



# Honors Student Handbook 2025-2026



*The mission of the Weatherford College Honors Program is to foster the intellectual, creative, and personal growth of innovative and curious students by offering an advanced curriculum based on inquiry and research and dedicated to lifelong learning and leadership.*

## 1. Honors Admission Requirements

Honors Program Eligibility Requirements:

- Acceptance to Weatherford College
- 3.33 GPA (high school or college)
- TSI Complete
- Full time student (enrolled in 12+ hours)

Since motivation and persistence are significant factors in determining academic success, interested students who fall slightly short of the requirements may still apply and may be admitted at the discretion of the honors program committee.

### Admission Process

- [Apply for admission](#) to Weatherford College.
- Apply to the WC Honors Program via application on the [website](#)
- The Honors Admissions committee will consider your application and either: deny your application and give feedback, contact you for an admissions interview, or accept your application, via WC e-mail
- If you are contacted for an admissions interview, you will be notified via WC e-mail regarding acceptance status
- If you do not meet one or more of the admissions standards, you may be offered **provisional admission** to the Honors Program. In this case, you will have one semester to satisfy the requirements. At the end of that semester, the admissions committee will evaluate your record and make a decision about permanent admission to the Honors Program. You will be notified of the committee's decision via WC email

## 2. Retention in Honors Program

If admitted to the Honors Program, you will be expected to:

- Maintain a 3.33 cumulative GPA
- Complete at least 1 Honors Course (or Honors Contract) each semester
- Participate in the Honors Seminar Course
- Attend honors program events
- Complete 5-10 community service hours

If you fail to maintain these standards, you will be placed on a one-semester probation and will be required to meet with the Honors coordinator for counseling.

## 3. Honors Coursework

### a. Honors Courses

Honors courses are intended to provide a deeper and more engaging academic experience for students. Each Honors course will be different. In some Honors classes, you may complete additional assignments or cover more advanced concepts than usually taught in that class. Some Honors classes may put more emphasis on student research or on seminar-style discussion. But in every case, expectations will

be high. You'll be expected to attend regularly and to engage with the course in ways that other classes may not require. By applying to the Honors Program, you're signaling your willingness to be held to that higher expectation.

**b. Honors Seminar**

In your first semester of the Honors Program, you will be expected to participate in a weekly Honors seminar, which will introduce you to the Program and to other Honors students. The seminar will also serve as a bridge between your Honors Courses and the Capstone Project you will complete in your last semester. The Honors Seminar is a non-credit course but is nevertheless required for all admitted students.

**c. Registering for Honors Courses**

Honors courses are limited to students admitted to the Honors Program. For that reason, you'll work with a designated Honors advisor to register for those classes. Honors students can register for Honors classes before the regular registration period begins for other classes, and the Honors advisor can help you build the rest of your schedule as well.

**d. Honors Contracts**

In some cases, you may be interested in completing honors-level work in a non-Honors class. In these cases, an Honors Contract may be used. An Honors Contract is an agreement between an Honors student and a professor in a non-Honors course, outlining additional work or expectations that the student could complete in order to gain an Honors designation for the course. **Honors Contracts are only offered for courses included in the [Weatherford College Core Transfer Curriculum](#), unless otherwise approved by the Honors coordinator.** To establish an Honors Contract, you should approach the instructor of the class **no later than the first week of the semester** (before the semester begins is even better). If the professor is willing to offer an Honors Contract, then you and the professor in question will work together to understand the expectations and requirements for the contract. NOTE: Professors are not required to offer Honors Contracts, and all requirements are at the discretion of the professor. The contract will need to be approved by the Honors Committee. The committee can approve the contract, ask for changes or additional information, or deny it altogether.

Honors program students must have completed at least one Honors course before they can attempt an Honors Contract, unless previously authorized by the program coordinator.

To receive Honors credit, you'll need to successfully complete the terms of the Contract and achieve a grade of C or better for your overall course grade.

**e. Courseload**

Because Honors coursework sometimes entails a heavier workload, students are not allowed to attempt more than two Honors courses/contracts each semester, except with prior approval of the Honors coordinator.

**f. Curriculum**

To graduate with Honors, Honors students are expected to complete at least 12 credit-hours in Honors courses or contracts. Most Honors courses will be drawn from the [Weatherford College Core Transfer Curriculum](#). Because the Honors Program is meant to be interdisciplinary, students are encouraged to complete Honors coursework in a variety of disciplines.

