English Honors Program
Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What’s the difference between English Honors and the Honors College? I’m an Honors College student, does that mean that I can take the English Honors seminars?

A. The difference is that students, whether Honors College or not, must apply to the English department to be admitted into English Honors. English Honors is free, but is restricted to just the small cohort that is admitted each year. If you are an Honors College student, but have not been accepted to English Honors, you may not take English Honors seminars.

Q. But then, why is there an “Honors College” section of the English Honors 496A? Is that open to Honors College students generally?

A. No. The honors 496A classes are split into two co-convened sections for enrollment purposes so that Honors College students who are also English Honors students may receive honors credit in their college. Because Honors College students cannot receive Honors College credit for any class that is open to non-Honors College students, we must split the class enrollment into a non-Honors and an Honors section. But both sections are restricted to English Honors students only, and both sections meet at the same time and in the same classroom—they are effectively the same class. Since all English Honors classes are enrolled by department consent, we will enroll you into the appropriate section.

Q. I’m already an Honors College student, why should I apply for English Honors? I already have to write a thesis for the Honors College.

A. Many of the English Honors students who were also Honors College students have reported that the English Honors program was the most intellectually stimulating aspect of their undergraduate careers. You only have to write one thesis to satisfy both Honors College and English Honors requirements. And, if you’re a creative writing major, being accepted into the English Honors program prioritizes your application, per Creative Writing faculty policy, to write a creative writing thesis under creative writing faculty advisement.

Q. I’m a transfer student, can I apply? Whom can I use for faculty references?

A. Yes, transfer students are eligible to apply. You can use instructors from your former institution or current faculty for your faculty references.

Q. I’m an Honors College Creative Writing student and I want to write a thesis with a Creative Writing faculty member, but I don’t want to take the seminars and I don’t want to graduate with English Honors. But does this mean that I cannot receive the prioritization for faculty advising from Creative Writing faculty?

A. No. Honors College students who want to write a creative thesis with CW faculty but do not want to fulfill the other requirements of English Honors may apply for a Creative Writing faculty advisor using the same application form. There is a checkbox on the form through which to indicate that preference.

Q. I’ve missed the deadline for the application, does this mean I’m shut out of English Honors and/or a Creative Writing faculty thesis advisor?
A. Depends. If you have missed the English Honors deadline by only a few days or a few weeks, contact the English Undergraduate Office. If the committee has not met yet to make decisions, it is possible to turn in your application late. After the decisions are made, no more applications will be accepted for review.

If you are applying only for a Creative Writing faculty thesis advisor and not for English Honors, then you may turn in your application late. Late applications in these cases will be considered on a rolling basis but will not be prioritized.