

Ethel Waddell Githii Honors Program

Student Guide

(Updated August 2024)

The E.W. Githii Honors Program Rationale and Mission

Honors Programs can be found across the nation, in high schools and in colleges and universities. These programs share certain features—the first being the expectation of high academic commitment and integrity among the faculty and student membership. We share that expectation. However, Programs are often distinctive according to how they affirm their unique populations, geographies and missions.

The Ethel Waddell Githii Honors Program exists to encourage an intimate, supportive and engaged intellectual environment. As such, it endeavors to cultivate and create spaces that foster a strong sense of connection and community among women of African descent. Women arrive at Spelman College from diverse geographies, economic circumstances and situations. They bring with them different memories and different dreams. The Program believes that it can express the urgency of building and preserving, among diverse Black women, the kinds of environments that have, do and must exist for us to thrive as intellectuals. Our students are in a unique position to produce here and beyond the gates of the College, the environments that we require. Honors expects our students to prioritize their intellectual relationships and balance their academic work with their social engagements.

What makes Githii Honors distinctive? Our program structures and personnel should, whenever possible, reveal ways that students' scholarly / creative research and writing situates them as “insiders,” owners of a powerful African American liberatory tradition of visionaries, scholars, artists, inventors, healers, scientists, public intellectuals and political actors.

The Githii Honors Program strives to encourage interdisciplinary engagement and questioning to embrace an important legacy and reveal the relevance of all our areas of scholarly investigation and production.

Admissions Criterion

Entering First Year students:

Students applying from high school may be invited apply to the Honors Program if they have a demonstrated record of high achievement and whose habits as intellectually curious, committed students are evident in their record of engagement beyond the classroom through their leadership, service, and other commitments. The Honors Program Committee considers this in addition to a formal essay composed in response to a guided prompt. These criteria are routinely evaluated and subject to change.

Academic Year 2024-25. Students with a strong academic record and demonstrated commitment to her own intellectual development will be invited to apply for the Honors Program. Any student that has

achieved a high school GPA of at least a 4.0 will receive an invitation. Prospective Honors Program applicants must apply in the Early Decision or Early Action application rounds. Those who are invited will be required to submit an additional essay, provided in the invitation. The committee looks at the ways that applicants represent a commitment to serious intellectual engagement and a broad consideration of ideas in organizing their responses. We also expect well organized, carefully edited, controlled and thoughtful prose that demonstrates one's readiness to thrive in a single semester of honors composition at the collegiate level. These criteria are subject to change.

In “Good Standing” and Letters of Appeal

Members who wish to graduate with Full Program Honors must be consistently enrolled at the College for at least 12 hours per semester; meet the Program expectations for intellectual engagement and course completion; **maintain a 3.2 annual grade point average, and avoid earning a grade of “F” in any course.**

Students will be notified by the Honors Director if their GPA falls below our requirements. However, a student who is having difficulty in her courses, or who is just not doing as well as she feels she could, should not be silent about her difficulties. We are a community. Consult with your faculty and then with the Honors Director early in your effort to strengthen your work.

In addition to GPA, being in good standing requires habits of engagement in person or through communications with students, faculty, and staff at Spelman College on Zoom, through email, or other social media platforms. All communications should indicate maturity, respect and concern for human dignity, and routine courteousness. **Archival traces of Honors student participation in these ways *must consistently* show evidence of a serious commitment to ethical principles of engagement to maintain “good standing.”**

Students in the Honors Program must also demonstrate *intellectual sovereignty* as a habit of mind throughout her matriculation. **Failing to make progress in this regard can also jeopardize membership in the Program.**

Students who are dismissed from Honors for GPA, habits of engagement infractions through a failure to document intellectual sovereignty or through unbecoming behavior, must meet with the Director and, if it is feasible, request Honors Respite by submitting a formal appeal, in writing. The letter of appeal offers an opportunity to provide the details of your case and why the dismissal should be put on hold.

Anti-Bullying Policy

Introduction

The Honors Program is committed to fostering a respectful, inclusive, and supportive learning environment for all students. Bullying, harassment, and discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated. This policy outlines the program's expectations for student behavior, defines bullying, and outlines the procedures for reporting and addressing incidents.

