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JOHN NEVINS ANDREWS HONORS PROGRAM

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L. Monique Pittman, *Director*

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 2001–02, 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.

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 REPLACE 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.

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>3.33) may apply to SAGES and receive individual waivers for some–but not necessarily all–specific courses based on previous academic study. Those admitted as juniors and seniors must complete at least five seminars plus the Research Pro-Seminar and the senior project.

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 General Education 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.

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	Literature and the Arts	3
HONS345	What Is "Other"? The Non-Western World	3
HONS365	Cosmos	3
HONS398	Research Pro-Seminar	1
HONS415	Thinking Theologically: Christian Life and Faith	3
HONS497	Senior Honors Project	min. 2
Life/Physical Sciences (see regular General Education science requirements)		8
Math (minimum acceptable level: MATH 145)		3
Physical Activity Courses (2)		2
Plus two courses selected from the following:		6
HONS225	Materialism and Idealism (3)	
HONS245	Meanings of America (3)	
HONS325	Justice (3)	
HONS380	Topics in_____ (as offered)	_____
Total Requirements, Bachelor of Science		**50**
Total Requirements, Bachelor of Arts (Intermediate Language)		**50+4**
These requirements have been altered slightly for students in some of the professional degree programs (see below).		

GE Requirements: Professional Degree Programs

Degree	Alteration in SAGES	Other Reductions + Cognates
BSA	Reduced by 1 elective (3 cr) Reduced HONS365	Math increased—4 cr Science reduced—one course
BBA	Reduced by 1 elective (3 cr) Reduced HONS365	Math increased—6 cr Science reduced—one course Required: RELT390 PSYC101 & SOCI119
BSMLS	Reduced by 1 elective	
BHS	Reduced by 1 elective (3 cr)	Required: PSYC101
BSE	Reduced by 6 credits Take one from HONS265 or 345. Take one from HONS225, 245, 265, 325, 345, 380	Science reduced—one course (Life Science)

Education		
Elementary	Reduced HONS415 Reduced by 1 elective	Add 5 hours religion required for certification
Secondary	Reduced HONS415 Reduced by 1 elective	Add 5 hours religion required for certification

Replacing General Education Requirements

Because of the integrated and interdisciplinary courses, students completing SAGES will satisfy their General Education requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree with 37 credits of honors courses and 13 credits of mathematics, science, and physical education. The Bachelor of Arts degree requires the identical courses and foreign language proficiency. In each case, the normal requirements are significantly reduced, which frees students' schedules for cognate courses and electives.

Admission to The Honors Program

Each summer the honors program admits a limited number of prospective freshmen whose interests and achievements—as portrayed in part by the application essay—suggest they will benefit from participation in SAGES.

Students accepted into honors surpass the following qualifications:

- A minimum overall GPA of 3.50 on all secondary credits
- Scores of 25 on the ACT or 1200 on the SAT.
  Recognizing that for some students either high school grades or standardized test scores may not satisfactorily predict the potential for academic success in college, a small number of students who show considerable promise on one measure but not the other may be admitted to the program upon the director's discretion.

Admission for Transfer and Currently Enrolled Students

Applications are welcomed from currently enrolled students and transfer students who wish to participate in the program. Successful applicants demonstrate an interest in Honors and possess at least a B+ average on all college courses. Application forms are available in the Honors Office and on the Honors website.

Society of Andrews Scholars

Students in Honors form a society dedicated to spiritual, social, and intellectual activities outside the classroom. The society's logo depicts hands sheltering the flame of truth, which symbolizes the search for truth by students and faculty together. Excellence, Commitment, and Service is the society's motto. Membership fees and fees charged as part of the honors application process are used exclusively for student activities by the Society of Andrews Scholars. Annual participation in the service/citizenship/leadership program which is organized by the Society of Andrews Scholars, is required to continue in the J. N. Andrews Honors program.

National Honors Societies

The honors program works with the university's 17 departmental national honor societies to coordinate information and enhance their activities. It also works closely with the prestigious interdisciplinary national honor society Phi Kappa Phi which inducts about 30 junior and senior Andrews students each year who meet the rigorous requirements. See Appendix, p. 423.

Graduation Distinctions

Designations are conferred at graduation on students who, one semester before graduation, have completed 30 semester hours at Andrews University with the following overall GPAs:

3.500–3.749	Cum Laude
3.750–3.899	Magna Cum Laude
3.900–4.000	Summa Cum Laude

Honors Audits

To enhance Andrews Scholars' opportunities to learn for the sake of learning, a scholar enrolled full time (a minimum of 12 regular credits) may attend one course free each semester, registering as an Honors Audit (HN), which is indicated on the transcript. Though no credit is earned, an Honors Audit provides a significant opportunity to broaden one's knowledge at no cost even if it forms an overload. Registration for an Honors Audit (HN) should take place during regular registration, and in no case later than the regular drop/add date. Attendance and other regulations for an audit apply.

