PARK UNIVERSITY
Honors Academy

Featuring Honors Plus One
Serving Those Who Serve Their Community and Country
with Personalized, Globally-Relevant Education for Life.
The mission of the Honors Academy at Park University is to empower qualified students to apply critical thought in an exploration of academic excellence, service, and leadership, with a goal of employing those three essential elements as tools to help shape their local and global communities.
What is the Park University Honors Academy?

The Park University Honors Academy, featuring Honors Plus One, is a program of studies and activities that lead to success for the academically exceptional scholar. From the moment you walk onto the University’s Parkville Campus, the Honors Academy will help you find the best fit for your future. Academy faculty fellows and staff, many of whom are published scholars and well-known professionals in their fields, will help guide your exploration. You will receive personal attention to propel you toward goals including internships, study abroad, prestigious scholarships, graduate school and a career.

As part of Honors Plus One, you will:

• Receive scholarships for qualified Honors curriculum
• Enjoy qualified study abroad scholarships
• Immerse yourself in portfolio design
• Complete research that supports conference presentation, admission to graduate school, and employment
• Interact and network within your community through service
• Receive special transcript and diploma recognition and earn a weighted GPA
• Receive support for application for summer undergraduate research opportunities and distinguished scholarships, including the Rhodes, Udall, Truman, Fulbright, Davies-Jackson, and Mitchell
How Will the Honors Academy Plus One Program Benefit You?

The Park University Honors Academy Plus One program allows students to explore possibilities for their future fit into their local and global communities, whether via graduate school, employment, or service and leadership. Honors Academy scholars focus first on the liberal arts education that will support independent investigation and research. Scholars also focus on an emphasis via the Plus One Program, unique to the Park University Honors Academy to develop a portfolio supporting work and graduate study. Those areas include:

**Applied Learning** – Scholars complete service learning and/or internships and other applied learning activities under the guidance of a faculty fellow or staff member.

**Scholarship** – Scholars pursue conference presentations of their research, assist faculty fellows in their research, seek publication opportunities, learn about grants funding for scholarship and pursue at least one grant funding opportunity, with assistance from Park’s grant-writing staff.

**Peer Research Mentoring** – Scholars help plan the University’s annual Student Research and Creative Arts Symposium, and additional presentations about research. Seniors help instruct sophomore Honors Academy courses and serve as mentors for undergrads developing research projects.

**Leadership and Service** – Scholars focus on service throughout all four years of Honors Academy involvement. Students help plan Honors Academy events, work with entities like Park’s Hauptmann School for Public Affairs to develop leadership opportunities, participate in leadership and service activities on campus, in the community and at a national level, and pursue internships with state and national organizations.
I would like to mention how grateful I am for all of the opportunities I was given throughout my time in the Honors Program and as a scholar at Park. I fondly remember the first day I discussed joining the program. It seems like it was a long time ago, and I’ve come so far from where I was then.
Global Focus – All Honors Academy participants are encouraged to complete the Park University Global Proficiency Program, and activities within Plus One areas will contribute earned points toward completion of the program. Scholars also enjoy study abroad opportunities with qualified financial support. Scholars have studied abroad in China, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Greece, Mexico, Poland and Spain. “Honors Plus One” assists you to go global!

“I really enjoy Athens…Everyone who works at the school is extremely helpful and kind. I am so grateful the Park University Honors Program has opened the door for this opportunity in my life.
– Valerie Eckert

“My study abroad experience to the Czech Republic, Germany and Poland was one of the most incredible, educational, entertaining and eye-opening experiences of my life. I gained more of a global and cultural perspective from my 12 days in Europe than during my entire first year of college.
– Brady Hanssen

“Studying abroad turned the world into my classroom. Through my summer abroad, I connected with new people, new ideas, and a new way of examining other cultures as well as my own.
– Daniel Pfeiffer
On many occasions I have been approached by scholars who are interested in participating in the program. I explain to them that this program provides an outlet to explore the realm of possibilities that lay beyond the traditional courses at Park. I believe that research is a vital aspect to my degree, and I am extremely thankful that I have been given this wonderful opportunity!
About Park University

Founded in 1875 in Parkville, Mo., a suburb of Kansas City, Park University is a comprehensive, independent institution that is a national leader in higher education. In 2000, Park achieved university status and now serves more than 22,600 students annually at 40 campus centers in 21 states and online.

