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Kent State University

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UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES
Advising Offices are Located in:

Student Advising Center
Lake Hall
(330) 672-3676
<http://explore.kent.edu>

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

The goal of Undergraduate Studies is to help students achieve academic success at Kent State University. It fosters student academic success by providing extensive academic advising services as well as coordinating advising support throughout the university.

In addition, Undergraduate Studies is responsible for assisting undecided students with degree and career planning; assessing the basic skills of all entering freshman students; providing tutoring services that promote student learning; supporting low-income, first-generation, and precollege students; and evaluating the outcomes of a student's academic experience.

The following programs are provided under the auspices of Undergraduate Studies.

EXPLORATORY MAJOR

The exploratory major is a transitional program for students who are exploring major and career options either because they are undecided or are unable to meet the admission requirements for their desired majors. One in five new freshmen at Kent State University is enrolled in the exploratory major.

Each exploratory student is assigned an academic adviser who monitors academic progress and assists the student in choosing a degree program. The exploratory major encourages students to take advantage of specialized advising, workshops and other university resources in developing career goals and making informed decisions.

Because a degree cannot be earned while in the exploratory major, it is important that students declare another major before earning 60 semester hours to facilitate timely progress toward a degree.

The Student Advising Center (SAC) is the academic office for exploratory students. The SAC has an open-access undergraduate computer lab providing access to e-mail, the Internet and a variety of software including career assessment programs for all university students.

PLACEMENT, ADVISING AND SCHEDULING SYSTEM (PASS)

The Placement, Advising and Scheduling System (PASS) is a one-day program designed to familiarize newly admitted freshmen and their families with the Kent Campus. Students receive placement assessment in reading, writing and mathematics as well as an individual academic advising session, help with course selection and registration, and their Kent State identification card.

Informational programs are provided for the traditional students' parents. Special program procedures are designed for underrepresented, commuter, transfer and adult students; postsecondary students; students participating in the Upward Bound and STARS programs; and those requesting to be registered in absentia.

UNIVERSITY ORIENTATION

The University Orientation course is required of all new freshmen. Students who are 21 years of age or older at the time of their first enrollment, or transfer students with 25 or more semester hours of credit from another institution, are not required to take University Orientation. This course assists new students in adjusting to the demands and challenges of the university academic community, exposes new students to the educational and personal growth opportunities at Kent State University and integrates new students into the life of the university. Academic advising for all freshman students is an essential component of the University Orientation course.

Faculty and student instructors, academic advisers and professional staff help students understand Kent State's expectations for learning as well as the academic requirements of the university and of their colleges. Students develop academic success strategies and learn about the services and programs that are available to help them be successful. They also learn to use an e-mail account and explore campus resources, services and opportunities for involvement.

An important aspect of this course is the leadership opportunities for more than 100 undergraduate student instructors, trainers and interns.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

The Academic Success Center consists of programs designed to foster the academic success of college students. Program areas include the Academic Skills courses, Student Support Services project, University Tutoring programs and Supplemental Instruction services.

Academic Skills courses include: US 10003: Reading Strategies for College Success; and US 10006: Study Strategies for College Success. The focus of both courses is the development and application of reading, learning and study strategies that will enable students to maximize their learning potential and achieve their learning goals, thereby promoting student retention. Placement in one or both courses is contingent upon basic skills assessment.

The Student Support Services project is a TRIO program funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to provide services for first-generation college students, low-income students and students with disabilities.

University Tutoring supports the educational development of students through a variety of services, including tutoring in selected mathematics and writing courses, writing and mathematics tutoring in the residence halls, study groups in selected Liberal Education Requirement courses and individual peer mentoring.

Supplemental Instruction services are available to students enrolled in large lecture classes. Small-group study sessions are designed to help students improve their academic performance.

PRECOLLEGE INITIATIVES

Upward Bound Classic

Upward Bound Classic provides eligible high school students with an academic and cultural college preparatory program of curricular and cocurricular activities designed to improve academic competency, self-confidence, self-discipline and cultural awareness. These experiences are designed to prepare high school students for a successful experience in postsecondary education.

Upward Bound students may participate in the Honors College Early Admission Program, apply for the Department of Pan-African Studies Oscar Ritchie Scholarship, the English Department's Wick Poetry Scholarship and the Founders Scholars Scholarships.

Upward Bound provides a Summer Bridge component. Students who are selected to participate in the Summer Bridge Component take 6-8 credit hours the summer between their senior year in high school and their freshman year in college, live in a Kent Campus residence hall and participate in specialized study skills/college orientation workshops.

Upward Bound students are tracked and continue to receive services until they graduate from postsecondary education and up to five years from the date of high school graduation.

