

# HONORS PROGRAMS

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## Baccalaureate Honors Program

The Baccalaureate Honors Program (BHP) is the University-wide honors program designed to enrich the educational opportunities available to Rider students of proven intellectual ability who choose to become Baccalaureate Scholars. Interdisciplinary in orientation, the program enables the Baccalaureate Scholars to explore diverse forms of thought, expression, and institutions past and present—an exploration that will enable them to meet future challenges with confidence. Through a series of team-taught seminars and other honors courses, co-curricular experiences, personal contact with faculty, and completion of a senior honors capstone project, the scholars extend their ability to think critically about the great themes of their human heritage.

Students are invited to join the Baccalaureate Honors Program as entering freshmen and may apply as currently enrolled or as transfer freshmen or sophomores. In general, students in the top 10 percent of each College's entering class are invited. Students currently enrolled at Rider must have at least a 3.3 GPA at the time of application to the program.

Other qualified students with a 3.3 grade point average, including juniors and seniors, may enroll in particular honors seminar courses with the approval of the director.

Most BHP courses replace core or other academic requirements. In addition, Honors sections of single-discipline courses designated in the course roster assist in fulfilling BHP requirements.

In order to graduate with Baccalaureate Honors, the student must complete seven honors seminars and a senior baccalaureate honors capstone or a departmental honors capstone with a GPA of 3.3 or higher.

Honors seminars are designated on student transcripts, whether or not the student completes the BHP. Successful completion of the BHP is noted on the transcript and the commencement program.

For more information, please see: [www.rider.edu/bhp](http://www.rider.edu/bhp) (<http://www.rider.edu/BHP>).

Note: Students in CBA Honors can also complete BHP if they wish. They do not have to decide until after completing BHP 100 and BHP 150. They may count any 2 CBA Honors courses toward the BHP certificate, and their CBA senior thesis can be shaped to count for BHP as well.

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## Business Honors Program

The Business Honors Program is designed exclusively for business majors enrolled in the College of Business Administration. Entering students are automatically considered for the program based on their academic record. Continuing students are invited to join by the director of the program.

Rider's Business Honors Program features cohort learning, which teaches the framework of successful business environments by encouraging

teamwork and critical thinking. Students participate in classes with the same group of students for all four years. The cohort creates a powerful learning environment where students gain crucial business skills: the ability to communicate and collaborate, problem-solve, analyze various perspectives, initiate discussions, network and delegate.

Business honors student receive special advising, the opportunity to live in a residential learning community in their freshman year, priority in course registration, and invitations to attend co-curricular events (e.g., art exhibits, film screenings, poetry slams, theater previews, etc.) which are planned by the faculty team.

To complete the Business Honors Programs, students must complete the required number of honors business core classes, write an honors thesis, maintain a minimum overall GPA of 3.4, complete one non-core business honors class and complete a thesis.

Graduation as a Business Honors Scholar requires a minimum overall GPA of 3.4 and a minimum GPA of 3.4 in all business honors courses.

For more information, see the Business Honors section (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/business-administration/business-honors-program>) of the catalog under the College of Business Administration.

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## Westminster Choir College Honors Program

### General Remarks

The Baccalaureate Honors Program (BHP) is a University-wide honors program designed to enrich the educational opportunities available to Rider students of proven intellectual capability who are invited to become Baccalaureate Scholars. Interdisciplinary in orientation, the Westminster Choir College program enables Baccalaureate Scholars at Westminster to expand their knowledge and interest in the liberal arts during their music study. Through a series of team-taught seminars, single discipline honors courses and other options for music honors study, as well as an honors thesis, scholars extend their ability to think critically, coherently, and systematically about the great themes, ideals and movements of their human heritage.

Students are invited to join the Westminster Baccalaureate Honors Program as entering freshmen and may apply as currently enrolled freshmen or sophomores. Generally, students with SAT and high school GPA scores in the top 20% of the entering Westminster freshmen class are considered for invitation into the WCC BHP program. Students currently enrolled at Rider University must have at least a 3.3 GPA at the time of application to the program. In order to remain in the Baccalaureate Honors Program, the student must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3.

Non-honors students, including juniors and seniors, who have earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5, including juniors and seniors, may enroll in a particular honors seminar course with approval of the Westminster Choir College Honors Program Director. Permission will be given on a space-available basis, with priority given to students in the Honors Program.

In order to graduate with Baccalaureate Honors, Westminster students must complete eight honors courses: at least four interdisciplinary (team-taught) honors seminars, a capstone (thesis) project, and three other honors courses, seminars, or contracts. The Program is supplemented by other honors opportunities at the college and department level, and some graduate courses in music may be allowed as honors courses. All

freshman honors students take BHP 150 Honors Seminar: Great Ideas II, which substitutes for English Composition. Most honors courses fulfill core degree requirements. Students may enroll in honors courses on either campus of Rider University. Individual course descriptions are found in the Rider University catalog. Students should see the Westminster College Honors Program Director regarding guidelines and options for completing honors studies.

Students enrolled at Rider University in the Honors Program may register for graduate courses on the Princeton campus according to the following policies:

Students who have earned at least 60 credits and hold a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 may register for 600-level graduate courses upon permission of the instructor, the Honors Program Director, and the Associate Dean.

Students who have earned at least 90 credits and hold a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.80 may register for 700-level graduate courses upon permission of the instructor, the Honors Program Director, the Chair of the department offering the course, and the Associate Dean.

Approval is based upon criteria such as cumulative grade point average, courses taken, and preparation for the particular course requested.

Undergraduate students permitted to enroll in 600- or 700-level graduate courses must complete the same syllabus and requirements that pertain to the graduate students in the course. The grade for the course will be recorded on a graduate transcript.

If a grade of "B-" or higher is earned, the course will be permitted to substitute for an undergraduate honors course. For any course used to meet undergraduate requirements, should the student later decide to enroll in a graduate program of the Westminster College of the Arts, the course cannot be used to meet graduate program requirements. In the event the course is required in the graduate program, the department sponsoring the program will identify a suitable substitution.

Honors seminars are designated on student transcripts, whether or not the student completes the Baccalaureate Honors Program. Upon successful completion of the program, an honors student receives an appropriate certificate. Successful completion also is recorded on the transcript and listed in the commencement program.

## **Honor Program in Fine Arts**

A senior honors program may be submitted in partial fulfillment of requirements for graduation with honors in fine arts. Honors work is limited to those departmental majors with a cumulative average of 3.5 in fine arts courses and cognates. The program, to be planned under the direction of a faculty advisor, represents a culmination of demonstrated excellence in a specific area of fine arts. Candidates for honors in fine arts must be approved by the department chairperson and the faculty.