

# SALISBURY

UNIVERSITY

## Bellavance Honors Program Handbook 2011-2012

### CONTENTS

Overview .....	2
Curriculum .....	5
Checklists .....	6-7
Staying in the Program .....	8
<i>Encyclopedia Honoraria</i> .....	9
Code of Conduct .....	16

### CONTACT INFORMATION

[www.salisbury.edu/honors](http://www.salisbury.edu/honors)  
[honorsprogram@salisbury.edu](mailto:honorsprogram@salisbury.edu)  
Fax: 410-677-5019

Dr. Jay Carlander  
*Interim Director*  
410-546-6902  
[jrcarlander@salisbury.edu](mailto:jrcarlander@salisbury.edu)

Tina Melczarek  
*Program Management Specialist*  
410-677-5070  
[tmmelczarek@salisbury.edu](mailto:tmmelczarek@salisbury.edu)

**Salisbury**  
UNIVERSITY

*A Maryland University of National Distinction*

## *HONORS PROGRAM OVERVIEW*

The Honors program at Salisbury University promotes academic excellence in a small, collegial environment. Special classes, cultural events, trips, and other opportunities are offered to help motivated students pursue intellectual and personal growth and achievement. The program fosters close individual contact between students and faculty and brings together talented students with many varied interests. Honors courses and activities are intended to enhance other educational opportunities available to Salisbury University students. Membership in the Honors program comes with many benefits including priority registration, small discussion-based courses created specifically for honors students, and access to the Honors Center which houses a computer lab with printer, a kitchen, and plenty of space for study and recreation. Most Honors courses count toward General Education requirements for students of all majors.

The most talented and distinguished faculty members at Salisbury University are invited to teach interdisciplinary, discussion-oriented seminars; different, unique, “purpose built” classes of this kind are offered each semester.

Honors students are members of the Honors Student Association (HSA), which organizes research events and workshops, parties, movie nights, open mic nights, etc. The officers of the HSA are generally elected in April for the next academic year. Most activities are open to all members of the University. The Honors program community is not an exclusive body, but rather a group that involves the entire campus in a range of interesting events.

**THOMAS E. BELLAVANCE**

The Honors program is named for Dr. Thomas E. Bellavance (1934-1996) who loved great books and good discussions. Some have said that education was his religion. As president of the University from 1980 to 1995, he raised its endowment from \$32,000 to more than \$16 million, transformed the appearance of the campus, and helped forge a community committed to excellence. In one of his last acts as president, Dr. Bellavance endowed the University's Honors program with funds donated by his friends and supporters. The Bellavance Honors program remembers him by fostering achievement, helping students to get the most out of their education, and teaching the love of good books and discussions.

**APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM**

If you are the kind of student who wants to excel academically and explore larger intellectual issues through discussion, reading, and writing you should apply to the Honors program. The Honors program at Salisbury University will challenge, nurture, expand, and refine your analytical skills, knowledge, and sense of your own capacity for achievement through four years of undergraduate study. You will be encouraged to do independent, original research that is essential preparation for graduate study or any professional career. There are two paths available to students for graduating with honors: University Honors and General Honors.

**UNIVERSITY HONORS**

You can apply to the University Honors program when you apply to the University—or soon afterward. Please see [www.salisbury.edu/honors](http://www.salisbury.edu/honors) for further information about what to include in your application. In deciding who to admit to the University Honors program we evaluate your application along with the academic and extracurricular information you have already submitted to the Admissions Office. Some students are automatically sent a letter inviting them to apply to the Honors program. But SAT scores and your high school GPA are not “cut-off” numbers, and they do not guarantee a place in the Honors program. Non-traditional students may also be admitted to the program. Please see the University Honors checklist on page 5 of this handbook.

**GENERAL HONORS**

Transfer and upper-level SU students can enter the General Honors program, the requirements of which can be completed in two years or so. See the checklist on p. 7 in this *Handbook* or our web site. Please contact the Honors Program by email at [honorsprogram@salisbury.edu](mailto:honorsprogram@salisbury.edu) or by phone at (410) 677-6506.

## **HONORS PROGRAM CURRICULA**

Honors students can be in different program curricula; all Honors classes are 4 credits (except for the 3 exceptions listed below).

