



**Honors Program Information:**

E-mail: Honors@avila.edu  
Twitter: @AvilaHonors  
Website: www.avila.edu/academics/honors-program/

**What is the Avila Honors Program?**

Our program aims to provide unique and individualized learning and research opportunities for creative, motivated students. We want to challenge and inspire you, not overwork you. As a member of the honors program, you will be offered myriad opportunities that will enhance your work at Avila.

**Structure of the Avila Honors Program**

<b>Honors Seminars (2 required)</b>	<b>Honors Enhancements (5 required)</b>	<b>Cultural &amp; Community Experiences (2 required)</b>
HN 180: Honors Seminar I (enroll in Fall of your FIRST year in the program)	Honors Enhancement (1) Honors Enhancement (2) Honors Enhancement (3)	Cultural & Community Experience (1)
HN 480: Honors Seminar II (enroll in Fall of your LAST year in the program)	Honors Enhancement (4) Honors Enhancement (5)	Cultural & Community Experience (2)
Can be completed during any semester in the program (including Summer!)		

*Once you complete all these requirements, you will be awarded seven additional credits toward your 120 for graduation and be designated an Honors graduate on your degree. You will also receive Honors cords for graduation.*

**Honors program work, once awarded, will count toward the 120 credit hours required for graduation; in other words, the program does not require any additional work above and beyond what you are already doing at Avila – it is just a different type of work!**



## Avila University Honors Program: Academic Year 2023-2024

### **Requirements in Detail**

#### *Honors Seminars (Two Required)*

Each student will be required to take at least two of these courses, one in their first Fall semester in the program (HN 180) and the other in their last Fall semester (HN 480). The Honors Seminars are designed to enhance critical thinking skills and to connect university experiences with the wider world. They require enrollment in a 1-credit hour course.

**Get started by: E-mailing the Honors Program Director at [Honors@Avila.edu](mailto:Honors@Avila.edu) when it's time for you to register for courses<sup>1</sup>.**

#### *Honors Enhancements (Five Required)*

Each unique Enhancement will be developed by the student, the Director, and a faculty member. Enhancements will supplement the knowledge and skills of a traditional course (CORE, major/minor, or elective) through an individual experiences.

**Get started by: During the first week or two of class, approach one of your current instructors<sup>2</sup> about adding an Honors Enhancement to your coursework; fill out the enhancement form together – this is available on the Honors Canvas site. No additional course enrollment is required.**

*Cultural & Community Experiences (Two Required): To fulfill the requirements students must attend and reflect upon approved university and community events.*

- Complete four unique experiences. This may be any combination of events or volunteer opportunities. If a student chooses to volunteer for all of their experiences, they must do so for four unique organizations or agencies.
  - Volunteering should be a minimum of 3 hours per agency for credit
  - Take a photo of yourself at the event or location to document your time there
- Complete a brief voice-over presentation (2-3 minutes) that will be shared on the Honors Program Canvas page. The goal of this is to share your experiences with your peers and reflect on your activities. This must be completed and submitted via Canvas by the last day of traditional classes during the respective semester (prior to finals beginning).

**Get enrolled by: During the first two weeks of class, e-mail [Honors@Avila.edu](mailto:Honors@Avila.edu) to notify the Honors Program Director that you will be completing your CCE that semester. No additional course enrollment is required.**

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<sup>1</sup> If you're a first-time first year student, you should automatically be added to a section of HN 180

<sup>2</sup> This should be a full-time faculty member. You can see a list of full-time faculty in the current catalog at [catalog.avila.edu](http://catalog.avila.edu)



## Avila University Honors Program: Academic Year 2023-2024

### Applying to the Avila Honors Program

*For First-Time, First-Year Students:*

You will be notified of your status by Admissions and provided with instructions about how to proceed when you are admitted to the University. There are a limited number of spots available each year; so please be aware that the earlier you confirm your place, the better your chances are.

- Pre-approved: A high school GPA of 3.50 or above OR an ACT score of 25+ (SAT score of 1200+). *Pre-approved students need to formally accept their admission to the Honors Program.*
- Conditional acceptance: A high school GPA of 3.25+ OR an ACT score of 25+ (SAT score of 1200+). *These students will be required to submit an admissions essay for consideration. Instructions will be provided in your Admissions package.*

*For Transfer Students and Current Avila Students<sup>3</sup>:*

- Transfer students will be notified of their status by Admissions and provided with instructions about how to proceed when they are admitted to the University.
- Current Avila students should speak with their Advisor and the Director (honors@avila.edu) about how to proceed. Both Transfer Students and Current Avila students need to submit/possess **at least two** of the following: (1) College GPA of 3.5+, (2) Academic Letter of recommendation, and (3) Admissions essay.