Upward Bound PREP Academy

The Upward Bound PREP Academy assists and supports qualifying high school students in their goal of completing a college education. PREP Academy's primary focus is in the area of technology. High school students who are teen parents are a primary recruitment target for PREP Academy.

Upward Bound Math/Science Center

The Upward Bound Math/Science Center is a partnership between the university and area high schools and businesses to promote science and math educational opportunities for high school students who meet qualifying criteria. Students engage in intensive instruction and hands-on learning with Kent State's research and teaching faculty in mathematics, computer science, polymers and basic medical sciences.

GEAR UP

Kent State University is a partner with Canton City Schools and other agencies in the Canton community to help all middle school and high school students prepare for, pursue and succeed in postsecondary education. Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) provides mentoring, tutoring, summer enrichment activities and scholarships for students as well as professional development support for teachers at Canton City Schools.

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

The Office of Academic Assessment systematically gathers, examines and communicates information about students and programs in an effort to measure students' academic achievement as well as program effectiveness at Kent State University.

Academic Assessment has major responsibility for directing the university's assessment process and for coordinating planning and strategies for assessment of major fields of study and general education.

EXCEL LEARNING COMMUNITY

The EXploratory Community Engaged in Learning (EXCEL) program is a living/learning experience offered to new freshmen exploratory students who have chosen to explore the numerous majors at Kent State University prior to declaring a major. The program focuses on students' academic and personal successes and offers students resources in choosing an appropriate college major. Students in the EXCEL program reside on the fourth floor of Lake Hall in the central part of campus. This hall is connected to the Student Advising Center that houses the professional academic advisers for all exploratory students. The students enroll in common courses resulting in the formation of a "learning community" where students share responsibility for living and learning together. Visit our Web site at <http://explore.kent.edu/excel>, or call (330) 672-9292 with questions.

ACADEMIC TRANSFER OFFICE

The Academic Transfer Office was created to provide direct services to assist students and to collaborate with other departments and offices in order to facilitate the recruitment, transition and retention of transfer students.

The focus of the Transfer Office is on coordinating academic advising and career counseling for exploratory transfer students, working with appropriate offices in determining applicability of transfer coursework, teaching a transfer orientation class, analyzing current transfer procedures and assisting transfer students in connecting with university staff and campus resources. For more information visit our Web site at <http://explore.kent.edu/transfer>.





THE HONORS COLLEGE
Advising Offices are Located in:

Van Campen Hall
(330) 672-2312
<http://dept.kent.edu/honors>

THE HONORS COLLEGE

ORGANIZATION

The Honors College is a nondegree-granting college of the university whose primary role is to provide learning opportunities, intellectual challenge and a supportive environment for bright and motivated students. The Experimental and Integrative Studies division of the college offers nontraditional learning and teaching experiences for the entire university community's students and faculty.

THE HONORS COLLEGE

What is our praise or pride

But to imagine excellence and try to make it?

—Richard Wilbur

The Honors College is at the center of Kent State University's nearly 90-year tradition of providing special attention to undergraduates with outstanding intellectual and creative ability. Within the framework of the larger university, with its diverse academic programs and excellent research and library facilities, the Honors College offers students enriched and challenging courses and programs, opportunities for close relationships with their peers and faculty, and careful advising to meet their interests and goals.

Admission to the Honors College

Students interested in admission to the Honors College as freshmen are encouraged to apply during their senior year in high school. Application materials include records of academic performance and scores on nationally standardized tests. The admissions staff also seeks evidence of creative ability, leadership and service, and motivation.

Interested students are invited to visit the campus to meet with an honors adviser, visit an honors class and learn about academic programs of interest to them. Arrangements may be made by contacting the Honors College (Van Campen Hall, [330] 672-2312).

Students currently enrolled in the university and transfer students can apply for admission to the college as late as the end of their junior year.

Scholarships

The Honors College awards merit scholarships to selected entering freshmen who have the potential for superior scholarly and creative work at the university. Scholarship recipients are members of the Honors College and can retain their scholarships for their undergraduate years if they meet specified academic expectations. Students already enrolled in the Honors College also can apply for a limited number of merit scholarships.

All entering freshmen are eligible to be considered for Freshman Honors Scholarships ranging from \$1,200 to full, in-state tuition, room and board per academic year. Students who wish to be con-

sidered for any honors scholarship will submit their high school transcripts, including standardized test scores, GPAs and class ranks.

Each applicant will be evaluated for both membership in the Honors College and the awarding of a scholarship. Those candidates who are to be considered for the largest scholarships—\$2,600 to full in-state tuition, room and board—will be invited to the campus for an interview before a specific scholarship is offered. Students who are eligible for more than one honors scholarship will receive the one with the largest stipend.

