thesis Scholarship

Tiger Athletic Foundation Scholarships provide at least \$500 each to Ogden Honors College students for costs associated with the preparation of their Honors thesis once enrolled in thesis course hours. These scholarships may be used to defray costs incurred in research or the

production of the thesis as well as expenses that would otherwise be met through non-academic employment.

Recipients have used funds for travel to other institutions, for acquiring research materials and lab equipment, and for cutting back on non-academic work hours.

Roger Hadfield Ogden Leaders Program

Up to five Ogden Leaders per year receive \$5,000 each to support self-designed, off-campus experiences, enabling them to pursue a passionate interest, develop independent leadership abilities, and contribute to society in a way and to a degree not otherwise possible. Students who have completed at least one but not more than six semesters are eligible to apply. Proposals are due in April for projects in the following academic year.

Internships

Transitioning from LSU to the post-graduate life is made easier through internships — gaining experience working outside the classroom and applying what you study inside the classroom. Whether in Baton Rouge, Seattle, or Grenoble, let your interests guide you toward placement in offices and research laboratories of the private, non-profit, or governmental professional worlds where you spend a summer or semester working on real-time problems and projects in your field.

Internships may be paid or unpaid and may or may not provide course credit. HNRS 3100 may be taken to earn credit for your internship, or you may use an equivalent course in your major department. In any case, to receive credit you must arrange for a faculty member to act as the instructor for your internship and assess your experience through assignments. If you intern during a fall or spring semester and carry no credits, you can retain your full-time status for TOPS or other awards by registering with Career Services' Experiential Education office.

Our Director of Career Development can assist you with the process of finding and securing an internship.

Senior

Performing

The senior year is when it all comes together. You are finishing your course work, managing and completing a major project, preparing for a transition into postgraduate life, continuing as a leader, and becoming a scholar. This is the performance of your undergraduate career, four years in the making, where you demonstrate your ability by communicating your knowledge.

Honors Thesis Project

The thesis project will likely be your first experience with managing a long-term, independent project. Your thesis director and the Upper Division advisor will guide you along the way. Follow the Timeline of the Honors Thesis but note that your individualized timeline may differ slightly: you may bring a great deal of research to the start of your first thesis course, or you may still be defining your approach. The Timeline provides a good measure in its recommendations for completing your project in a timely manner. Recognize that there are, among many benefits of completing a thesis, skills gained through the experience of planning and implementing a research strategy while coordinating with a defense committee and the Honors College.

Along with your academic activities, you will be applying to graduate school or a service organization, or for a job or fellowship. Depending on the timing, your thesis project can be highlighted in your application for graduate school or employment. You may modify part of your thesis into a shorter article or feature excerpts on a digital portfolio. Draw on your Honors work in securing your future and ask your Honors and major professors for letters of recommendation. Ogden Honors College advisors will help you plan your submissions and give you feedback on your applications.

Formats for the Honors Thesis Project

Scholarly Paper – May apply to all disciplines. The scholarly paper is based on original research and includes a consideration of secondary sources. The student will formulate an original question concerning their discipline and will investigate and analyze this question through a consideration of original and secondary sources. The resulting analysis should make a creative contribution to the relevant literature.

Research Paper – Applies to disciplines in which students conduct research that produces original data, including the physical, biological, or social sciences. The research paper is based on data from experiments, surveys, or scholarly research and includes treatment of relevant literature. It may include laboratory or field work.

Business Plan – Applies to disciplines in which the student is trained to work in business and may include disciplines outside the College of Business with the permission of the major department. The student conceptualizes a business and conducts relevant research to formulate a plan for marketing, finance, and implementation.

Field Report – This format may be used by students engaged in full-time experiential requirements in the major, such as those required by the College of Education. The thesis should place the experience in the context of discipline specific literature.

Portfolio – This format applies primarily to students in the arts. It includes a formal compilation of the student's artistic work as well as a written explanation of the work and relevant literature.

Performance – Students primarily in music and the dramatic arts may base their thesis on a presentation of creative artistry. This format will also include a written explanation of the work and relevant literature.

Design Project – Students in engineering will work in this format. The design project includes an analysis of a physical problem, the formulation of a design solution, and the production of the design. The thesis includes a written explanation of the work and the relevant literature.

Timeline of the Honors Thesis

Prior to thesis enrollment:

By the last day of class in the semester before your thesis enrollment, secure commitment from a professor to serve as your Honors Thesis director and request enrollment for your first Honors Thesis course (HNRS 4000 or departmental equivalent). Note that earlier engagement is appropriate, even necessary, for experimental lab research.