Courses (Credits)

The inside front cover gives the symbol code.

HONS105, 106 **$ (5, 5)**
Western Heritage
A study of significant issues that emerged in Western civilization, approached through the reading of major works. The first semester's topics involve the era from the ancient world to the Reformation; the second, the Enlightenment to the modern world. In both semesters, spiritual and religious themes are emphasized, and the combined semesters replace one 3-credit religion course. Small-group projects and discussions, field trips, and cultural events enrich the lectures. Required for SAGES during the first year.

HONS115 **(3)**
Transcribing the Self: Honors Composition
What is the entity we call self? How is it formed, reformed, transformed? What role does the "other" play in our determination of self? To what extent is self an independent construct, and to what extent is it socially and ideologically determined? Such questions are addressed through written and oral examination of our own lives and the lives of others as presented in significant texts. Recommended during the first year.

HONS215 **(3)**
Scripture
The reading of Biblical passages chosen for qualities such as centrality to Christian belief, power as literature, and variety of expression. Entire books will be addressed thematically, including Genesis, Job, Romans, and Revelation. A portion of the course will involve the detailed interpretation of a selected section. Required.

HONS225 **(3)**
Materialism & Idealism
Philosophers and prophets often approach wealth with caution

or hostility, but modern culture flaunts status symbols and values self-worth by material accumulation. Considering such differences, readings from Plato to contemporary authors will raise questions about the level of wealth we ought to desire, the thoughtful use of that wealth, and reconciling a Christian life of service with professional success today. Elective.

HONS245 **(3)**
Meanings of America
Examines understandings of American society, culture and physical environment by a variety of observers, including native, foreign and minority, through study of prose, poetry, music, film and the visual arts. Core readings will include works by Jefferson, Tocqueville, Martineau, Douglass, Bourne, Friedan and King. Elective.

HONS265 **$ (3)**
Literature and the Arts
Explores the ways in which visual, musical, and literary arts address the human experience. Through close analysis of primary texts, students become conversant in the distinctive and overlapping discourses of the various art forms. Drawing upon this fine arts literacy, they will examine concerns of primary importance to creative minds from the ancient world to the postmodern era. These themes will include several of the following: the sacred, the quest for knowledge, gender relations, ethnicity and identity, social order and/or violence. Prerequisite: HONS115. Required.

HONS325 **(3)**
Justice
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. Prerequisite: HONS115. Elective. Alternate years (odd years).

HONS345 **(3)**
What Is "Other?" The Non-Western World
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 on the non-Western world. Small group activities, field trips, guest presenters, films and special projects enrich the discussion of significant texts. Prerequisite: HONS106, 115. Required.

HONS365 **(3)**
Cosmos
An interdisciplinary, readings-based course which considers the nature of science and its relationship to other approaches to truth. Selected "key ideas" in science will be examined to explore how science informs our understanding of who we are and our place in the universe. Particular attention will be given to the interplay between Christian faith and science. Prerequisite: HONS115. Required.

HONS415 **(3)**
Thinking Theologically: Christian Life and Faith
A study of the great themes of theology, such as the trinity, original sin, law, grace, faith, Scripture, priesthood of all believers, and free will through the reading and analysis of classic texts by Christian writers. Sustained attention will be given to the philosophical inter-relatedness of these themes and their implications for personal spiritual-ethical formation and social ethics. Prerequisites: HONS115, 215. Required.

HONS380 **(1–3)**
Topics, Independent Study, and Research
Disciplinary and interdisciplinary topics selected for interest and importance. Typically the course revolves around reading, discussion, and individual projects. Repeatable as topics vary. Elective.

HONS495 **(1–6)**
Independent Study (in any department)
Individual study or research of an approved topic under the guidance of an appropriate professor and resulting in an essay, critical review, or other gradable demonstration of accomplishment. Implies 45 hours of work per semester credit. Repeatable to 6 credits. Elective.

HONS398 **(1)**
Research Pro-Seminar
Preparation for the senior project. Expectations for the senior thesis are addressed, including consideration of alternative topics, refining the thesis proposal, the role of literature review, formal public speaking, presentation software, and evaluation. The letter grade assigned reflects the presentation of the project at the Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar; a DG is assigned until then. Required for all juniors.

HONS497 **(2–4)**
Senior Honors Project
Independent research or creative work to produce the Honors Thesis, typically supervised by a professor within the student's major field. The thesis is filed in the James White Library to facilitate wider access. Required.