Definition of Bullying

Bullying is defined as repeated and aggressive behavior directed at an individual or group with the intent to harm or distress. This includes but is not limited to:

- Physical bullying: hitting, kicking, pushing, or damaging property
- Verbal bullying: teasing, name-calling, insults, or threats
- Social bullying: excluding someone, spreading rumors, or damaging someone's reputation
- Cyberbullying: using electronic communication to bully someone, including through platforms like GroupMe

Prohibited Behaviors

In addition to bullying, the following behaviors are prohibited within the Honors Program:

- Discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or other protected characteristics
- Harassment, including sexual harassment
- Intimidation or retaliation against individuals who report bullying or harassment
- Use of disrespectful, offensive, or inflammatory language in any communication, including GroupMe
- Engaging in personal attacks or character defamation

Expectations for Online Conduct

Honors Program members are expected to maintain a respectful and professional tone in all online interactions, including GroupMe. This includes:

- Using respectful language and avoiding offensive or inflammatory speech
- Respecting differing opinions and engaging in constructive dialogue
- Avoiding spreading rumors or gossip
- Refraining from sharing personal information about others without their consent
- Reporting any incidents of bullying or harassment immediately

Reporting Procedures

Students who experience or witness bullying or harassment should report the incident to a faculty advisor, program coordinator, or other designated authority figure. All reports will be taken seriously and treated confidentially.

Investigation and Resolution

Upon receiving a report, the Honors Program will conduct a prompt and thorough investigation. If bullying or harassment is confirmed, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken, which may include but is not limited to:

- Warning or reprimand
- Mandatory participation in conflict resolution or anti-bullying training
- Suspension from program activities
- Dismissal from the Honors Program

Prevention and Education

The Honors Program will implement the following measures to prevent bullying and promote a positive program culture:

- Provide resources and support for students who have been bullied or harassed.
- Create opportunities for students to develop strong interpersonal skills and conflict resolution abilities.
- Foster a culture of respect, inclusivity, and empathy among program members.
- Monitor GroupMe and other online platforms for signs of bullying or harassment.

Evaluation and Review

The Honors Program will regularly evaluate this policy's effectiveness and make necessary adjustments to ensure its ongoing success.

Honors Program Curriculum

The Honors Program curriculum functions within a loose framework of courses intended to bring breadth and interdisciplinarity to our students' perspectives as critical thinkers, questioners, citizens, and future professionals. Course offerings will change from semester to semester, but always with an eye to making important connections to your location within the global picture, and your professional or graduate school plans.

All Honors Program courses and seminars fulfill College core curriculum or graduation requirements.

Required Courses:

CORE

¹ENG 193: Honors First Year Writing

PHIL 191: Honors Philosophy

INTERDISCIPLINARY ELECTIVES: All students who wish to graduate with Honors will select two 300-400 level elective courses in addition to the CORE courses.

¹ Students will take ENG 193 either in the first or second semester, based on available space. **Only required by Transfer students if the college has not accepted composition credit.**

²Two Honors elective courses

Honors Thesis Research or Portfolio equivalent

All students who wish to graduate with Honors will prepare an Honors thesis or Portfolio equivalent. Many major departments have an internal thesis sequence, which satisfies the requirements of the Honors Program.

ENG 193 – HONORS FIRST YEAR COMPOSITION (4)

A spectrum of writing experiences from analysis to argument to criticism. Emphasis on readings and extended research from literature and nonfiction prose.

PHI 191 – HONORS PHILOSOPHY SEMINAR (4)

An introduction to ancient and modern philosophy. Designed to be intensive. Critical study of six of Plato's Dialogues (representing the ancient) and Descartes' Meditations on First Philosophy (representing the modern).

HONORS ELECTIVES (8)

A wide range of Honors electives across disciplines challenge and engage students. These electives are seminar-based courses specially designed by leading Spelman faculty. They are characterized as rigorous, writing and critical thinking intensive, interdisciplinary in content and/or approaches, as well as international or global in scope. Available courses updated on the webpage.

HONORS ELECTIVE OPTION

The Honors Elective Option, or H-Option, is an elective option that allows students to work with a faculty member of their choice inside of a course at the 300+ levels and for Independent Studies courses that they are taking to make it an honors elective option. Concerning the latter, students in the Natural Sciences who use the Independent Study option for summer courses and verifiable research and internship experiences may more readily recognize the relevance of how the independent study pertains. Students must present the H-Option form and the course syllabus to the Honors Program Director for approval no later than the fourteenth day (14) of the course semester. If approved, students would need to earn at least a "B" in their H-Option experience for it to count towards satisfying Honors elective credit.