First semester of thesis enrollment:

Begin the semester with at least a brief thesis proposal or abstract including preliminary sources presented to your thesis director. Together, set deadlines and decide what work will be due at the end of this semester. Make plans with the intention of having a final draft by midterm of the next semester.

Before the last day of class, complete the work due to your thesis director, agreed upon as described above and possibly adjusted. Request enrollment for the second semester of thesis (HNRS 4000 or equivalent) by the end of the semester.

Second semester of thesis enrollment:

In this semester, coordination with the Ogden Honors College is especially important. Scheduling difficulties abound between allowing committee reading time, possible corrections following the defense, and printing issues.

By the last day to drop classes without receiving a grade of W, report your two additional committee members and submit your defense date to the Upper Division advisor.

Around the midterm exam period, submit a draft of your complete thesis to your thesis director and begin preparation for your defense.

By the thesis deadline for the semester your thesis director must submit a report of your successful thesis defense to the Honors College via a Thesis Approval Form provided to them by the College, and you must submit a final, corrected copy of your thesis.

Thesis Defense

Honors Thesis projects must be defended before a committee of three faculty members. The defense is a high-level evaluation of your project and consists of pointed questions with regard to the content of your document. The chair of the committee is your thesis director; the second member must be a faculty member from your major department; and the third member must be a faculty member from outside your department. Generally, you will decide the makeup of the committee in consultation with your thesis director.

Honors at Graduation and Commencement

Your degree is conferred at Commencement and/or Diploma Ceremonies at the close of your last semester. Ogden Honors College students completing the senior Honors distinctions of College Honors and Upper Division Honors Distinction, seated with their thesis directors, are recognized by the Provost upon the recommendation of the Honors College Dean at the main Commencement ceremony. Students graduating with College Honors wear a bachelor's hood (the only group to do so at LSU) and receive the notation of "College Honors" on their diploma. Upper Division Honors Distinction recipients receive a notation on the transcript and wear a white cord.

In addition to recognition at the Commencement, College Honors and Upper Division Honors Distinction graduates are recognized at their College's Diploma Ceremony and in press releases from the Office of Communications and University Relations. The Ogden Honors College holds a Graduation Ceremony to recognize its graduates, to distribute hoods and cords, and to award the Outstanding Honors Thesis Award. The accomplishment inherent to these distinctions is great, and LSU proudly commends the students who achieve that level of success.

Information about the Honors College and Commencement is distributed by the Upper Division advisor in coordination with the Office of the University Registrar.

Outstanding Honors Thesis Award

Nominated by thesis committees, exceptional thesis projects are submitted for the Outstanding Honors Thesis Award. A committee of faculty readers considers the nominations, selecting four winners across professional, humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and technical disciplines. The award includes a certificate conferred at the Ogden Honors College Graduation Ceremony in May.

Honors Courses

Ogden Honors College Courses

- HNRS 1000 (1) Honors Foundations
- HNRS 1007, 1008 (4) Introduction to Life Sciences
- HNRS 1035 (3) Life Science Seminar
- HNRS 1036 (3) Physical Science Seminar
- HNRS 2000 (3) Critical Analysis and Social Responsibility
- HNRS 2012 (3) The 19th Century
- HNRS 2013 (3) The 20th Century
- HNRS 2020 (3) Contemporary Studies

- HNRS 2021 (3) Colloquium in the Arts
- HNRS 2030 (3) Humanities Colloquium
- HNRS 2033 (3) Social Sciences Colloquium
- HNRS 2402 (3) Classical Civilization in the Mediterranean World
- HNRS 2404 (3) Medieval Civilization in Western Europe
- HNRS 2406 (3) European Civilization from 1400 to 1789
- HNRS 2408 (3) Modern Europe
- HNRS 3000 (3) Research Methodologies
- HNRS 3010 (3) Leaders and Scholars
- HNRS 3025 (3) American Studies
- HNRS 3035 (3) Natural Sciences Colloquium
- HNRS 3100 (1-6) Internship, Field-Work, Off-Campus
- HNRS 3110 (3) Honors Peer Leader Workshop
- HNRS 3500 (1-6) Independent Study
- HNRS 4000 (3) Thesis