Classes do not need to be taken in numerical order, although first semester University Honors students must take HONR 111 or HONR 211. There are 8 HONR classes offered in different semesters:

HONR 111 Critical Thinking & Writing	<i>Grp I-A (ENGL103)</i>
HONR 112 Issues in Social Sciences	<i>Grp III-B (Soc. Sci.)</i>
HONR 211 Issues in the Humanities	<i>Grp III-A (Humanities)</i>
HONR 212 Issues in Natural Sciences	<i>Grp IV-B (Non-Lab Sci.)</i>
HONR 311 Interdisciplinary Seminar	<i>(May be crosslisted)</i>
HONR 312 Junior Research/Creative Project	<i>(1 credit)</i>
HONR 490 Honors Thesis Preparation	<i>(1 credit)</i>
HONR 495 Honors Thesis	<i>(3–4 credits)</i>

### **Prior to Fall 2007:**

Students who entered the Honors program prior to fall 2007 may elect to conclude the program requirements in place when they entered. Such students are required to complete HONR 111, HONR 112, HONR 211, and HONR 212 as their core courses. These students must then complete HONR 312, as well as EITHER three HONR 311 classes OR two HONR 311 classes, HONR 490, and HONR 495. Students who pursue the thesis option under this pre-2007 curriculum will be awarded “Distinction” upon their transcript and diploma.

### **Honors Checklist: University Honors Program**

For students entering fall 2007 and after:

Honors Class	General Education
111 Critical Thinking & Writing OR 211 Issues in Humanities	Group I-A (ENGL103) OR Group III-A
112 Issues in Social Sciences	Group III-B
212 Issues in Natural Sciences	Group IV-B
311 Interdisciplinary Seminar	May be crosslisted
311 Interdisciplinary Seminar and 312 Junior Research/Creative Project <b>OR</b> 490 Honors Thesis Preparation and 495 Honors Thesis	4 cr. ( May be crosslisted) 1 cr. 1 cr. 3-4 cr.
Honors Outcomes Portfolio	(see next page)

**Total Credits= 20-21.** Students graduating with a minimum overall grade point average of 3.5 who have completed the requirements listed above will receive the designation “Bellavance University Honors” on their transcripts and diplomas.

**Honors Checklist: General Honors Program**

(for transfer or upper-year students)

Honors Class	General Education
Any Honors Course (111, 112, 211, 212, 311)	111 (I-A), 112 (III-B), 211 (III-A), 212 (IV-B) 4 cr.
311 Interdisciplinary Seminar	May be crosslisted (4 cr.)
312 Junior Research/Creative Project	1 cr.
490 Honors Thesis Preparation	1 cr.
495 Honors Thesis	3 cr.
Honors Outcomes Portfolio	(see below)

**Total Credits=13.** Students graduating with a minimum grade point average of 3.5 and who have completed the requirements listed above will receive the designation “Bellavance General Honors” on their transcripts and diplomas.

Three or four credits from an approved study abroad course can take the place of any HONR 311 course.

The **Honors Outcome Portfolio** consists of papers from at least three Honors courses, as well as evidence of campus citizenship in at least three of the following six categories: Athletics, Community Service and Outreach, Culture and Diversity, International Study, Language Proficiency, and Leadership (more information available online and in this *Handbook*).

## **STAYING IN THE PROGRAM**

To remain in the program, students must maintain a GPA of at least 3.0. Graduation with honors requires a cumulative GPA of 3.5. First-year students whose GPA falls below 3.0 will be allowed to stay in the program for one semester longer on Honors probation. If, by the end of this period, their GPA has not risen to 3.0 or higher, students must schedule an individual conference with the Honors Director to discuss their continued status in the program.

Students may sit out of Honors courses for one semester, as long as they inform the Honors Director of the need to do so. Students who sit out of Honors courses for longer than one semester may retain their Honors status only by contacting the Honors Director and explaining how they will complete their Honors program requirements in their remaining semesters here. Priority registration for the following semester is available ONLY to students currently enrolled in Honors classes.