SENIOR REQUIREMENT: To receive college-wide honors, students may complete a traditional thesis **or** the Honors Portfolio Project.

HONORS THESIS RESEARCH—OPTION I

Your research is departmentally supervised and approved. Advising for your senior research takes place throughout your four years of study.

OR

HONORS PORTFOLIO — OPTION II

Seniors are tasked by the college with completing the Core Curriculum Assessment by the conclusion of the Spring term. Ethel Waddell Githii Honors Program students choosing the Portfolio project must complete the Core Curriculum Assessment with an obligation to report on how five artifacts selected for the portfolio showcase the influence of being a member of the Honors Program. One of the artifacts must be an original, beyond the classroom project.

Domestic Exchange and Study Abroad

As an enrichment program, the EWGHP complements traditional experiences for domestic exchange and study abroad. EWGHP students are strongly encouraged, in fact, to pursue opportunities for domestic exchange and study abroad for enrichment purposes. Through these experiences, students can expect to extend their opportunities to participate in Habits of Mind activities through co-curricular engagement while away. In addition, once students have satisfied their major requirements through domestic exchange and study abroad, they might also seek approval from the EWGHP Director to satisfy one EWGHP Honors Program Elective. Students requesting approval for domestic exchange or study abroad courses to satisfy Honors Elective requirements must obtain the form from the EWGHP Coordinator.

Honors Program Enrichment Program

The character of notably engaged intellectuals reveals a capacity for introspection and curiosity. Honors requires students to make evident the quality of their inner lives through an engagement with activities that sets in relief this inner world. *A signature feature of the Ethel Waddell Githii Honors Program, then, is that it is designed to assist you in making independent choices beyond the classroom that showcase seriousness of intellectual purpose.* Every student must make satisfactory progress to remain in the Honors Program.

Overview

- Promote academic agency
- Encourage intellectual sharing
- Shape scholarly behaviors

Competencies Developed

- Leadership
- Career Exploration

- Critical Thinking
- Cultural Awareness
- Effective Communication (oral/written)
- Intellectual Curiosity (writing publications/critique works)

Activity Categories

- Academic Enrichment
 - Engage in scholarly events like lectures, conferences, workshops, etc.
- Cultural Exploration
 - Immerse yourself in diverse cultures through performances, exhibits, and community engagement.
- Career Development
 - Explore career options through workshops, internships, and networking events.

Point System

- Points are awarded for participation in various activities.
- The specific point value for each activity may vary.
- A minimum number of points is required each year to remain in good standing.

Satisfactory Progress Requirements

Grade Level	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Freshman	50 points	60 points	70+ points
Sophomore	45 points	50 points	60+ points
Junior	40 points	45 points	55+ points
Senior	35 points	40 points	45+ points

Bronze level meets minimum requirements, Silver level exceeds minimum requirements, and Gold level demonstrates exceptional engagement.

Tiered Criteria

Bronze Level (Minimum Participation)

- Attendance at a minimum number of required activities.
- Completion of basic reflective journal entries (e.g., summarizing activity, personal thoughts).

Silver Level (Increased Engagement)

- Attendance at a higher number of activities.
- Submission of more in-depth reflective journal entries (e.g., analyzing activity impact, connecting to course material).
- Evidence of initial engagement in extracurricular activities related to program goals.

Gold Level (Advanced Achievement)

- Exceptional attendance and participation in a variety of activities.
- Submission of high-quality reflective journals demonstrating critical thinking and synthesis.
- Active leadership or collaboration in program-related initiatives.
- Evidence of applying knowledge gained from activities to academic or personal life.

Assessment Criteria

Tier	Criteria	Weight	Points
Bronze	Attendance at activities	1	2
Bronze	Completion of reflective journals (basic)	1	2
Silver	Attendance at activities	1	4
Silver	Completion of reflective journals (in-depth)	2	4
Silver	Evidence of initial engagement in extracurricular activities	1	4
Gold	Attendance at activities	1	7
Gold	Completion of reflective journals (high-quality)	2	7
Gold	Active leadership or collaboration	2	7
Gold	Evidence of applying knowledge	2	7

Point Value Scale for Academic Enrichment Activities

General Guidelines:

- **1-2 points:** Low-commitment activities requiring minimal time or preparation.
- **3-5 points:** Moderate-commitment activities involving some research or preparation.
- **6-8 points:** High-commitment activities requiring significant time and effort.
- **9+ points:** Exceptional activities with substantial academic or intellectual merit.