Departmental Honors Courses

ACCT 2002	ECON 2001	MATH 1553	REL 1007
ACCT 2102	ECON 2011	MATH 2058	RNR 1071
ACCT 3002	ECON 2031	MC 2001	RNR 2070
ANTH 4999	ECON 2036	MC 2011	RNR 2071
ARCH 1102	ENGL 2823	MC 2016	RNR 2072
ARCH 2101	ENGL 2824	MC 3003	SOCL 2002
ARCH 2102	ENGL 3000	MC 3019	SOCL 3905
ARCH 3101	ENGL 3820-5	MC 3081	SW 2001
ARCH 3102	ENGL 3925-7-9	MC 4091	SW 4101
ARCH 4101	ENVS 1127	MC 4096	THTR 1021
ARCH 4102	ENVS 4036	ME 3613	THTR 2128
ARCH 5102	GEOG 4999	MGT 3831	WGS 2501
ART 2361	GEOL 1002	MKT 3402	
ART 2545	GEOL 1004	MUS 1755	
ART 2555	HIST 1002	MUS 2630	
ART 2662	HIST 1004	MUS 2632	
ART 2800	HIST 2056	MUS 3630	
ART 2997	HIST 2058	MUS 3632	
BIOL 1207	ID 2650	OCS 1006	
BIOL 1503	ID 2651	OCS 2006	
CE 2451	ID 3652	OCS 2014	
CE 2461	ID 3653	PHIL 1001	
CE 3401	ID 4620	PHIL 2034	
CHE 3910-11	ID 4654	PHIL 2036	
CHEM 1421	ID 4655	PHIL 2050	
CHEM 1422	INTL 2001	PHIL 2053	
CHEM 1431	ISDS 1101	POLI 1002	
CHEM 2461	ISDS 2010	POLI 2052	
CHEM 2462	ISDS 2011	POLI 3000	
CHEM 2463	LHRD 2724	POLI 3809	
CM 1030	LHRD 3724	POLI 3896-7	
CSC 3991	LHRD 4724	POLI 4998-9	
CSC 3992	MATH 1551	PSYC 2001	

- Departmental honors courses may not be regularly offered. It is important to check the course offerings website to see which ones are offered in a particular semester.

Ogden Student Life

Residential Experience

Ogden Honors College residential programs provide an environment that fosters academic excellence and close personal interaction between you, your fellow students, and your professors. Within this community, faculty members, the Ogden Honors College staff, and the Residential Life staff work together to enhance your academic experience by bringing research presentations, service opportunities, advising information, internship information, and community building events to the place where you live.

Laville Honors House

Located adjacent to the French House, in both East and West Laville Halls, the Laville Honors House is a living-learning community available to all Ogden students (of any year of study).

East Campus Apartments (ECA 10/11)

Adjacent to the Laville Honors House are the complex of East Campus Apartments (ECA); buildings 10 and 11 are dedicated for Ogden Honors College students in their sophomore year or later.

Honors College Affiliated Student Organizations

All Ogden Honors College affiliated student organizations consist of students in good standing with the College. Each organization has an individual purpose, but all of the organizations work together to promote the overarching goals of the Ogden Honors College: academic excellence, service to community, and leadership.

An entity within LSU Student Government, the **Ogden Honors College Council** promotes the interests and welfare of the Ogden Honors College; it provides social, cultural, and educational opportunities for its students; it maintains a forum for the discussion of issues and concerns vital to the students of the Ogden Honors College; and it represents those concerns to the campus and community. Anyone who is enrolled in the Ogden Honors College is a member of the Honors College Student Council, but active membership is required to hold an office.

Honors College Advocates recruit academically motivated high school students, assist incoming freshmen with the transition to college life, and promote the Ogden Honors College and its services.

Fusion is an innovative and supportive creative writing club. Weekly meetings revolve around honing writing skills; publishing members' short stories, essays, and poetry; and discussing significant contemporary and historical examples of creative writing and literature. Additionally, Fusion hosts annual open mics for its members as well as club trips to poetry readings and other fine art events in the Baton Rouge area.

Feeling Overwhelmed?

Mental Health Services (MHS) provides clinical services that enhance LSU students' personal growth and development, address psychological needs, and support the pursuit of academic goals. Located within the Student Health Center, MHS seeks to collaborate with campus partners and community resources to enhance the overall wellbeing of LSU students. Their staff includes licensed professionals and graduate students from the fields of clinical psychology, clinical social work, professional counseling, and psychiatry.