Serving an ethnically diverse student population and non-traditional adult learners is central to Park’s educational mission. And Park continues to increase access to higher education by offering the quality undergraduate and graduate degrees students desire at locations, times and delivery formats that best serve their needs. In recent years, Park has been ranked as the No. 1 value among private colleges and universities by Parents & Colleges, an online resource for parents of college-bound students, as well the seventh most affordable private university/college in the nation, and first in the Midwest, for tuition and fees, according to U.S. News and World Report.

Providing such access has developed considerable diversity among the student population, with more than 650 international students from 96 countries, and a 48 percent student representation from racial, ethnic and cultural groups typically underrepresented in colleges and universities. Park also maintains a long-standing relationship with the U.S. military for which it has been recognized as one of the largest providers of online undergraduate education to military learners worldwide.

Park’s Promise: Serving those who serve their community and country with personalized, globally-relevant education for life.
The instruction, guidance and support of the Honors Program has greatly contributed to my success and academic achievement at Park University, and has prepared me to conquer the challenges that I will face in the professional world.
Applying to the Park University Honors Academy, Featuring Honors Plus One

Scholars who compete for the Presidential Scholarship and the Park McAfee Scholarship automatically qualify for inclusion in the Honors Academy. Other scholars who meet the qualification of a minimum 25 composite ACT and a 3.5 GPA may complete an application at www.park.edu/honors. Presently enrolled Parkville campus scholars are also invited to apply; please see the website for qualifications.

**May Transfer Students Apply?**
The Program particularly values our transfer students, who bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to their Honors efforts. Application is simple. At the website, find the application for Transfer Students, complete it online, and then press “Submit.” If you participated in Phi Theta Kappa, you don’t even need to furnish a recommendation! The Honors Director who receives your information will contact you to discuss your beginning with Honors research. You’ll complete your degree with a personally-designed research project in hand.

“Applying for and accepting the Fulbright has definitely opened up endless opportunities for me, especially in professional development.
– Esther Frances
I thoroughly enjoyed my participation in the Honors Program and deeply appreciate the faculty’s continuous willingness to help guide scholars to reach their full potential in the world of education.
How Do Honors Academy Scholars Find Their Best Fit?

Park University’s Honors Academy offers its scholars abundant supplies of faculty and staff energy, motivation, exposure through “Honors Plus” and inspiration. However, only you, the Academy scholar, can find your fit. Thus, you are encouraged to apply for opportunities that will best assist you to reach your goals. Below are examples of recent scholar accomplishments.

• Essay publication in the honors journal, Aisthesis
• Killam Fellowship, awarded by the Canadian Fulbright Commission, to study abroad in Canada
• Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst/German Academic Exchange Service Undergraduate Scholarship to study abroad in Germany for a semester
• NASA Quality Control of Doppler Radar Wind Profiler Database Internship at Marshall Space Flight Center
• Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association
• Research Experience for Undergraduates for nanomaterial research at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana
• Department of Molecular Biology and Lewis-Siglar Institute Summer Undergraduate Research Program at Princeton University
• University of Pittsburgh Undergraduate Research Program in Cellular and Molecular Pathology
• Internship as a junior research analyst with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
• Newman Civic Fellow Award
• Boe Research Award from the Great Plains Honors Council
• Scholar Career Experience Program opportunity with the U.S. Center for Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Services in Kansas City
What a wonderful experience I had at the Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program in Washington D.C. It was full of fun, inspiration and networking. I even had the opportunity to give my honors research proposal to a lead scientist in my field who will review it with other scientists in his office and send me feedback!
Can You Remain Active on Campus While Part of Honors?