Activity Categories and Point Values

Honors Program Events

- Attending Honors Program events (lectures, workshops, social gatherings): 1-2 points
- Participating in Honors Program leadership roles: 3-5 points
- Organizing Honors Program events: 5-7 points

Applying for Prestigious Scholarships and Awards

- Researching and identifying potential scholarships and awards: 2-3 points
- Developing scholarship applications and essays: 4-6 points
- Winning a scholarship or award: 8-10 points*

*Note: It's essential to consider the time commitment, level of competition, and prestige of the scholarship or award when assigning point values. For instance, a highly competitive national scholarship with a rigorous application process might warrant a higher point value than a local scholarship.

Academic Conferences and Workshops

- Attending a general interest conference or workshop: 2-3 points
- Presenting a paper or poster at a conference: 6-8 points
- Organizing a conference or workshop: 9+ points

Research and Scholarship

- Undergraduate research project: 5-8 points
- Publication of research findings: 9+ points
- Participation in a research grant or fellowship: 7-9 points
- Submission of Honors thesis or Presentation of portfolio project: 8-10 points

Academic Competitions

- Participation in academic competitions (e.g., Model UN, debate): 3-5 points
- Placing in an academic competition: 6-8 points
- Winning an academic competition: 9+ points

Academic Enrichment Courses

- Taking an honors or advanced-level course beyond your major: 2-3 points
- Completing an independent study or honors contract (H option) in a discipline outside your major: 5-7 points

Academic Organizations

- Membership in an academic honor society: 1-2 points
- Leadership role in an academic organization: 3-5 points
- Evidence of engaged participation in academic honors society: 6-8 points

Faculty Mentorship

- Meeting regularly with a faculty mentor: 2-3 points
- Collaborating on a research project with a faculty member: 5-8 points

Online Learning and MOOCs

- Completing an online course or MOOC: 2-4 points
- Earning a certificate or credential from an online course: 4-6 points

Information Literacy and Library Engagement

- **Obtaining a library card:** 1-2 points (Low-commitment, but essential for accessing library resources)
- **Checking out a book related to academic interests:** 1-2 points (Encourages independent reading and research)
- **Completing a library research tutorial or workshop:** 2-3 points (Demonstrates engagement with library resources and skills)
- **Creating a research bibliography using library databases:** 3-5 points (Involves research and information evaluation skills)
- **Developing a research proposal using library resources:** 5-7 points (Requires in-depth research and critical thinking)

Museum Visits and Engagement

- **General museum visit:** 2-3 points (Encourages exploration and cultural enrichment)
- **Museum exhibit review or reflection:** 3-5 points (Demonstrates critical thinking and analysis)
- **Volunteer work at a museum:** 5-7 points (Involves community engagement and time commitment)
- **Curating a museum exhibit (mock or real):** 7-9+ points (Requires research, creativity, and project management)

Performing Arts

- Attending performances (theater, musical, opera, dance): 2-3 points
- Participating in a performing arts group or ensemble (per year): 5-7 points

Visual Arts

- Visiting galleries/museums (beyond dedicated category): 2-3 points
- Attending exhibitions/festivals: 2-3 points
- Taking art classes/workshops: 3-5 points
- Creating original artwork: 4-6 points

Cultural Festivals and Celebrations

- Attending cultural festivals: 2-3 points
- Participating in cultural celebrations: 2-3 points
- Volunteering at cultural events: 3-5 points

Literary and Intellectual Events

- Attending author talks/book readings: 2-3 points
- Participating in book clubs/reading groups: 2-3 points
- Attending poetry slams/spoken word events: 2-3 points
- Participating in philosophy/debate clubs: 3-5 points

Other Cultural Experiences

- Taking language classes: 3-5 points
- Studying abroad: 7-9 points
- Traveling to culturally significant locations: 5-7 points
- Volunteering with cultural organizations: 5-7 points