All Honors students who are not enrolled in an Honors course in a particular semester must register their name with the Director at the beginning of the semester. Failure to do so will result in removal from the Honors program. Students who wish to leave the Honors program are asked to notify the Honors Director. Students leaving the program may have general education credit for the Honors courses they have taken and are welcome to come back as guests for Honors events and parties.

An academic integrity violation in any course will result in the student's automatic removal from the Honors program and all associate privileges.

### ***ENCYCLOPEDIA HONORARIA***

Samuel Taylor Coleridge tried to come up with a logical way of organizing all knowledge for the ill-fated *Encyclopedia Metropolitana*, but more successful publications simply use the alphabet. The following is an alphabetical list of terms you will likely encounter in the Honors program.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Academic integrity is central to Honors education. Always give credit where it is due: cite your sources with great care. Where you do not cite, you imply that the words or ideas are your own—if they are not, the result is a violation of academic integrity. If you ever have questions about how to cite or what credit should be given where and for what, ASK! Please refer to the ‘Academic Integrity’ section of the current SU *Catalog* and to the “Policy on Student Academic Integrity” in the SU *Student Handbook* for further specifics.

Any student found guilty of an Academic Integrity Violation will be removed from the Honors program.

**ACTIVE:** See **Staying in the program** (pg. 8).

**BASEMENT:** An inhabited story sunk below ground level. Also the location of the pool table, foosball, ping pong, and a stereo. It is a great place to unwind and play some games.

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION:** If you graduate meeting Honors requirements with a GPA between 3.2 and 3.49, you will receive a

certificate of completion in recognition of your hard work and commitment.

**CHECKLISTS:** These are available for each curriculum at [www.salisbury.edu/honors/checklist](http://www.salisbury.edu/honors/checklist) and in this *Handbook* (6-7).

**CODE OF CONDUCT:** We do have one....can you find it in this *Handbook*?

**COURSE BROCHURE:** We have new faculty designing courses for Honors students every semester, so we publish a description of the courses just before pre-registration. It is distributed in Honors classes and also available in the Honors Center. It is online at [www.salisbury.edu/honors/courses](http://www.salisbury.edu/honors/courses).

**HONORS CONFERENCES:** Each semester Honors students and faculty from all over the United States meet to give research presentations, discuss Honors program activities, and to have a not-quite-forgivable amount of fun. In the fall, it's the National Collegiate Honors Conference (NCHC) and in the spring, the slightly smaller Northeast Regional Honors Conference (NRHC) and the a-little-bit-smaller-again Maryland Collegiate Honors Council (MCHC). Students can share their research, discuss their extra-curricular programs, and participate in round-tables, parties, etc. The Honors program often pays for some of its students to come along. Students with research or creative projects to present, or administrative ideas to share, should ask the Honors Director about applying.

**HONORS CENTER:** This comfy house is available to enrolled Honors students who abide by the **Honors Code of Conduct**. It boasts a

kitchen, baby grand piano, small computer lab, comfortable TV lounge, ping-pong and pool tables, and plenty of study space. It is occasionally decorated by the HSA for seasonal festivities. It's located across from Admissions, at the corner of Camden Avenue and Loblolly Lane. (Prospective students and families feel free to drop by!)

**HONORS ELECTIVES:** Our courses change every semester and are taught by invited faculty who share their interests on a wide range of topics in discussion-based seminars. Recent courses have included seminars on energy, the history of children's literature, Darwin, conservation, politics and film, and 19th century British literature (with a spring break excursion to the UK). If you see a course that interests you, take it—it might not come again.

**HSA:** The Honors Student Association. A body consisting of all enrolled Honors students, governed by elected officers (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, social director, first-year representative, etc.). Meetings are open to all Honors students almost invariably include free pizza. The HSA runs most of the events mentioned elsewhere in this *Encyclopedia*.

**JUNIOR RESEARCH/CREATIVE PROJECT:** Honors students complete a research or creative project in an upper-level course of their choosing (this does not have to be an Honors course) and present their research or creative project at one of several annual symposia available. Students can work on a new project of interest to them and choose a faculty mentor to guide their research. This one-credit, pass/fail course (HONR 312) enables the Honors Directors to monitor the progress of this work. This can lead to a **thesis**.