### What to Expect Once You Are Accepted:

- You will be added to a Canvas group for Honors students, which contains all relevant forms and communications. *Be sure to have announcement notifications sent to your e-mail or phone.*
- If you're an incoming first-year student, you will be added into a section of HN 180 (1 credit hour). If you're not an incoming first-year student, you should make sure you register for HN 180 your first Fall.

### Maintaining Good Status in the Honors Program

- Pass/complete all Honors enhancements and seminars that you enroll in
- Complete at least 1 requirement every academic year until finished
- Stay in good academic standing

*Honors students can be placed on probation if these conditions aren't met. In addition to these requirements, students can be dismissed from the program if they receive a Level 3 conduct sanction (as detailed in the Student Code of Conduct) or a 2<sup>nd</sup> Academic Dishonesty warning. Students cannot participate in the Honors program while they are not in good academic standing at the University.*

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<sup>3</sup> At least four semesters in the program will be necessary to complete all of the requirements



## Avila University Honors Program: Academic Year 2023-2024

### Who are we?

The Honors Program is run by faculty, the same faculty who you might take classes from in the CORE curriculum or in your major/minor.

### Director of Avila Honors Program



*Dr. Omonseigho Talton – Assistant Professor of Biology*

Dr. Talton holds a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from the University of Missouri, where she also completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Reproductive Physiology. She joined the faculty at Avila University in 2019 and teaches Human Anatomy and Physiology and General Biology (Cells and Genes). Her grant-funded research explores the effects of maternal exposures such as diabetes and obesity on placental and offspring health, and she is also interested in discipline-based education research. Dr. Talton enjoys Avila's vibrant and diverse student population, is passionate about mentoring students to reach their full potential and honored to direct the Honors Program.

### Members of the Honors Program Steering Committee

*Dr. Ken Parsons – Associate Professor of Philosophy*

Dr. Parsons joined the faculty of Avila University in 2008. He holds a PhD and an MA in Philosophy from Michigan State University. He teaches a range of philosophy courses. His research focuses on phenomena of violence and the moral questions relating to mass violence and genocide. He has published and presented this research in a wide range of venues. Dr. Parsons commonly teaches courses at Avila that travel across the globe.



*Dr. Jordan Wagge, Professor and Chair of Psychology*

Dr. Wagge, who served as Honors Program Director from May 2021 through May 2023, earned a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology in 2009 from Miami University of Ohio and has been teaching at Avila University since Fall 2009. She teaches courses in research design and analysis and cognitive psychology at the undergraduate and master's level, and conducts research in scholarship of teaching and learning and debunking weight-centered health paradigms.





**Sample 4-year Honors plan (for a first-time, first-year student)**

<b>Fall, Year 1</b> HN 180 (1 credit hour)	<b>Spring, Year 1</b> Honors Enhancement 1	<b>Summer, Year 1</b> CCE 1
<b>Fall, Year 2</b> Honors Enhancement 2	<b>Spring, Year 2</b> Honors Enhancement 3	<b>Summer, Year 2</b> None
<b>Fall, Year 3</b> Honors Enhancement 4	<b>Spring, Year 3</b> Honors Enhancement 5	<b>Summer, Year 3</b> None
<b>Fall, Year 4</b> HN 480 (1 credit hour)	<b>Spring, Year 4</b> CCE 2	<- GRADUATION!

**Sample 2-year Honors plan (for a current or transfer student)**

<b>Fall, Year 1</b> HN 180 (1 credit hour)	<b>Spring, Year 1</b> Honors Enhancement 1 Honors Enhancement 2	<b>Summer, Year 1</b> CCE 1
<b>Fall, Year 2</b> HN 480 (1 credit hour) Honors Enhancement 3 Honors Enhancement 4	<b>Spring, Year 2</b> Honors Enhancement 5 CCE 2	<- GRADUATION!

**FAQ:**

Q: What courses should I do my Honors Enhancements in?

A: You can do these in any courses, but strongly encourage you to work with full-time faculty because that way you can work on building scholarly relationships with experts in your field of study. This can help create additional opportunities and can help your faculty members learn more about you and your skills/abilities/goals so they can serve as references for graduate school or jobs after graduation.

Q: What CCE experiences are available?

A: During the Fall and Spring, we will have experiences listed on Canvas. You can also propose additional experiences **before those experiences occur** by contacting the Honors Program Director at [Honors@avila.edu](mailto:Honors@avila.edu). During the Summer, please consult with the Honors Program Director to identify appropriate experiences.

Q: What happens if I leave the program before completing my requirements?

A: Unfortunately, you will only receive credit for the Honors Seminars (HN 180 and HN 480) that you have completed if you leave the program before completing all requirements.