Career Exploration and Planning

- Career counseling or advising session: 1-2 points
- Career assessment or personality test: 1-2 points
- Creating a professional development plan: 3-4 points
- Job shadowing or informational interview: 3-5 points

Internship and Co-op Experiences

- Completing an unpaid internship: 3-5 points
- Completing a paid internship: 4-6 points
- Holding a leadership position in an internship: 6-8 points
- Co-op experience: 6-8 points per semester

Professional Development Workshops and Conferences

- Attending a career-related workshop or seminar: 2-3 points
- Presenting at a career-related workshop or conference: 5-7 points
- Organizing a career-related event: 7-9 points

Professional Certifications and Licensure

- Preparing for and taking a professional certification exam: 4-6 points
- Obtaining a professional certification: 6-8 points

Volunteer Work and Community Engagement

- Volunteer work related to career goals: 2-4 points
- Leadership role in a volunteer organization: 4-6 points

Networking and Professional Relationships

- Attending professional networking events: 2-3 points
- Developing a professional mentor relationship: 4-6 points

Remember: These point values are suggestions and can be adjusted based on the specific requirements and goals of the Honors Program. The quality and depth of involvement when assigning points will be determined through an assessment of the reflections.

Reflective Prompts for Each Activity by Tier

Bronze Level (Minimum Participation)

- **Basic summarization:** What activity did you attend? Who was involved? What was the main topic or theme?
- **Personal reaction:** How did you feel about the activity? What did you find interesting or challenging?
- **Connection to coursework:** Can you connect any of the ideas from the activity to a course you

are taking?

Silver Level (Increased Engagement)

- **Deeper analysis:** What were the key points or arguments presented in the activity? How did these ideas challenge or expand your thinking?
- **Personal growth:** How did this activity contribute to your personal or academic development? What did you learn about yourself?
- **Application:** How can you apply what you learned from this activity to a real-world situation or problem?

Gold Level (Advanced Achievement)

- **Critical evaluation:** What were the strengths and weaknesses of the activity or event? How could it have been improved?
- **Synthesis:** How does this activity connect to other experiences or knowledge you have gained? Can you identify any patterns or trends?
- **Impact:** How has this activity influenced your goals and aspirations? What steps will you take to build on this experience?

Activity Categories and Point Values with Tiers

Category	Activity	Point Value	Tier
Honors Program Events	Attending Honors Program events (lectures, workshops, social gatherings)	1-2 points	Bronze
Honors Program Events	Participating in Honors Program leadership roles	3-5 points	Silver
Honors Program Events	Organizing Honors Program events	5-7 points	Gold
Applying for Prestigious Scholarships and Awards	Researching and identifying potential scholarships and awards	2-3 points	Bronze
Applying for Prestigious Scholarships and Awards	Developing scholarship applications and essays	4-6 points	Silver

Applying for Prestigious Scholarships and Awards	Winning a scholarship or award	8-10 points	Gold
Academic Conferences and Workshops	Attending a general interest conference or workshop	2-3 points	Bronze
Academic Conferences and Workshops	Presenting a paper or poster at a conference	6-8 points	Gold
Academic Conferences and Workshops	Organizing a conference or workshop	9+ points	Platinum
Research and Scholarship	Undergraduate research project	5-8 points	Silver
Research and Scholarship	Publication of research findings	9+ points	Platinum
Research and Scholarship	Participation in a research grant or fellowship	7-9 points	Gold
Research and Scholarship	Submission of Honors thesis or Presentation of portfolio project	8-10 points	Gold
Academic Competitions	Participation in academic competitions (e.g., Model UN, debate)	3-5 points	Bronze
Academic Competitions	Placing in an academic competition	6-8 points	Silver
Academic Competitions	Winning an academic competition	9+ points	Gold
Academic Enrichment Courses	Taking an honors or advanced-level course beyond your major	2-3 points	Bronze
Academic Enrichment Courses	Completing an independent study or honors contract (H option) in a discipline outside your major	5-7 points	Silver
Academic Organizations	Membership in an academic honor society	1-2 points	Bronze
Academic Organizations	Leadership role in an academic organization	3-5 points	Silver
Academic Organizations	Evidence of engaged participation in academic honors society	6-8 points	Gold
Faculty Mentorship	Meeting regularly with a faculty mentor	2-3 points	Bronze
Faculty Mentorship	Collaborating on a research project with a faculty member	5-8 points	Silver