Visit the LSU Student Health Center's website every semester to learn about seminars, wellness coaching, group therapy sessions, self-help resources, and more programs offered to all LSU students at www.lsu.edu/shc/mental-health/.

24-Hour Crisis and Emotional Support Line
Call or text any time! (225) 924-LSU1 (5781)

First Year Supports

Communication Across the Curriculum (CxC)

Get certified as a “Distinguished Communicator” through Communication across the Curriculum (CxC) by maintaining a digital portfolio, taking communications intensive (CI) courses, and building your communication skills in off-campus experiences. CxC provides support and certification and coordinates with the digital studios around campus that you can use to build your portfolio. Integration with Honors is natural, as many of your Honors courses will be CI. The ability to communicate effectively will serve you well in your academic and professional life. <cxc.lsu.edu>

Do the Right Thing

In addition to leading in academics, Ogden Honors College students lead in citizenship. The expectations for conduct listed in the LSU Code of Student Conduct, the “Commitment to Community,” and the “Honors College Student Code” are the minimum. The Office of the Dean of Students oversees student activity on campus and acts as a partner in enriching campus life and maintaining excellence in community interaction. <www.lsu.edu/deanofstudents> <www.lsu.edu/campuslife>

Center for Academic Success

The goal of this office is to provide LSU students with the academic support they need to maximize their success in the courses they take. The CAS designs and implements a wide range of programs: Supplemental Instruction, Tutoring, “Study Smarter” Workshops, Individual Assistance, Service-Learning, and hands-on computer workshops. <cas.lsu.edu>

LSU Libraries

With a collection of over 3 million volumes and access to a range of academic databases and indexes, the LSU Libraries provides a vast wealth of information to support your research. Go to Middleton Library and browse your discipline’s professional journals, hook up to an audio workstation, check out a laptop, make some copies, or study with a friend. And if LSU Libraries doesn’t have it in their collection, Interlibrary Loan will get it for you from a worldwide network of lenders. Closed on game days. <www.lib.lsu.edu>

Campus Safety

LSU has its own police department which will assist you in case of emergency or in the unfortunate case that you are the victim of a crime. Officers provide services 24 hours a day and handle 911 calls placed from on campus. If you are going somewhere on campus after dark, the Office of Parking, Traffic, and Transportation provides door-to-door service through its Campus Transit (578-5555) from 5:00PM - 12:00AM, seven days a week.

Student Organizations

Students’ organizations can be a great way to meet students with similar interests, lead your peers, and advance a cause. In TigerLink, you will find everything ranging from sports and games to religious and political groups. You can even start your own group. The Office of Campus Life is the primary resource for getting involved.

Choosing a Major

Whether you have a major or not, uncertainty in the first year is common. Choosing a major can be a difficult balance between career aspirations and your interests and between focus and breadth. Honors students are often capable in more than one discipline, and with so many programs available, it can be difficult to decide on a concentration. Discussing your decision with

an advisor can be helpful. Consult “Academic Programs” in the General Catalog for a complete list of majors and concentrations. Career Services offers tools to investigate your interests and abilities.

Software Licenses

Fluency with standard office and communications software is essential. Inability to use technology will get in the way of successful academic and professional performance. Tigerware is LSU’s software distribution site. Many software titles are available at no cost to students. <tigerware.lsu.edu>

UCFY

University Center for Freshman Year is the “major college” for all first-year students, with the exception of students directly admitted to their degree-granting college (Colleges of Agriculture, Art & Design, and Music & Dramatic Arts). Many procedural changes and approvals are granted by UCFY, such as: changes of major or minor, dropping or adding after an add/drop period has ended, permission to take more than 19 hours in a semester, permission to take a 3000 or 4000 level course before requisite hours have been earned, and academic appeals. <<http://www.lsu.edu/universitycollege/ucfy>>

Retaining Scholarships

Many scholarships have requirements for continued receipt of the award based on the number of hours you complete per academic year and/or your GPA. Know the requirements of retaining your scholarships. The Office of Student Aid and Scholarships can provide you with up-to-date information about your awards and their rules. <www.lsu.edu/financialaid>

Sophomore Supports

Olinde Career Center

The Career Center guides students through every stage of the career planning process, helping students choose majors, explore career opportunities, sharpen job search skills, and find jobs. Career Services provides individual counseling; career assessments and interpretations; help with job search skills, such as resumé and cover letter writing and interview preparation; assistance finding part-time, full-time, co-op, internship, or volunteer positions; and help gaining admission to graduate or professional school. Careers2Geaux, an online job search tool, provides you with access to thousands of job vacancy listings sent to LSU. <lsu.edu/careercenter>

Double Major/Minor

Earning a double major or some combination of majors and minors can seem complex. When you view each program on its own, you must meet its requirements using the courses you have taken or will take. Credit for an individual course taken in a given semester may count for more than one program, but never more than once within a program.

