

Honors

Overview

Except as noted, the opportunities displayed in the following sections are open to all qualified undergraduates. Honors available through the colleges and schools, and the interdisciplinary programs and activities offered by the Undergraduate College, are described in the [Undergraduate Catalog](#).

Marshall, Rhodes, and Truman Scholarships

The Marshall scholarship allows young Americans of high ability to study for a degree in the system of higher education of their choice in the United Kingdom. Each scholarship offers up to two years of postgraduate study. Up to 40 new awards are offered every year in the United States. Students should apply in their senior year. Applications are typically due to the Office of Distinguished and Postgraduate Scholarships in early August.

The Rhodes scholarship is for outstanding students between 18 and 24 years of age on October 1 of the year of application. Students should apply in their senior year. Each scholarship offers two years of postgraduate study at the University of Oxford. Thirty-two scholarships are assigned annually to the United States. Applications are typically due to the Office of Distinguished and Postgraduate Scholarships in early August.

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation awards \$30,000 merit-based scholarships annually to college students who wish to attend graduate school in preparation for careers in government or elsewhere in public service. Applicants must be United States citizens or nationals, or applying for citizenship at the time of application. Truman Scholars receive leadership training, graduate school counseling, preferential admission and merit-based aid at some premier graduate institutions, and internship opportunities with federal agencies. Students who will be seniors the following academic year should apply to the Office of Distinguished and Postgraduate Scholarships in October.

College Scholars

On Honors Day each spring, the University designates outstanding students as College Scholars and Distinguished College Scholars, on the basis of registration and grade point average requirements for courses taken in residence at the University, as specified below.

To be designated a College Scholar, a student must meet all of the following requirements:

- a. The student must be registered as an undergraduate in the current semester. Students who hold a bachelors degree or are registered in-absentia are not eligible.
- b. The student must have completed at least 30 semester hours of coursework in residence at the University, and at least 60 semester hours of college coursework, including transferred work and credit by examination.
- c. The student must rank in the top 20 percent of their class in each college or school in which they are enrolled, based on in-residence cumulative grade point average.
- d. The student must have an in-residence University grade point average of at least 3.50.

To be designated a Distinguished College Scholar, a student must meet one of the following requirements:

- a. The student in each class of each college or school meeting the above requirements for College Scholars with the highest in-residence University grade point average will be designated a Distinguished College Scholar.
- b. All other students in each college or school who meet the first, second, and fourth College Scholar requirements stated above and are also in the top 4 percent of their class in each college or school in which they are enrolled will be designated as Distinguished College Scholars.

A student is ineligible for honors recognition as a College Scholar or a Distinguished College Scholar if, in the last two years prior to the creation of the Honors Day report, the student received final sanctions under Subchapter 11-701 (a)(2)-(a)(14) of the Institutional Rules for:

- (1) academic misconduct and/or
- (2) non-academic misconduct involving warning or higher.

Designation as a College Scholar or a Distinguished College Scholar will be based on eligibility calculations by the Office of the Registrar as of 5 p.m. on the 20th class day of the semester in which the Honors Day Ceremony is held. Students who are eligible for recognition receive invitations to the Honors Day convocation.

Graduation with University Honors

To be eligible to graduate with University honors, an undergraduate must have completed at least 60 semester hours at The University of Texas at Austin. Graduation with University honors is based on the average of all grades earned in courses taken in residence at the University, whether the courses were passed, failed, or repeated. Courses taken pass/fail are counted in the 60-hour minimum, but only letter grades (including Fs in pass/fail courses) are used to determine the grade point average.

The faculty of each college or school determines the percentage of the graduating class of that division to receive honors, high honors, and highest honors and the minimum grade point average for each category, subject to the following requirements:

- a. No more than 20 percent of the May graduating class of each college or school may receive honors, high honors, and highest honors. No more than 10 percent of the class may receive high honors and highest honors. No more than four percent may receive highest honors.
- b. Honors graduates must have a grade point average of at least 3.30 in courses taken in residence at the University.

The faculty may adopt college- or school-wide standards or may designate grade point average and percentage requirements for each program within the college or school, but the percentage of the college or school class receiving honors, high honors, and highest honors may not exceed those above.

Percentage requirements are not applied to August and December graduating classes. The grade point averages established for May graduates are applied to the following August and December classes to determine honors, high honors, and highest honors.

| College or School | Honors | | High Honors | | Highest Honors | |
|------------------------|---------|----------|-------------|----------|----------------|----------|
| | Rank | Min. GPA | Rank | Min. GPA | Rank | Min. GPA |
| School of Architecture | top 20% | 3.30 | top 10% | 3.30 | top 4% | 3.30 |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|--------------|
| McCombs School of Business | top 20% | 3.50 | top 10% | 3.65 | top 4% 3.80 |
| Moody College of Communication | top 20% | 3.465 | top 10% | 3.665 | top 4% 3.865 |
| College of Education | top 20% | 3.50 | top 10% | 3.65 | top 4% 3.80 |
| Cockrell School of Engineering | top 20% | 3.50 | top 10% | 3.70 | top 4% 3.85 |
| College of Fine Arts | top 20% | 3.30 | top 10% | 3.60 | top 4% 3.85 |
| Jackson School of Geosciences | top 20% | 3.30 | top 10% | 3.667 | top 4% 3.867 |
| School of Information | top 20% | 3.30 | top 10% | 3.30 | top 4% 3.30 |
| College of Liberal Arts | top 20% | 3.30 | top 10% | 3.667 | top 4% 3.867 |
| College of Natural Sciences | top 20% | 3.30 | top 10% | 3.667 | top 4% 3.867 |
| School of Nursing | top 20% | 3.30 | top 10% | 3.30 | top 4% 3.30 |
| College of Pharmacy | top 20% | 3.60 | top 10% | 3.70 | top 4% 3.80 |
| School of Social Work | top 20% | 3.30 | top 10% | 3.30 | top 4% 3.30 |

Each grade point average listed is the minimum required for graduation with honors, high honors, or highest honors. Because only a certain percentage of the class may receive honors, the average required for each category may be higher.