Online Learning and MOOCs	Completing an online course or MOOC	2-4 points	Bronze
Online Learning and MOOCs	Earning a certificate or credential from an online course	4-6 points	Silver
Information Literacy and Library Engagement	Obtaining a library card	1-2 points	Bronze
Information Literacy and Library Engagement	Checking out a book related to academic interests	1-2 points	Bronze
Information Literacy and Library Engagement	Completing a library research tutorial or workshop	2-3 points	Bronze
Information Literacy and Library Engagement	Creating a research bibliography using library databases	3-5 points	Silver
Information Literacy and Library Engagement	Developing a research proposal using library resources	5-7 points	Gold
Museum Visits and Engagement	General museum visit	2-3 points	Bronze
Museum Visits and Engagement	Museum exhibit review or reflection	3-5 points	Silver
Museum Visits and Engagement	Volunteer work at a museum	5-7 points	Gold
Museum Visits and Engagement	Curating a museum exhibit (mock or real)	7-9+ points	Platinum
Performing Arts	Attending performances (theater, musical, opera, dance)	2-3 points	Bronze
Performing Arts	Participating in a performing arts group or ensemble	5-7 points	Silver
Visual Arts	Visiting galleries/museums (beyond dedicated category)	2-3 points	Bronze
Visual Arts	Attending exhibitions/festivals	2-3 points	Bronze
Visual Arts	Taking art classes/workshops	3-5 points	Silver
Visual Arts	Creating original artwork	4-6 points	Gold
Cultural Festivals and Celebrations	Attending cultural festivals	2-3 points	Bronze

Cultural Festivals and Celebrations	Participating in cultural celebrations	2-3 points	Bronze
Cultural Festivals and Celebrations	Volunteering at cultural events	3-5 points	Silver
Literary and Intellectual Events	Attending author talks/book readings	2-3 points	Bronze
Literary and Intellectual Events	Participating in book clubs/reading groups	2-3 points	Bronze
Literary and Intellectual Events	Attending poetry slams/spoken word events	2-3 points	Bronze
Literary and Intellectual Events	Participating in philosophy/debate clubs	3-5 points	Silver
Other Cultural Experiences	Taking language classes	3-5 points	Bronze
Other Cultural Experiences	Studying abroad	7-9 points	Gold
Other Cultural Experiences	Traveling to culturally significant locations	5-7 points	Silver
Other Cultural Experiences	Volunteering with cultural organizations	5-7 points	Silver
Career Exploration and Planning	Career counseling or advising session	1-2 points	Bronze
Career Exploration and Planning	Career assessment or personality test	1-2 points	Bronze
Career Exploration and Planning	Creating a professional development plan	3-4 points	Silver
Career Exploration and Planning	Job shadowing or informational interview	3-5 points	Silver
Internship and Co-op Experiences	Completing an unpaid internship	3-5 points	Bronze
Internship and Co-op Experiences	Completing a paid internship	4-6 points	Silver
Internship and Co-op Experiences	Holding a leadership position in an internship	6-8 points	Gold

Internship and Co-op Experiences	Co-op experience	6-8 points per semester	Gold
Professional Development Workshops and Conferences	Attending a career-related workshop or seminar	2-3 points	Bronze
Professional Development Workshops and Conferences	Presenting at a career-related workshop or conference	5-7 points	Silver
Professional Development Workshops and Conferences	Organizing a career-related event	7-9 points	Gold
Professional Certifications and Licensure	Preparing for and taking a professional certification exam	4-6 points	Silver
Professional Certifications and Licensure	Obtaining a professional certification	6-8 points	Gold
Volunteer Work and Community Engagement	Volunteer work related to career goals	2-4 points	Bronze
Volunteer Work and Community Engagement	Leadership role in a volunteer organization	4-6 points	Silver
Networking and Professional Relationships	Attending professional networking events	2-3 points	Bronze
Networking and Professional Relationships	Developing a professional mentor relationship	4-6 points	Silver

Distinctions

Starting with the graduating class of 2024, honors program students can graduate with distinction levels: Honors with High Distinction (Gold), Honors with Distinction (Silver), or Honors (Bronze). These levels will provide

greater clarity regarding any student's investment in the goals and ambitions of the honors program and thus reflect the quality of a student's participation. The following chart offers guidance on how the quality of a student's participation will be evaluated. Note: the chart is still being developed. Greater refinement will follow.

