

# Thomas E. Bellavance Honors Program

The Thomas E. Bellavance Honors Program at Salisbury State University offers superior students the opportunity to study together in small discussion-oriented classes which encourage and enable them to become independent learners and active seekers of knowledge rather than merely passive recipients of another person's ideas.

The goal of the program is to provide Honors students with courses offering intellectual breadth as well as depth, and to cultivate in them a desire for the pleasure of active and independent thinking and learning.

## Admission

High school students possessing a combined SAT score of 1250 and a grade point average of 3.25 automatically receive an invitation to apply for admission.

SSU students possessing a grade point average of 3.0 after taking 24 hours of college credits are eligible for admission to Honors courses and to the Bellavance Honors Program.

Transfer students who have been active in an Honors Program at the college from which they transfer will be admitted upon request to SSU's program. Those coming with no Honors background will be considered for admission after completing 24 hours of coursework at SSU with a minimum grade point average of 3.0.

For further information, contact Dr. Raymond Whall, (410) 546-6902.

## Curriculum

The program offers a variety of courses to satisfy the needs and interests of all Honors students. All courses are available to all students admitted to the program. Some of them, as explained in the next section, are required for students intending to graduate with Honors.

## Honors Core Curriculum Courses

There are four courses in the Honors core curriculum which, typically, students take during their first four semesters in the program:

### **IDIS 111-Honors Core Course I—Critical Thinking and Writing**

Examines the processes for developing and supporting arguments with clear, unambiguous language and methods for evaluating the soundness of arguments.

### **IDIS 112-Honors Core Course II—The Western Intellectual Tradition I**

The scrutiny of major intellectual texts which have shaped Western civilization, from classical Greece to the Renaissance.

### **IDIS 211-Honors Core Course III—The Western Intellectual Tradition II**

A continuation of the examination of major texts of Western culture, from the 17th century to the present.

### **IDIS 212-Honors Core Course IV—Scientific Knowledge**

Analysis of problems in science. Students study how scientific research leads to insights which foster scientific progress, and what methods scientists employ to judge the validity of their insights.

## Honors Courses from Designated Departments

Each semester the Bellavance Honors Program's course brochure lists two or three courses offered by various departments—music, math, biology, etc.—which are designed to satisfy General Education requirements while providing students with Honors credit and the Honors experience of small discussion-centered classes with other highly motivated, intellectually curious students.

## Honors Interdisciplinary Seminars

These courses, mostly at the 300- or junior-year level, address topics that transcend individual disciplinary boundaries and hence are most profitably examined from a number of different perspectives. Sometimes these courses are team-taught by two or more faculty from different departments; sometimes they are directed by a single faculty member who calls upon the expertise of several guest lecturers; very often they are directed by a single faculty member who selects texts from several disciplines to help students explore the topic from various disciplinary perspectives. These seminars are designed to be of interest to Honors students from a number of disciplines.

## Honors Thesis and Honors Thesis Preparation

The Honors Thesis (IDIS 495) is a three-hour course of independent study which culminates in substantial work of original research and scholarship.

The Honors Thesis Preparation (IDIS 490) is a one-credit course of independent study designed to get the thesis project under way.

## Curriculum Requirements for Graduating With Honors

Students desiring to graduate "Bellavance Honors - With Distinction" will complete the following program requirements:

Core Courses (must be taken in sequence)	Credits
IDIS 111 Critical Thinking and Writing (Core I) .....	3
IDIS 112 Western Intellectual Tradition I (Core II) .....	3
IDIS 211 Western Intellectual Tradition II (Core III) .....	3
IDIS 212 Scientific Knowledge (Core IV) .....	3

If at the completion of the “core” curriculum students have achieved a grade point average of 3.0 in the core as well as in their coursework overall, they are invited to complete the next phase of the program leading to “Bellavance Honors - With Distinction”:

	<b>Credits</b>
Department Honors Course .....	3
(Typically, two departments are invited to offer Honors courses each semester. These courses are advertised in the course brochure published by the Bellavance Honors Program each semester before preregistration.)	
IDIS 311 Honors Interdisciplinary Seminar .....	3
IDIS 312 Junior Year Honors Research/Creative Project .....	1
(Students will complete a research or creative project in a 300-400-level course of their choosing [this does not have to be an Honors course] in their junior year, and they will present their research or creative project at one of several symposia available for such presentations. This one-credit pass/fail course will enable the Honors Program director to monitor the progress of this work.)	
IDIS 490 Honors Thesis Preparation .....	1
IDIS 495 Honors Thesis .....	3
(To fulfill this requirement, the Honors thesis, completed in a student’s major, typically in the senior year, will be presented at the annual Honors Thesis Symposium.)	

Students graduating with a minimum grade point average of 3.3 and who have completed the requirements listed above will receive the designation “Bellavance Honors - With Distinction” on their transcripts and diploma.

Students desiring to graduate “Bellavance Honors” will complete the following program requirements:

<b>Core Courses (must be taken in sequence)</b>	<b>Credits</b>
IDIS 111 Critical Thinking and Writing (Core I) .....	3
IDIS 112 Western Intellectual Tradition I (Core II) .....	3
IDIS 211 Western Intellectual Tradition II (Core III) .....	3
IDIS 212 Scientific Knowledge (Core IV) .....	3

If at the completion of the “core” curriculum students have achieved a grade point average of 3.0 in the core as well as in their coursework overall, they are invited to complete the next phase of the program leading to “Bellavance Honors”:

	<b>Credits</b>
2 Department Honors courses .....	6
(Typically, two departments are invited to offer Honors courses each semester. These courses are advertised in the course brochure published by the Bellavance Honors Program each semester before preregistration.)	
IDIS 311 Honors Interdisciplinary Seminar .....	3
IDIS 312 Junior Year Honors Research/Creative Project .....	1
(Students will complete a research or creative project in a 300-400-level course of their choosing [this does not have to be an Honors course] in their junior year, and they will present their research or creative project at one of several symposia available for	

such presentations. This one-credit pass/fail course will enable the Honors Program director to monitor the progress of this work.)

Students graduating with a minimum grade point average of 3.3 who have completed the requirements above receive the designation of “Bellavance Honors” on their transcripts and diplomas.

### Honors Courses and General Education Requirements

The four Honors core courses can satisfy a maximum of 12 hours of the 45 required for General Education *if all four courses are taken in sequence*. Students and advisors should remember, however, that if students choose—after taking one, two, or even three Honors core courses—not to take all four, the core courses already taken become elective courses, and the General Education requirements the students assume they had satisfied with the core courses must now be satisfied by taking other General Education courses.

### General Education Requirements for Honors Students

<b>Group I—15 credit hours</b>	<b>Credits</b>
<b>A.</b>	
ENGL 101 Principles of Composition .....	3
ENGL 102 Principles of Literature .....	3
IDIS 211 Western Intellectual Tradition II (literature requirement) .....	3
<b>B.</b>	
Art, Communication Arts, Dance, Modern Languages, Music or Philosophy .....	3
IDIS 111 Critical Thinking and Writing .....	3
<b>Group II—15 credit hours</b>	
<b>A.</b>	
HIST 101 World Civilizations .....	3
HIST 102 World Civilizations .....	3
<b>B.</b>	
Anthropology, Economics, History, Human Geography, Political Science, Psychology or Sociology (six credit hours in two disciplines) .....	6
IDIS 112 Western Intellectual Tradition I .....	3
<b>Group III—12 credit hours, four courses</b>	
<b>A.</b>	
Laboratory Sciences: Biology, Chemistry, Geology-Physical Geography or Physics (six credit hours in two disciplines) .....	6
<b>B.</b>	
IDIS 212 Scientific Knowledge .....	3
<b>C.</b>	
One mathematics course .....	3
<b>Group IV—three credit hours</b>	
PHEC 106 Personalized Health/Fitness .....	3