**KITCHEN PRIVILEGES:** Use of the Honors House kitchen is one of the privileges of Honors House access. Please label food that you leave in the fridge, don't eat other people's food (or food being stored for a future Honors event!), and leave the counters and dishes that you use clean (or in the dishwasher). Students who can't follow these guidelines will have their Honors House access suspended.

**MIND SHRAPNEL'N' COOKIES:** A series of campus colloquies. A speaker or presenter is invited to introduce a topic for 15 or 20 minutes, and then all present are invited to discuss it for the remainder of the hour. Past topics have ranged from the origins of the "Great Recession" to global warming. Student researchers, faculty, and visiting speakers can all present in this series. We welcome suggestions for topics. Cookies are intended to entice those who might be scared off by the "mind shrapnel" part of the title.

**MOVIE NIGHTS:** An HSA-organized series of screenings in the TV lounge. There are good movies, weird movies, funny movies, foreign movies—you will see them all. Host a movie night yourself—talk to HSA officers about doing so. Popcorn provided—and sometimes dinner coinciding culturally with the movie, too.

**OLYMPICS:** Inaugurated in spring 2007 as the brainchild of Alex Solak and under the HSA's efficient charge, this epic activity includes speed Sudoku, egg-and-spoon races, Pictionary, three-legged races, and a hot dog eating contest, among other memorable intellectual and physical challenges. Combined with free cookout food, this is a great way to relieve stress on reading day.

**OPEN MIKE (MIC?) NIGHTS:** Honors students often get together to share their muses and amuse one another with readings of original poetry, prose, and songs, etc.

**OH MY GOSH:** If life comes at you sideways or you are finding yourself over your head here on campus, PLEASE share what's going on with the Director. We probably can't fix everything—but we might be able to refer you to people who can . . .

**OUTCOMES PORTFOLIO:** A requirement of all Honors students. It's a way for you to record your Honors achievements here at SU and to reflect on your growth as a campus citizen in three of six possible categories (Athletics, Community Service and Outreach, Culture and Diversity, International Study, Language Proficiency, and Leadership). For the three chosen categories, you should submit 500-or-so-word narratives reflecting your participation. In the portfolio, you should try and keep examples of your best Honors work. You are required, prior to the end of the fifth week of the semester in which you plan to graduate, to have AT LEAST three assignments, from three different Honors classes, in the electronic folder created just for YOU on the K drive (that's three total examples for you mathematically-challenged folks), along with the three campus citizen narratives. You should also post a resume. The work you choose should demonstrate your range as a scholar at SU. Pick pieces that best represent your writing, critical thinking, and research skills—as well as (possibly) your creativity and individualism. You can also post your Honors thesis. More information about it is on the honors website.

**PRIORITY REGISTRATION:** If you are currently taking an Honors course and are in the Honors Program, then you will get priority registration. That means that your registration appointment is bumped earlier so as to allow you overachieving folks to get all the classes you need!

**ROTH THESIS PRIZE:** Inaugurated by John and Mary-Claire Roth in honor of their daughter, Ellen, in 1999, this cash prize is awarded annually at spring convocation to the Honors student author of the best Honors thesis of the previous calendar year.

**SERVICE LEARNING:** The HSA also participates in service learning opportunities. We've had students help with events for the local community (such as helping clean up the Salisbury Zoo) as well as more wide-reaching efforts (such as knitting squares for blankets for refugees. Yes, you can learn to knit!). PLEASE share your ideas for charitable events/activities we can do—and join in the ones we have planned!

**THE SAUNTERER:** Each semester the Honors program publishes a newsletter containing stories from current students, snippets from alumni, humor, poetry, news, course listings, etc. We are always interested in good content, so sharpen your pencils (or fire up your printers) and bring your stuff to a *Saunterer* meeting. Past issues are online.

**THESIS:** An in-depth research or creative project, which (like riding a bicycle) is a lot scarier before you do it than during or after (HONR 495). Students take the one-credit HONR 490 the semester prior to writing their thesis, and this allows for forming a thesis committee and beginning the research process. Students can write their thesis as their major's research course (if offered). Past theses are kept on file in the Honors House.