Honors Program Criteria	Honors with High Distinction (Gold)	Honors with Distinction (Silver)	Honors (Bronze)
Guest Speakers	Takes lead in inviting	Participates on committee	Attends event
Academic Discussions	Plans focus of (public event)	Participates in (public event)	Attends (public event)
Programmatic Collaboration	Spearheads	Participates in articulating	Attends events (may complete surveys)
Awards and Recognition	Wins domestic/international fellowships	Wins local/private/corporate prizes	Applies for scholarships, fellowships, and other prizes
Internships	Completes research project, product/service development, presentation, recognition/awards, leadership role	Secures an internship experience	Applies for an internship
Communication	Communicates effectively in writing, and otherwise, with polish and positive impact	Communicates effectively with polish and positive impact	Communicates effectively with polish and positive impact
Research	Presents research at undergraduate conferences	Submits research for consideration to an undergrad conference body	Attends research conference
Civic Engagement	Engages as a leader in civic life	Actively participates as a political actor with some leadership responsibilities	Votes and values political engagement
Independent Reading	Broadly reads independently selected books and articles	Reads independently selected books and articles within the scope of a discipline	Reads and can communicate its value
Coursework	Routinely enrolls in high level courses and exceeds minimum Honors course requirements	Takes Honors Courses beyond requirements	Meets Honors course requirements

Study Abroad	Studies abroad	Studies abroad	Holds a passport, applies for study abroad
Arts	Routinely discusses, produces, and/or supports the Arts	Discusses, produces, and/or supports the Arts	Recognizes the value of the Arts
Science	Routinely uses Science/Scientific methods to support claims	Uses Science/Scientific methods to support claims	Accepts Science/Scientific methods to support claims
Enrichment	Uses the ARCHE/Domestic Exchange to take courses for enrichment to advance thought	Takes courses through Cross Registration in the AUC or through the ARCHE to support academic interests	Is aware of the opportunities for furthering studies using the ARCHE or AUC Cross Registration

Students will be asked to rate the quality of their participation per semester and the honors program will share this data with department chairs.

The Honors Program Participation Agreement

This Agreement indicates the Honors Program's interest in developing and supporting the intellectually engaged student. The First Year Honors Retreat as well as the Reading Program and discussions are intended to model the kind of diverse intellectual inquiry and curiosity that defines the women of Githii Honors beyond the expected classroom performance, where you should also model the attitude of intellectual engagement, independent thought, questioning and preparation.

Your first year co-curricular activities *are required* to maintain your good standing with Honors Program. Beyond the first year, the Honors Program expects to see its students defining and demonstrating an intellectually engaged, curious, assertive volunteer learner posture. We expect to see you present at important Honors –sponsored events, developmental workshops, and invite your participation in support or development of programming.

First year activities are required. However, if a student reports that she cannot attend the Honors Retreat, or major book discussions, she must give early notice with documented evidence of her conflicting commitment. The student must then apply with the Director for approval of an alternative engagement either prior to the Retreat, or during the first semester. *A student who does not attend the Retreat or the book series and does not demonstrate participation in significant alternatives may be asked to show reasons why she should not be removed from the Honors Program.*

Advising: Honors students in “good standing” have priority registration. Therefore, it is wise to meet early with your academic advisor and/or the Honors Director. For major courses, develop a relationship with your department chair early in your academic career, and/or with other faculty in your major department.

Meet with the Honors Director at least once per year, but more frequent visits may be useful in individual cases to review your first year experience and to discuss your participation in co-curricular activities. Meet with your first-year advisor in your second semester, for early registration.

Records kept in the Director’s office are for the purpose of advising and letters of recommendation, and will be shared with Honors faculty only for purposes of recommendation letters, scholarships, internships, graduate programs, etc.

Co-Curricular Activities: Students may meet with the Honors Director, Academic Advisor, or other mentors throughout the year to discuss progress in courses, and broader matters related to preparations for scholarship application, thesis development, career interests and other matters that relate to student development and long-term planning.

INFORMATION RESOURCES

Subscribe to your Honors website and to departmental resources to keep abreast of opportunities and information relevant to your development and planning.