Most honors scholarships are unrestricted—i.e., students receiving them may select any major for their undergraduate studies. However, some honors scholarships are awarded for study in specific majors or programs—for example, the Helen Carringer and Herb Kamm Awards for study in journalism and the Creative Artist Awards for study in selected areas of the creative and performing arts.

The college works closely with the Student Financial Aid Office to help all honors students who, because of need, require financial assistance beyond the merit scholarships awarded by the college.

The Honors Concept

The Honors College is guided by two basic principles. The first is a responsibility to provide academic work that offers intellectual challenge to the best students in the university and demands of them the best effort of which they are capable. To this end, courses are designed to stretch the mind, sharpen skills and encourage high standards of performance.

The second is a belief that, regardless of degree program, students should be liberally educated. That is, they should understand and appreciate the language, literature and history of our culture; the social, political and economic structure of our society; the creative achievements that enrich our lives; and the basic assumptions and substance of the natural sciences. Honors students are, therefore, encouraged to select courses that provide an understanding of the arts, humanities and sciences.

Honors Work

Honors courses are available throughout the undergraduate years and can be used to meet requirements in all the degree-granting colleges and schools of the university and to satisfy the Liberal Education Requirements of the university.

All honors freshmen are enrolled in the yearlong Freshman Honors Colloquium. The colloquium is designed to be a rigorous course in reading, thinking and writing about literature and ideas. The goal of the course is to develop habits of intellectual inquiry, mature understanding and effective communication that will serve the students through the college years and afterward.

Beyond the freshman colloquium, many honors courses offered by distinguished faculty from academic departments throughout the university are available each semester. Although these courses differ significantly in content, from art to zoology, they share a common form. Class enrollments are small, and students can get to know each other and their professors in an environment that encourages learning through discussion, reading, individual work and writing. Several of the colleges and many university departments offer four-year honors programs. These programs combine a core of honors courses common to all majors and honors courses in basic disciplines including the humanities, the social sciences and mathematics/science.

Honors students are encouraged to study on a one-to-one basis with members of the faculty. Individual honors work is possible from freshman through senior years and can take many forms. For example, it has been used by students to enrich the content of a nonhonors course, to “create” a course not available in the regular curriculum, to participate in an off-campus internship related to their academic program, or to undertake a specialized scholarly or creative project.

Many honors seniors conclude their undergraduate careers by completing a sustained scholarly or creative project under faculty guidance. This Senior Honors Thesis/Project is one of the requirements for Graduation with Honors discussed below. Theses and projects have been submitted by seniors from all of the degree-granting colleges and schools at Kent State University and have ranged over many disciplines and areas of creative endeavor. Novels and plays have been written; research has been undertaken in the natural and social sciences; historical events and periods have been critically analyzed; architectural models have been proposed for urban renewal sites; and paintings and films have been created and exhibited. Each thesis/project attests to the willingness of honors students to extend learning beyond the classroom to self-directed efforts appropriate to the conclusion of an enriched program of study.

Other opportunities for honors work are available. These include sophomore, junior and senior honors colloquia that are frequently interdisciplinary in content; enrollment in graduate-level courses during the undergraduate years; and participation in combined bachelor’s/master’s degree programs.

Graduation with Honors

The college offers three programs for Graduation with Honors. Although each has minimum GPA requirements, the primary emphasis is on the successful completion of an undergraduate degree program including a Senior Honors Thesis or Project. Graduation with Departmental Honors stresses upper-division work in the students’ major department. The requirements are sufficiently flexible to enable undergraduates who join honors in their junior year to participate in and complete this program. Graduation with General Honors requires sustained participation in honors work throughout the undergraduate years. Students who complete this program take approximately one-fourth of their credits in honors courses and independent study. The rigorous standards of performance required for Graduation with University Honors make this the highest recognition the university can bestow on a graduating senior.

Students who do not wish to graduate with honors may participate in honors work on a more informal basis, selecting courses and developing independent study projects to meet collegial and departmental requirements or to satisfy personal interests. Students who graduate from the university as honors students in good standing are identified by a notation on their transcripts.

Honors Advising

The Honors College has its own advising staff whose first contact with students is just before the start of the freshman year. At this time students discuss opportunities for honors work and select courses for the fall. Freshmen maintain frequent contact with their advisers and are encouraged to develop a long-range plan to organize their academic work in accordance with their interests and career aspirations. In addition to the college advising staff, faculty throughout the university are available to assist honors students in selecting courses to meet departmental requirements for graduation. For students who are planning to go on to graduate and professional schools, the college sponsors an annual workshop dealing with application procedures and with financial assistance and fellowship opportunities.

Community

The Honors Center has been recognized for outstanding educational achievement by receiving a Program Excellence Award from the state of Ohio. The funds from this award have been used to complete and enhance a residential and administrative complex that was opened first to the honors freshman class of 1989.