**TRIPS:** Each year the Honors program sponsors one or two trips to a BIG CITY (New York, D.C., etc.) to see a play or go to museums. A deposit to secure your theatre ticket or place on the bus may be required. Once you have reserved your seat with a deposit, you are responsible for going on the trip, finding a replacement if you cannot go, or paying the total cost of the activity. So take and keep your spot! Depending on the state of the Honors budget, we may have to charge a small fee. Typically, however, we are able to offer these trips for FREE!

**WEB SITE:** A good chunk of this information is online at [www.salisbury.edu/honors](http://www.salisbury.edu/honors). We update the site frequently, so keep checking back! Checklists and course descriptions are available here, along with lots of fun photos and extremely helpful academic info.

**WEEKLY E-MAIL:** Sent out at the start of each week during the semester, this e-mail keeps you informed of current events in the Honors program and pertinent cultural events on campus too. It is a VITAL source of information for all things Honors, so never hit delete when you see it. Read it and be the first to get the dish!

**WHALL HONORS AWARD FOR WRITING EXCELLENCE:**

Dr. Tony Whall led the newly formed Honors program for 27 years. He has since retired, but to recognize Dr. Whall's decades of service teaching writing to first-year honors students, we award the annual Whall Honors Award for Writing Excellence to a first-year Honors student. Professors forward the best essays from each class with first-year students in it for consideration each year.

## **BELLAVANCE HONORS CENTER CODE OF CONDUCT**

All enrolled Salisbury University students in good standing are eligible for the privilege of access to the Honors House after hours for study during the fall and spring semester.

This privilege is dependent on agreeing to and following the rules below, and may be revoked at any time.

### **1. I will ensure the security of the Honors House. I understand and agree that:**

**1.1 Access:** I must not give anyone else my GullCard to enter the honors House after 5 PM, and I will not open (or leave open) the door for anyone else. I will check that the door is locked upon entering and leaving.

**1.2 Guests:** I understand that I may bring one non-honors SU student as a guest to the Honors House as a study partner. No guests who are not enrolled students at SU are allowed after hours. I will accompany my guest at all times, and he or she will leave the house when I do. My SU guest will also follow the rules of the house, and I will be responsible if he or she fails to do so.

### **2. I will treat the property of the Honors House with respect. I understand and agree that:**

**2.1 Kitchen:** If I use the kitchen I will leave the kitchen clean and tidy. If the kitchen is a mess I will email this fact to honors staff at the time I found it. I will dispose of trash and recyclable materials appropriately. I will not eat or drink in the computer lab or at the piano. I will follow the rules posted in the kitchen.

**2.2 Bicycles:** Are NOT to be brought into the Honors House.

**2.3 Second Floor Computer Lab:** I will follow the rules posted in the computer lab, especially those granting priority to academic uses of com-

puters, and will make sure the windows are closed before I leave.

**3. I will respect my fellow students and treat the Honors House as a shared space. I understand and agree that:**

**3.1 Sleep:** I will not sleep in the Honors House.

**3.2 Noise:** I will ensure that my activities in the Honors House do not interrupt the quiet needed for study by my peers.

**3.3 Civility and Legality:** Alcohol, tobacco, sex, or illicit drugs are not allowed in the Honors House or anywhere on the grounds of the Honors House.

**3.4 Events:** Any social event must be booked through the Honors Program Management Specialist, who will inform university police of the allowed social event. Events must be supervised by a faculty member or an approved, paid student worker who understand the responsibilities of supervising the event.

**3.5 Other Matters:** I realize that all of the policies of the SU Student Handbook and the SU Code of Conduct concerning student behavior apply to me while I am using the Honors House.

**4. Responsibility:** By signing the code of conduct, I confirm that I understand and will abide by the regulations above. I undertake to preserve the security and safety of the Honors House. I will report any breach of security, altercations, or missing or damaged property to Honors staff. I will work with my Honors student peers, as well as faculty, staff, and campus security to keep the House a secure and enjoyable place to share.

**5. Consequences:** If I disregard these regulations, I may have my Honors House access revoked, and I may be removed from the Honors program. The process for finding responsibility for breaking these and other university rules, and the appeals process, will follow the disciplinary procedures described in the Student Handbook.

Salisbury  
*UNIVERSITY*