

**W**hen you're an academic star, we want to provide you with even more opportunities to broaden and enrich your undergraduate education at Concordia University Chicago.

If you did well in high school or at your community college, or you're doing well now at Concordia Chicago, you're a candidate for the Honors Program. Learning never disappoints, and acquiring new insights about our world and ourselves is endlessly enriching and exciting. Doing so by means of an intentional emphasis on the development of critical thinking skills is what the Honors Program at CUC is all about.

### **What opportunities are available to me in the classroom?**

The Honors Program provides enhanced educational experiences including:

- Special honors courses
- Study abroad programs
- Independent senior honors projects
- Church, community and University service

We feel an obligation to not keep our learning to ourselves! Whether investigating contemporary environmental problems through field-testing soil and water samples, contemplating the history of Biblical interpretation, studying the semiotics of the theatre or understanding the Holocaust through listening to survivors, Honors Program classes and activities will provide you with an imaginative and intellectually challenging approach to learning. In turn, we share what we learn.

The Honors Program is designed to enhance your college experience through a 12-credit hour program taken over the course of your CUC career. Initially, you'll take a one-semester course, "Introduction to Honors: Critical Thinking."

Subsequently, you may choose from options including "Seminars in the Disciplines," study abroad/semester-away opportunities and student-designed independent study Senior Honors Projects. Honors students who choose the project option work closely with individual faculty mentors and are encouraged to present their work to the Concordia community.

### **What opportunities are available to me outside of CUC's classrooms?**

The city of Chicago IS your classroom! To provide opportunities for personal growth and enrichment, the Honors Program makes use of Chicago's rich cultural diversity and resources. Trips and activities to museums and theatre productions, concerts and sporting events are available. In addition, we ask that students contribute to their own education and development and to the well-being of others by devoting a portion of their time to community service. We ask that you give 30 hours of service to the Church, the community or the University.

When you successfully complete the academic and service requirements for the Concordia Honors Program and attain a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or better, you will graduate with the distinction of being a Concordia Scholar.

### **What does it mean to be a Concordia Scholar?**

Students successfully completing the requirements for the Honors Program graduate as Concordia Scholars receive a bronze medallion on a ribbon of maroon and gold to wear with their caps and gowns at Commencement. Notation of participation in the Concordia Honors Program is documented on your final CUC transcript—a valuable distinction for future employers and graduate schools.



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The Honors Program really is a special experience. The special classes that I took emphasized discussion and individual learning. The customizable aspect of the program is a unique aspect—allowing students to choose classes, projects and experiences that interest them. It's refreshing to be part of a program that so completely allows students to follow their own interests and learn with like-minded students.

—Christi Zimmer Hawn '08, Honors Program student

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### Our faculty

Various members of the faculty participate in the Honors Program—as classroom instructors, seminar leaders, honors project mentors or members of the Honors Council Governance Committee.

The program is directed by Dr. Marilyn Moehlenkamp. For more information, Dr. Moehlenkamp may be reached at 708-209-3129 or [Marilyn.Moehlenkamp@CUChicago.edu](mailto:Marilyn.Moehlenkamp@CUChicago.edu).

### Career Services

As you explore your career options, our Office of Career Services helps you find internships to suit whatever career direction you plan to take after graduation. We partner with the Illinois Small College Placement Association and CareerRookie, which provide us with extensive databases of internships, jobs and resources to help you shape your future.

To learn more about the Office of Career Services visit [www.CUChicago.edu/career\\_services](http://www.CUChicago.edu/career_services).

### How do I apply?

The Honors Program is open to students who have demonstrated exceptional academic and personal abilities. Freshmen with a 26 or better ACT achievement score or 1160 or better on the SAT and a cumulative high school grade point average of 3.7 or better will automatically be invited to submit an application.

Incoming freshmen who do not meet these criteria but who demonstrate exceptional academic potential also may be invited to apply. Additionally, if you have completed a semester of work at Concordia with a 3.5 GPA, you may apply with the support of two faculty recommendations.

An application consists of two forms: an Honors Program Application and a Teacher Recommendation. The first is to be completed by the applicant and returned to the Office of Undergraduate Admission. The second is to be filled out by a teacher familiar with your achievements and academic potential, and also must be returned to the Undergraduate Admission Office.

Submitting an application to the Honors Program does not constitute acceptance into the program. The program director will review the materials and invite the most qualified students to participate. Once a final decision has been made, applicants will be informed of that decision.

### What courses will I take?

The 12-semester hour Honors Program includes:

#### CHP-2960 Intro to Honors: Critical Thinking

This course is an introduction to intentional critical thinking through a content-focused study. Recent offerings include “Fiction as History” and “Lessons from Monsters.”

#### CHP-3960 Honors Seminar: Issues in the Disciplines

This is a topics and readings course using critical thinking to focus on an issue of current significance within one of four discipline areas: sciences and math; humanities and the arts; social and behavioral sciences; and theology and philosophy.

#### CHP-4960 Senior Honors Project

A student-designed independent study for senior honors students, under the direction of a faculty mentor and in consultation with the Honors Director. The project may be in your major, minor or in another area of interest. A creative presentation of findings to the University community is expected at the conclusion of the program.

### How about a semester away?

CUC offers several possibilities for students to enhance their studies outside the University.

Students can participate in the Lutheran College Washington Semester (LCWS), sponsored by 13 Lutheran universities and colleges, which offers a full semester of credit including coursework and internship experiences that introduce students to the range of governmental activities in Washington. Internships include work in museums, executive and congressional offices, as well as public and private agencies.

Students wishing to broaden their experience in another country are encouraged to enroll in a study abroad program. CUC partners with universities around the world to offer unique experiences based on the student’s major and interests.

Honors students participating in the LCWS or the study abroad program have the opportunity to earn credit towards the Concordia Honors Program.

For more information about these programs, contact Dr. Hayes of the Department of History, Political Science and Philosophy at [Robert.Hayes@CUChicago.edu](mailto:Robert.Hayes@CUChicago.edu).