

The John Nevins Andrews Honors Program

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In 1966 Andrews University determined to offer undergraduate students greater opportunities for intellectual, spiritual, and social development. To reach this goal, it created the honors program to foster an atmosphere that is both intellectually challenging and distinctively Christian.

Starting in '01-'02, the program offered a completely new curriculum. SAGES is a text-based alternative to the standard General Education requirements. It involves 37 semester hours of honors courses and leads to the designation "John Nevins Andrews Scholar" at graduation. Currently some departments are constructing a second option, involving additional study within a discipline, leading to the designation "with departmental honors."

SAGES (Scholars' Alternative General Education Studies)

Reflecting suggestions from students, faculty and alumni for a curriculum based on the study of original texts, independent research, and writing, SAGES provides a series of interdisciplinary courses that reduce General Education requirements for the bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees. Following a year-long introduction to Western civilization and culture, students pursue a series of thematically-organized seminars similar to a "Great Books" approach, though broader in sources and subjects. The track concludes with independent research resulting in a senior project or thesis.

Because SAGES replaces many lower-division courses, admission at the beginning of a college career is advisable. However, transfer and currently enrolled students with demonstrated academic achievement (GPA>3.40) may apply to SAGES and receive individual waivers for some—but not necessarily all—specific courses based on previous academic study. "Guidelines for Transfer Students" is available from the Honors Program to facilitate a smooth transition to SAGES. However, even those admitted as juniors and seniors must complete at least five seminars plus the Research Pro-Seminar and the project/thesis.

Students wishing to transfer out of SAGES should do so at the end of the first year and apply the courses taken towards a standard General Education track. In the sophomore and junior years, SAGES involves significantly different categories of courses than the standard track. These will not replace many of the freshman and sophomore courses required at most universities.

Progress in SAGES. Students in SAGES who fail to enroll in honors courses, or whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.33, will be asked to withdraw from the program at the end of the academic year.

GRADUATION AS A JOHN NEVINS ANDREWS HONORS SCHOLAR

At graduation, the university confers the distinction "John Nevins Andrews Scholar" on students recommended by the Honors Council who display outstanding scholarship, achieve a

minimum overall college and honors GPA of 3.50, and complete SAGES. Titles of the senior thesis or project are listed in the graduation bulletin.

REPLACING GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Because of the integrated and interdisciplinary courses, students completing General Honors will satisfy their General Education requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree with 37 credits of honors courses and 11 credits of mathematics, science, and physical education. The Bachelor of Arts degree requires the identical foreign language proficiency. In each case, the normal requirements are significantly reduced, which frees students' schedules for cognate courses and electives.

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

To encourage excellence within a discipline, a number of academic departments are currently developing a special program for qualified majors. Typically, students enroll for extra credit in specific departmental or other honors courses and complete a research project. "Departmental Honors" requires a minimum GPA of 3.33 and the recommendation of both the student's advisor and chair of the department. Students admitted to the program become Honors Scholars, eligible for the same continuing privileges as those in SAGES, such as independent study, Honors Audits, and membership in the Society of Andrews Scholars.

Progress in Departmental Honors requires a minimum overall GPA of 3.33 and gradual completion of the required honors courses.

GE Requirements: SAGES Honors Track

| Required Registrations | Credits |
|--|-----------------|
| HONS105 Western Heritage I | 5 |
| HONS106 Western Heritage II | 5 |
| HONS115 Transcribing the Self: Honors Composition | 3 |
| HONS215 Scripture | 3 |
| HONS265 Language of the Fine Arts | 3 |
| HONS345 What Is "Other"? The Non-Western World | 3 |
| HONS365 Cosmos | 3 |
| HONS415 Thinking Theologically: Christian Life and Faith | 3 |
| HONS398 Research Pro-Seminar | 1 |
| HONS496/7 Senior Project/Thesis | min. of 2 |
| Plus two courses selected from the following: | 6 |
| HONS225 Materialism and Idealism (3) | |
| HONS245 Meanings of America (3) | |
| HONS325 Justice (3) | |
| Additional Science (disciplinary courses or IDSC321/2) | 6 |
| Math (minimum acceptable level: College Algebra) | 3 |
| Physical Activity Courses (2) | <u>2</u> |
| Total Requirements, Bachelor of Science | 48 |
| Total Requirements, Bachelor of Arts | 48+ 4 |
| | (Int. Language) |

These requirements have been altered for students in the professional degree programs in architecture, the School of Business (BBA), and for education majors and minors.

creative minds from the ancient world to the postmodern era. These themes will include several of the following: articulating the sacred, the quest for knowledge, gender relations, ethnicity and identity, social order and/or violence. Required.

Interdisciplinary Seminars planned for future years:

HONS325 (3)

What is justice? Is it a process, an end result, or both? Using concepts of right and wrong developed by Classical writers, medieval philosophers and recent Christian theologians, this course considers the relationships between justice and religious understandings of human nature and society. It then analyzes selected policies where concepts of justice can or should play a role, and critically examines the practical results of attempts to create greater social justice. An elective.

HONS345 (3)

An introduction to the diversity and commonality of the global human experience and world views as expressed in literature, the arts, religion and other intellectual endeavors with special focus