

Kent State University

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UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES
Academic Advising Offices:

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Phone: 330-672-3676
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<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; and supporting low-income, first-generation and precollege students.

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 advisor 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.

PLACEMENT, ADVISING AND SCHEDULING SYSTEM (PASS)

The Placement, Advising and Scheduling System (PASS) is a required one-day program designed to familiarize newly admitted freshmen and their families with the Kent Campus. Students receive placement assessments as well as an individual academic advising session, help with course selection and registration, residence hall room assignments, a Kent State e-mail address and a Kent State identification card.

Informational programs are provided for the new students' parents and families. Special program procedures are designed for under-represented, commuter and adult students; students participating in the Upward Bound and STARS programs; and those requesting to be registered in absentia.

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE (FYE)

Building a solid foundation during the first year is key to a successful college experience. The Office of First Year Experience is committed to providing a supportive environment that enables first year students to build the strong base essential for academic and social success at Kent State University. FYE staff members ease the transition to college life through a variety of programs and services including the Summer Reading Program, the Freshman Advisory Council, Flash's Boot Camp for Frosh and Freshman Fast Forward. The office is poised to have an impact on students at the time of entrance to the university, throughout the first year and beyond. Through a balance of challenge and support, FYE staff members strive to develop students who will embrace risk, value differences and take responsibility for their decision while on their path toward personal success.

FIRST YEAR COLLOQUIUM

The First Year Colloquium course is designed to create an active learning environment that introduces new students to the collegial setting at Kent State University. This environment will promote an atmosphere for critical thinking, interactive and collaborative learning, and a continuing understanding of oneself and diversity. It is expected that, as a result of this course, students will develop strategies for success and begin to realize their academic potential.

Faculty and student instructors, academic advisors and professional staff assist students in understanding Kent State's expectations for a university community, as well as the academic requirements of the university and college. Students will be introduced to the services and programs available to assist them to be successful, learn to use the Kent State University electronic communication system and explore campus resources, services and opportunities for involvement.

The First Year Colloquium course is required of all new freshman and transfer students with 24 or fewer hours who are less than 21 years of age at the time of their initial Kent State University enrollment. Students who have earned a GED are encouraged to enroll in the course regardless of age or credit hours earned.

An important aspect of this course is the leadership opportunities for more than 200 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 academic support to first-generation college students, low-income students and students with disabilities. Services include tutoring in mathematics, writing and selected courses; study groups; individual peer mentoring; and a laptop computer-lending program.

University Tutoring supports the educational development of students through tutoring in selected courses; writing and mathematics tutoring in certain residence halls and in the Library Information Commons; and test review sessions and workshops.

Supplemental Instruction services are available to students enrolled in specific large lecture classes. Small-group study sessions are designed to help students improve their academic performance. For more information, visit <http://explore.kent.edu/asc>.

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. The goal of this program is to prepare high school students for a successful transition into and graduation from postsecondary education.

Upward Bound students may participate in the Honors College Early Admission Program, the Kent State Martin Luther King, Jr. Day competitions 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 first year in college, live in a Kent Campus residence hall and participate in specialized study skills/college orientation workshops.

Upward Bound PREP Academy

The Upward Bound PREP Academy assists and supports qualifying high school students in their goal of completing a college education. 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 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, architecture and basic medical sciences.

Upward Bound students who choose to attend Kent State are placed into core classes as a first-year interest group to support their successful transition into the university. Classes include College English I and II and an Upward Bound workshop.

Ohio College Access Network (OCAN)

The Ohio College Access Network offers a precollege partnership with local school districts and community agencies in planning and implementing early college awareness activities and events. The focus of this partnership is to increase the recruitment and retention of first generation students at Kent State University.

Postsecondary Enrollment Options Program

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

Participation in the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Program at any campus of 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 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 Postsecondary Enrollment Options Program at any Kent State University campus, 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 also may be asked to complete a basic skills assessment in reading, composition and mathematics. A personal interview may be required.

Senate Bill 140 provides for tuition payment of Postsecondary Enrollment Options Program students enrolling under 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 Postsecondary Enrollment Options Program must be completed in sufficient time for them to be evaluated before the appropriate registration period. Students should contact the campus to which they are applying for specific program details and deadlines.

Postsecondary Enrollment 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 Enrollment Option students are not posted to the Kent State University academic transcript until the term subsequent to high school graduation.