The Honors College Center complex is made up of three residence halls. The hub is Van Campen Hall, which contains instructional and administrative facilities, along with housing for 60 students. The adjoining Heer and Harbort Halls each house 100 students.

Student involvement in the affairs of the college is a tradition. For example, honors students are eligible to serve as voting members of the Honors College Policy Council. This group, composed of an equal number of honors students and faculty, participates in policy decisions affecting the college.

The *Honors Bulletin* is published several times a year to announce activities and items of special interest.

Each year honors students, faculty and staff cooperate to organize Honors Week, a celebration of intellectual and creative achievement. Outstanding individuals from both inside and outside the university are invited to present challenging ideas, innovative research and demonstrations of artistic talent to the university community.

Further information and honors application materials are available from the dean of the Honors College.

OTHER PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE HONORS COLLEGE

Liberal Education Requirements Program

All students pursuing a baccalaureate degree at Kent State University must satisfy a minimum of 36 semester hours of LERs. (See Pages 77-80 of this *Catalog* for a description of these requirements.)

Early Admission Program

Kent State University's Early Admission Program (also known as the Postsecondary Options Enrollment Program) is designed to provide qualified high school students with access to college-level coursework. College courses taken under the Early Admission Program may also fulfill high school graduation requirements, if approved by the students' local school districts.

Participation in the Early Admission Program at Kent State University is not intended to replace coursework available at high school, but rather to enhance the educational opportunities available to students while in high school.

In recognition of the fact that high school-level college preparatory coursework forms the foundation for success at the college level, the State of Ohio Department of Education and the admission offices of the state universities in Ohio have endorsed a minimum core of 16 units of high school college preparatory courses.

To participate in the Early Admission Program at Kent State University, high school students must have completed at least 9 units of this minimum core to be considered for admission as a first-semester high school junior or at least 13 units to be considered for admission as a first-semester high school senior.

In general, those students seeking admission to college courses should rank in the top 15 percent of their class, have a cumulative high school GPA of 3.50 or higher, and have a minimum ACT composite score of 26.

Students who do not meet these criteria are eligible to apply for admission and will be evaluated for acceptance to the program based on their high school curriculum, cumulative high school GPA, ACT or SAT scores and letters of recommendation. Students may also be asked to complete a basic skills assessment in reading, composition and mathematics. A personal interview is required.

Senate Bill 140 provides for payment of early admission students enrolling under Postsecondary Enrollment Option B. High school students wishing to take advantage of this financial opportunity must contact their local school district for specific details.

Applications for participation in the Early Admission Program must be completed in sufficient time for them to be evaluated before the appropriate registration period. Deadlines are May 1 for summer and fall semesters and Oct. 1 for spring semester.

Postsecondary Option students are eligible for admission into Kent State University degree programs when they submit and meet all admission criteria (e.g., proof of high school graduation, admission test scores, high school rank, grade point average, etc.). Kent State University degrees earned by Postsecondary Option students will not be posted to the Kent State University academic transcript until the term subsequent to high school graduation.

Advanced Placement Program

Kent State University participates in the Advanced Placement Program administered by the College Board. The latter prepares tests to assess the work of high school students who have taken college-level courses at their high schools. Examinations are offered in art, biology, chemistry, computer science, economics, English literature and composition, government, history, mathematics, music, physics, psychology, statistics, French, German, Latin and Spanish. The university will grant college credit for such courses in which satisfactory scores have been attained by the high school student.

For further information, consult the dean of the Honors College.

Experimental and Integrative Studies

The objectives of Experimental and Integrative Studies are:

1. To provide a means by which faculty and other qualified members of the university community may develop, offer and test innovative courses that meet a legitimate intellectual need of students but are not regular curricular offerings of the existing academic units.
2. To provide for the offering of courses on a temporary and topical basis that deal with matters of current social or cultural concern in a manner that presents a variety of perspectives.
3. To provide occasionally for the offerings of courses such as *Career Exploration* that support university programs.
4. To encourage interdisciplinary and integrative teaching and learning of a kind not frequently found in the traditional academic units.
5. To encourage generally a spirit of curricular experimentation, integration and innovation in course content and pedagogy throughout the university community.

Experimental and Integrative Studies provides opportunity for faculty and staff to develop courses not presently available in the university curriculum. This is accomplished through selected topics offerings, which are now letter-graded with a few exceptions. Commonly offered under this title are courses such as *Career Exploration*, *Film Classics* and *Diabetes Management*. While the coursework is often rigorous and demanding, the nontraditional approach toward teaching lends itself well to exploring new modes of learning.

To ensure that experimental work does not preempt students' primary academic work, students may take *only one* experimental class a semester. Each semester, Experimental and Integrative Studies publishes its own catalog describing the selected topics for that semester.

Additional information may be obtained from the Honors College office.