**g. Course Recognition**

Students who complete an Honors-designated course with a grade of C or better OR complete an Honors Contract with a C or better will have an Honors designation for that course on their transcript.

**h. Capstone Project**

Engaging with ideas through research is a major component of the mission of the Honors Program, and for that reason, one of the requirements to graduate with Honors is the completion of an independent research project. By the start of the last semester before you graduate (at the latest), you'll need to identify a faculty mentor and propose your Capstone Project to the Honors Coordinator, who will forward it to the Honors Committee for final approval. The committee may accept your proposal, deny it, or suggest changes for resubmission. The project can be the outgrowth of an assignment you completed in an Honors course, or it can represent a new idea altogether. In every case, the Capstone Project will represent a significant investment of time and original research. During the Honors Showcase week at the end of the semester, you'll give a public presentation of your Capstone Project. You will also be expected to submit a written version of your Project to Canvas.

For more information on Capstone Projects, see the relevant documents posted on the [Honors Program website](#).

**4. Graduation with Honors**

**a. Honors Graduate Designation Criteria**

To be designated as an Honors Graduate, you must:

- Complete at least 12 credit hours of Honors course or contracts (minimum of 1 course/contract each semester)
- Complete the Honors seminar course
- Complete at least 5 hours of approved community service each semester
- Complete an Honors Capstone project

- Maintain a 3.33 cumulative GPA
- Fulfill all other Weatherford College requirements for graduation

#### **b. Distinguished Honors Graduate Designation Criteria**

To be designated as a Distinguished Honors Graduate, you must:

- Complete at least 24 credit hours of Honors course or contracts (minimum of 1 course/contract each semester)
- Complete the Honors seminar course
- Complete at least 10 hours of approved community service each semester
- Complete an Honors Capstone project
- Maintain a 3.33 cumulative GPA
- Fulfill all other Weatherford College requirements for graduation

### **5. Benefits**

#### **a. Scholarships**

The Weatherford College Foundation offers a few scholarships specifically for students accepted to the Honors Program. All Honors Students who apply to scholarships through the Foundation will be considered for this aid. Most Honors scholarships are based on financial need, but some are strictly merit-based. The application for Weatherford College scholarships can be found at <https://wc.edu/paying-for-weatherford/scholarship-opportunities/index.php>.

#### **b. Honors Lounge**

All students in the Honors Program may make use of the Honors Lounge, located in LART 101, as both a social and study space. Open hours for the Honors Lounge are posted each semester. Students are expected to treat the Lounge with respect and to clean up after themselves.

#### **c. Printing Benefit**

All students in the Honors Program receive a \$20 printing credit each academic year. This credit may be used to print in the library or other facilities.

#### **d. Priority Use of Study Rooms**

Students in the Honors Program receive priority access to study rooms in the library. Contact the library staff to make reservations for those rooms.

#### **e. Priority Registration**

All Honors Students in good standing may register during the Priority Registration period each semester.

#### **f. Eligibility for Durant Hall**

Weatherford College sets aside a small number of rooms in the Durant Hall residence hall for Honors Students. Placement in Durant Hall is limited, and being in

the Honors Program does **not** guarantee a room there. Please contact the Honors Program Coordinator if you are interested in living in Durant Hall.

## 6. Contacts

**Honors Program Email:** [honors@wc.edu](mailto:honors@wc.edu)

Please use this email as your primary contact for all correspondence with the Honors Program.

### **Honors Program Coordinator**

Dr. Christi Cook

[ccook@wc.edu](mailto:ccook@wc.edu)

817-598-6324

### **Honors Program Advisor**

Anna Nichols

[anichols@wc.edu](mailto:anichols@wc.edu)

817-598-6463

## 7. Institutional Information

### **a. Weatherford College Student Handbook**

Visit the full Weatherford College student handbook [here](https://live-weatherford-handbook.pantheonsite.io/). (<https://live-weatherford-handbook.pantheonsite.io/>)

### **b. FERPA**

For more information on FERPA, visit the Weatherford College student handbook [here](https://live-weatherford-handbook.pantheonsite.io/ferpa). (<https://live-weatherford-handbook.pantheonsite.io/ferpa>)

### **c. Equal Opportunity**

Weatherford College is an equal opportunity Institution that provides educational and employment opportunities on the basis of merit and without discrimination because of age, sex, race, color, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, genetic information, sexual orientation or gender identity.

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