In the McCombs School of Business, the Moody College of Communication, the Cockrell School of Engineering, and the College of Fine Arts, a student must have completed at least 60 semester hours of coursework in residence at the University to graduate with University honors.

In the Cockrell School, a student may receive only one bachelor's degree with University honors.

In the College of Fine Arts, to graduate with University honors, a student must rank in the indicated percent of students graduating that semester from their academic unit (art and art history, music, or theatre and dance) and must have no outstanding delay of grade (symbol X). A student may receive only one bachelor's degree with University honors from the College of Fine Arts.

Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma

Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma (ALDPES) are national honor societies that recognize scholastic achievement during a student's first year at The University of Texas at Austin. Both chapters were installed at UT in the 1930s and are now run as a combined chapter. The purpose of ALDPES is to encourage superior academic achievement among students beyond their first year at institutions of higher education, to promote intelligent living and a continued high standard of learning, and to assist students in recognizing and developing meaningful goals for their roles in society.

Membership is by invitation only to students who earn a grade point average of at least 3.50 after completing at least twelve semester hours of coursework in their first semester at the University. Eligible students are notified by the Undergraduate College at the beginning of the spring semester. More information can be found on the [Honors Societies website](#).

Junior Fellows Program

The Junior Fellows Program provides recognition for outstanding students who have completed four semesters, or approximately 60 semester hours of coursework. Chosen annually from the best students across the campus, junior fellows are given the opportunity to participate in independent study and research with distinguished professors of their choice, and to have that research supported by small grants, if necessary. The program is administered by the College of Liberal Arts, but undergraduates in all colleges and schools are eligible to take part. Students who wish to be considered should apply by April 15. Applications are available [online](#).

Phi Beta Kappa

Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest honorary society in America, was founded by students at the College of William and Mary in 1776. The Alpha of Texas chapter was organized at The University of Texas at Austin in 1904. Membership is by invitation only to upper-division students who achieve distinguished scholastic records in disciplines that Phi Beta Kappa designates as liberal arts and sciences.

Students eligible for early membership must have at least 60 hours of credit in residence at The University of Texas at Austin and a 4.0 GPA at the time of the election. Because the chapter seeks to elect no more than 2% of any class for early induction, additional criteria may be added in the future for early election if the number of students obtaining a 4.0 continues to rise.

Students eligible for regular membership as a degree candidate must have at least 60 in residence hours at The University of Texas at Austin, have applied for graduation, and have at least a 3.90 GPA at the time of the election. The exact GPA cutoff varies year to year because PBK seeks to elect no more than the top 8% of students graduating. For this reason, 3.9 is a guideline — not an entitlement to election. (In 2021, for example, the GPA cutoff for election was 3.94).

Students eligible for regular membership as a recent graduate must have at least 60 in residence hours at The University of Texas at Austin, have graduated from UT immediately prior to the most recent election eligibility period, and have at least a 3.90 GPA at the time of the election, but the exact GPA cutoff will be the same as students who are in the graduating class being inducted. For this reason, 3.9 is a guideline, not an entitlement to election.

All eligible students are notified by the Undergraduate College after spring chapter elections. More information can be found on the [Honors Societies website](#).

Phi Kappa Phi

Founded in 1897 at the University of Maine, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest, largest, and most selective honor society for all academic disciplines. The University of Texas chapter was established in 1962. Phi Kappa Phi awards more than \$800,000 annually through graduate and undergraduate scholarships, member and chapter awards, and grants for local and national literacy initiatives.

Membership is by invitation only to the top 7.5 percent of second-semester juniors, the top 10 percent of seniors, and graduate students with a grade point average of 4.00. Students are eligible for membership if they have completed the minimum required hours and have the required grade point average. Eligible students are notified by the Undergraduate College in the spring. More information can be found on the [Honors Societies website](#).

Tau Sigma

Tau Sigma is a national honor society that recognizes the scholastic achievement of transfer students at The University of Texas at Austin. The purpose of Tau Sigma is to recognize and promote academic excellence and involvement among transfer students. The UT Austin Beta Theta Chapter was established in 2007. Tau Sigma members have opportunities to earn scholarships, take leadership positions within the chapter, and serve others at the university and community level while connecting with other academically oriented transfer students.

Membership is by invitation only to students who earn a grade point average of at least 3.50 after completing at least twelve semester hours of coursework at UT Austin. Eligible students are notified by the Undergraduate College at the beginning the spring semester.

University Honors

Each fall and spring semester, undergraduates who complete a full course load and earn outstanding grades are recognized by inclusion on the University Honors list. Each time a student is included on the list, their official record also shows the award of University Honors for that semester. The list is compiled at the end of each fall and spring semester; it is based on the student's work in that semester only. To be included, a student must earn at least 45 grade points and a grade point average of at least 3.50 on courses completed in residence and must have no incomplete grades (symbol X).

Students are notified on the semester grade report of their inclusion on the list.