EXCEL LEARNING COMMUNITY

The EXploratory Community Engaged in Learning (EXCEL) program is a living/learning experience offered to new freshman 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 advisors 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 330-672-3676 with questions.

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC TRANSFER

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

The focus of the Office of Academic Transfer is assisting with compliance to the Ohio Articulation and Transfer Policy, 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 <http://explore.kent.edu/transfer>.

RETAIN

RETAIN (Retention Advising Initiative) was created to foster the academic and social transition of first-year students by providing additional guidance to increase student success and persistence. RETAIN consists of a team of professional academic advisors housed in seven collegial units and coordinated by Undergraduate Studies. By providing a developmental, intrusive and individualized approach, the RETAIN academic advisors collaboratively promote the importance and awareness of academic advising at Kent State University.

The focus of RETAIN is creating student awareness and understanding of the advising process; assisting students in forging a relationship with the university through campus resource education, appropriate referrals, timely information and campus collaborations; and serving as advocates for first-year students by interacting with the university community, monitoring student progress, providing assistance in major and career exploration, and implementing interventions with students at risk.

NATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE (NSE)

The National Student Exchange program offers a one-year or one-semester study-away educational opportunity to Kent State students while they earn course credit toward graduation. There are more than 170 colleges and universities in the United States, U.S. Territories and Canada from which to choose. Students pay Kent State University tuition or use their tuition waiver; financial aid applies and scholarships also can apply; there are no out-of-state fees. Students experience personal growth, explore graduate school programs and investigate employment opportunities while being exposed to a new culture.

SCIENCE LEARNING COMMUNITY (SLC)

The Science Learning Community is a living/learning community for first-year students considering science majors or science-related fields of study. The primary mission of the SLC is to develop a community of learners which includes students, faculty and student affairs professionals.

SLC students live in the same residence hall, enroll in the same classes and participate in programs and events. The SLC provides weekly group study sessions, community dinners, speakers and first-year experience workshops. The SLC students live together, learn together and have close interaction with the KSU faculty.

The SLC is a collaboration among the Department of Biological Sciences, the Chemistry Department, the English Department, the Physics Department, Residence Services, the College of Nursing and Undergraduate Studies.

THE OHIO SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING ALLIANCE

The National Science Foundation and Kent State University fund the Ohio Science and Engineering Alliance. The alliance is a coalition of 15 universities working in collaboration with federal, state and community agencies to increase the number of underrepresented minority students who earn bachelor's degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields and to encourage more students to pursue graduate study in these fields. Kent State sponsors six undergraduate research interns during the academic year and summer. Kent State also hosts a Summer Transitional Program for incoming science majors to take courses the summer prior to beginning their college career at the university and connect early with key science faculty.



THE HONORS COLLEGE
Academic Advising Offices:

20 Johnson Hall
330-672-2312
<http://www.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.

*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 100-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, service and motivation.

Interested students are invited to visit the campus to meet with an honors advisor, visit an honors class and learn about academic programs of interest to them. Arrangements may be made by contacting the Honors College (Johnson 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 four years if they meet specified academic expectations. Students already enrolled in the Honors College also can apply for a limited number of merit scholarships.

Entering freshmen applying for admission to the Honors College are automatically considered for Freshman Honors Scholarships, ranging from \$1,500 to full in-state tuition, room, board and books. Most honors scholarships are awarded to students who may select

any major for their undergraduate studies. Some scholarships, however, are reserved for students in specific academic disciplines (e.g., journalism, business, physics, humanities and education).

The Creative Artist Awards Competition (held annually on the Kent Campus) provides \$1,500 to \$3,500 to students majoring in art, dance, music, theatre and visual communication design. Recipients are selected on the basis of academic credentials and an audition or portfolio review. College students are welcome to join the Honors College as well as apply for \$1,000 Honors Academic Achievement Awards.

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 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. 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 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 advisors 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 College residence building, Johnson Hall, is located at the center of campus. Honors students living there have the best of both worlds—a nurturing and stimulating first-year experience with other honors students, as well as convenient access to the surrounding Kent State campus community.

The Honors Center includes the three-story Johnson Hall, a library/computer room, gallery space, a reception lobby and advising offices. Students live just steps away from the dean and their academic advisors.

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.

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

Universitywide Requirements Program

All students pursuing a baccalaureate degree at Kent State University must satisfy a minimum of 36-37 semester hours of LER courses, two diversity courses and one writing-intensive course. (See Pages 85-95 of this *Catalog* for a description of these requirements.)

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 (exception: Service-Learning Contract). 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.