

# Honors Program: Bylaws

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### **I. Mission Statement:**

The Honors Program at Lake Superior State University exists to enrich the education of eligible students beyond their normal course of study and challenge students academically by offering courses and other learning opportunities, which enhance student perspectives on a variety of topics including culture, arts, science, religion, contemporary issues, and mathematics.

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### **II. Requirements:**

To be in the Honors Program and graduate with an Honors Degree, a student must maintain a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Incoming students may also join the Honors Program, depending on their High School GPA and ACT test scores and may remain a member if they maintain the required GPA after their first two semesters. Students must also complete 21 Honors Credits, including HONR 202 (a sophomore seminar for three credits), HONR 302 (a junior seminar for three credits), and an Honors Senior Thesis (for three to four credits). In addition to the required credits, students earn Honors Credits by taking Honors sections of General Education Courses and other interdisciplinary courses, or they may choose to contract a regular course for Honors Credit and receive Honors Credit by completing significant work beyond the normal course requirements. All Senior Theses and Honors Contract Proposals are subject to approval by the Honors Council, defined in Section III.

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### **III. Honors Council:**

The Honors Council is responsible for upholding the high standards of the Honors Program, and is the formal committee which reviews and implements policy, procedure, and student guidance. The Honors Council consists of three elected officers from the honors student body, the Honors Director, and nominated faculty members. Honors Council decisions are adopted by a majority vote of voting Council members.

The Honors Council meets once a month (e.g., on the second Tuesday) to discuss policy issues, review contracts, plan events, report on the budget, and refresh its perspectives on honors student progress.

The elected student officials, some of whom have a vote on the Honors Council, are as follows:

Student Officials:

Voting Members of Honors Council:

- President (and co-president, if applicable)
- Vice President

Non-voting Member of Honors Council:

- Secretary/ Public Relations (duties may be accomplished by two individuals)

Student Representatives (Not Members of Honors Council):

- A representative from each graduating class, four in total

Elections for student officials take place at the end of the spring semester, and consist of student nominations and voting. Students can nominate peers or themselves and the nominee must accept or decline the nomination. If they accept, their name appears on the ballot. Upon completion of the nominations for candidates in all officer positions, the nominations are closed and an election takes place. Honors students may vote in person, by secret ballot, or by an e-mail.

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#### **IV. Elected Officials**

In addition to the Honors Director and the nominated faculty serving on the Honors Council, there are several elected student officers and representatives. The officers are the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Class Representatives. Of these four, only the President and Vice President are voting members of the Honors Council. The duties of these elected student officials are as follows:

President (or, co-presidents if applicable):

- The President, in conjunction with the Vice President and Honors Director, plans events for the Honors Program.
- The President is responsible for presiding over Honors Student Organization meetings, events, and other activities.
  - These meetings, events, and other activities bring Honors Students together and make them aware of the other Honors Students on campus. They also help students find answers to questions about the Honors Program, and offer forums for broader student participation and input.
- The President serves on the Honors Council as a voting member and reviews Honors Thesis proposals and Honors Contract Proposals.

- The President brings the concerns and suggestions of Honors Students to the Honors Council. In addition, he or she presents own ideas and suggestions for Program improvements, including ways to keep the Program vibrant and its members active.

Vice President:

- The Vice President plans events in concurrence with the President and Honors Director.
- The Vice President serves as a voting member of the Honors Council and reviews Senior Thesis proposals and Honors Contract Proposals.
- The Vice President serves as a proxy for the president in his or her absence and takes over duties of the president if the president resigns.

Secretary:

- The Secretary records minutes of Honors Council meetings.

Class Representatives:

- Class Representatives provide informational support for Honors Students in the same class (e.g., Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior) by letting classmates know of upcoming events, meetings, forums, and requirements.
  - Class Representatives are available to answer questions about the Honors Program.
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