

Southern Nazarene University

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Honors Program Application Instructions

Who Can Apply

- Non-provisional, incoming SNU freshmen
- Current SNU freshmen in good academic standing

Suggested Scores*

- 27+ ACT/1210+ or higher SAT (Math + Verbal)
- Top 10% of graduating class

Criteria for Selection

- High academic potential indicated by test scores/high school record
- Interest in and commitment to service-learning and leadership
- Creativity and independent thinking
- Appreciation for intellectually challenging coursework
- Desire to be part of a community of undergraduate scholars
- Ability to contribute to philosophical and disciplinary diversity

Application Process

1. Write an Application Cover Letter (approx. 300-500 words) in which you discuss why you wish to join the Honors Program (HP) and what you feel you will contribute to the program.
2. Complete the HP Application Form (link at snu.edu/honors).
3. Write an HP Application Essay (instructions provided on p. 3 of this document).
4. Provide two (2) academic and/or work-related letters of recommendation.
5. Submit these four (4) documents to the HP director by email attachment at honors@snu.edu (**preferred method**) or by mail to Honors Program, Attn: Dr. Gina Weaver, Southern Nazarene University, 6729 NW 39th Expressway, Bethany OK 73008. Applications should be received by **May 1** of the year in which you will start at SNU for first-round selection. Submit applications through **July 1** for second-round selection.

*If your test scores or grades are slightly lower than these standards, you may still apply. You should use the Application Cover Letter as a means to explain any extenuating circumstances and to describe ways you can demonstrate your honors capability (e.g., high school transcript, recommendation letter, academic awards).

Selection Procedure

- Applications will be read after the May 1 and July 1 deadlines.
- Some applicants may be asked to interview in person before admissions are finalized.
- Approximately twenty students will be selected to participate in the Honors Program each year.
- First-round applicants will be notified of their status by June 15. All applicants will be notified of their status by July 30.
- Some students may be placed on a waiting list and invited to join the HP at a later time.
- Non-selected students may re-apply in the second semester of their freshman year.

Post-Admission Requirements to Remain Eligible for Honors Scholarships

- Progress towards completion of Honors Program each semester
- Maintenance of 3.5 or higher cumulative and semester GPA (student who falls below a 3.5 GPA in any one semester will be placed on probation; if a student's GPA falls below 3.5 the following semester the student will be removed from the Honors Program)
- Maintenance of good community standing based on report from Student Development and student's major department

Post-Admission Requirements to Graduate with Honors Program Designation

- Successful completion of all Honors Program work, including Honors Thesis
- Maintenance of 3.5 or higher cumulative and semester GPA (student who falls below a 3.5 GPA in any one semester will be placed on probation; if a student's GPA falls below 3.5 the following semester the student will be removed from the Honors Program).
- Maintenance of good community standing based on report from Student Development and student's major department.

Honors Program Application Essay Instructions

Write a response to any one article listed on **Arts and Letters Daily** (<http://www.aldaily.com/>). You may choose only from the columns "Articles of Note" and "Essays and Opinion."*



Details

- Your essay should be 500-750 words (equivalent to 2 to 3 double-spaced pages). Run longer if you like, but 2-3 thoughtful pages are sufficient.
- **Your goal is to demonstrate that you like to think.** Write pro, con, or pro-and-con, but be persuasive. Give evidence, make illustrations. Be rhapsodic or terse or satiric or whatever, but show us an energetic mind.
- No substitutions in genre or media, please. Don't send us a research paper, a painting, a poem, a PowerPoint show, or a video, etc. instead of an essay. Those are valid ways of responding, and you may very well use them in honors assignments here. But an essay is what we need now.
- If you have questions about these instructions, please email the Honors Director at honors@snu.edu.

Format

- At the top of your essay, give your name, email address, and phone number(s).
- Give an original title for your essay.
- Below your essay title, state the article you're responding to (author, title, place of publication, and Web address).

How to submit your HP application essay

- Preferred method: Submit your essay electronically (by email attachment), along with your other application materials to honors@snu.edu.
- If you have already sent in your Honors Program application, there's no need to duplicate the application form. Just send the essay with a note that your application is already in.
- Alternative method: Submit your essay by snail mail to Honors Program, Attn: Dr. Gina Weaver, Southern Nazarene University, 6729 NW 39th Expressway, Bethany OK 73008.

Follow-up

- We will email you to let you know that your essay arrived.

*This activity and explanation used by permission of Chris Willerton, Abilene Christian University Honors Program.