Following this principle, you may identify overlapping requirements between programs and see how a given course may be used efficiently to fulfill them. The degree audit and an advisor can be especially helpful in exploring relationships between major and minor programs.

You must weigh the benefits of double majoring or pursuing minors. It can be a negative if accumulation of these programs comes at the expense of your following your curiosity or passion or prevents you from reaching a level of deeper knowledge in your primary discipline.

LSU Discover

A hub for undergraduate research opportunities, LSU Discover provides support for students seeking to work alongside faculty in the pursuit of new knowledge in all fields. Travel stipends are available through LSU Discover for conference and workshop attendance. Their research faculty database shows current open positions on campus. Finally, Discover Day is the venue for sharing student research accomplishments with the LSU community. <lsu.edu/discover>

Leadership Opportunities

The Office of Campus Life will help you find the best place for you to put your leadership skills into action. A student organization fair held each fall and spring will help you find a match in the over 400 student organizations on campus. Campus Life supports campus involvement and also provides leadership training in several programs throughout the year. <www.lsu.edu/campuslife>

Junior Supports

Independent Study Courses

As you develop greater research proficiency and gain more experience on your path to your thesis project, you will begin to work more independently. Independent study courses allow self-sufficient students to read, write, create, and study on their own, meeting regularly through the semester to confer with the instructor. (Note: the Office of Independent Study coordinates correspondence courses, not independent study in the sense described here. Most departments have courses that allow you to conduct independent study under the guidance of a faculty member.)

The Upper Division Honors Distinction programs of some majors require an independent study or “readings” course to allow some time to conduct broad readings toward narrowing down a thesis topic. Programs that do not require this element may allow for inclusion of such a course. Ask the Upper Division advisor about this possibility. To schedule an independent study course, you must request it through the department after talking with your professor.

Standardized Tests

The importance of standardized tests varies depending on the graduate or professional program you plan to attend. In any case, outstanding performance in this area will enhance your application or assure that your accomplishments and abilities get full consideration. Look at the admissions requirements of programs you plan to apply for to ensure that you have completed all general and subject tests necessary for entry.

Preparing for the test should extend well ahead of your test date. Decide whether you plan to use a third-party test preparation service, based on the personal services and materials it provides. Sample tests are sometimes provided by the testing service itself, free of charge, giving you a reliable example of what to expect.

Personal Statement and Résumé

Throughout your academic career, you should be maintaining a résumé. Tailor this document to various internship, full- and part-time employment, award and fellowship applications. Keeping an up-to-date, succinct statement of your abilities and experience will have you prepared for opportunities as they arise.

see Ogden Honors College Director of Career Development and <lsu.edu/careercenter>

Senior Supports

Graduate or Professional School

When planning for graduate or professional study, investigate programs on your own and with your professors. Use articles in the journals of your field to find out where the research you are interested in is taking place. Making a visit is a worthwhile exercise, but if this is not possible, it may be substituted with attending a conference where you can meet with students and professors of those programs. It is usually best to enter graduate programs in the Fall (if you have a choice), and most have application dates in December or January.

Professional school applications are coordinated through an application service in the cases of Law School, Medical School, and some Dental Schools. Be prepared to apply a full year in advance of the time of program entry in some cases.

Degree Checkout

In the semester prior to your graduation, you must meet with an advisor in your major college to ensure that you will schedule and complete the requirements of your degree in your last semester. Most colleges have certain times of the semester when they see seniors for degree checkout. Be on the lookout for the appropriate time to complete this necessary task.

Ogden Honors College Student Honors Code

We, the students of the Ogden Honors College at Louisiana State University, pledge to uphold the highest personal, academic, and social standards for the betterment of our community and ourselves. We will make every effort to maintain the highest level of integrity by opposing all forms of academic dishonesty so that we may preserve the honor for which the Honors College stands. We will support the academic mission of both LSU and the Honors College in order to achieve a balanced education that extends beyond the classroom and into our community. As students of the Honors College at Louisiana State University, we pledge to uphold these ideals now and in our future personal and professional lives.