Members of Honors are among the most active on campus. Awards and Honors include the Parkite Award for the student who best represents the ideals of Park, including participation in activities, service, and academics; the People to People International 2011 University Chapter Leadership Award recognized at the PTPI Board of Trustees meeting in Brussels, Belgium; and the Doris Howell Leadership award as well as the award for non-graduating senior. Park also offers varied service activities that include service trips out-of-state as well as in the local community with groups including Operation Breakthrough; Hillcrest Transitional Housing; and the Kansas City Zoo.

“Being involved on campus has opened my eyes to the people, school, and wonderful opportunities that surround me. Being involved not only helps build one’s resume but one gets to know so many different students - students from across the nation and students from across the world - with whole life stories and experiences to share from which we all can grow. The best part is it’s all been fun; I’ve grown exponentially from the first day that I came to Park University, and the Honors Program started it all for me.

– Cody Croan
I believe that the confidence I have gained, which has earned me this position, stems from my experiences at Park and the Honors Program. So far, I have been able to utilize my skills as an English Writing Major, my photography hobby, networking, as well as design skills which I gained while working as Editor of the Scribe. If I hadn’t been involved at Park, I really do not believe I would have thought myself up to the task of this position.
What About Graduate School and Internships?

Honors students have recently been accepted to graduate schools that include:
• Washington University
• Washington University Law School
• The London School of Economics
• Columbia University (NYC)
• University of Pittsburgh Law School
• University of Missouri at Kansas City
• Creighton University
• The University of Bridgeport

Scholars have been selected for diverse internships, with groups that include:
• Deloitte
• The Secret Service
• Kansas Parks and Wildlife
• The U.S. Department of Immigration
• The FBI
• Northwestern Mutual Financial Network
• The Belger Art Center
• Cerner
• U.S. Department of Commerce
• U.S. Commercial Service-Kansas City
• People to People International

Two Honors students have served internships in both the local and Washington DC offices of the Honorable Sam Graves, Congressman of Missouri’s Sixth Congressional District.
Not only am I able to see the real-world application of all that I learned in my international business perspectives class, but I am learning even more about international commerce. It is exciting to get to work with companies, encouraging them to think globally, and helping them expand their company internationally. I look forward to what the rest of the semester will hold!
Academy Courses

Honors courses support your selection of an academic major, assist you to create an Honors action plan and allow you to engage in service learning and leadership activities that will illustrate the importance of your community, both local and global.

During the first four semesters you will participate in academically challenging courses designed especially to encourage your independent thought; creativity; and the application of critical thinking. Most of these courses, such as LE100 for Honors, fulfill Liberal Education course requirements.

During the following three semesters, you design research exploration of a subject that allows you to express your passion and looks forward to your choice of employment or graduate education.

“Honors has been an absolutely rewarding experience. I learned so much from the program academically as well as personally. Additionally, because of the program I was able to achieve many leadership positions and received several scholarships.
– Amiran Gelashvili
"The research project I completed for the Honors Program course helped me to leap over the other applicants. I have even been told that I beat out master’s degree candidates for the research assistant position. Not bad for someone who didn’t have a bachelor’s degree yet."
Admission Requirements for the Honors Academy

High school scholars must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 and an ACT composite score of 25 or a SAT score of 1260. Park scholars already enrolled must have completed a minimum of one semester at Park earning a 3.75 cumulative GPA. In order to remain in the Honors Academy, scholars must maintain a 3.75 GPA and make satisfactory progress toward graduation and completion of the independent project.

Application Process for the Honors Academy

To apply to the Honors Academy, high school seniors should complete an application to Park University. In addition, they must complete a program application. Scholars awarded the Presidential and Park McAfee Scholarships need not complete the online application. Electronic applications are available at www.park.edu/honors. Apply early, as positions are limited. Present Park University scholars may be admitted as openings allow. Park scholars should contact Academy director Virginia Brackett, Ph.D., at virginia.brackett@park.edu or (816) 584-6818.
The highly structured and disciplined format of the program has provided me with the opportunity to gain experience in working on a long-term project, setting and achieving goals, and obtaining academic excellence.
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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