

The John Nevins Andrews Honors Program

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Malcolm B. Russell, *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 2001-2002, qualified students may choose from two distinct honors curricula. The first, SAGES, is a text-based alternative to the standard General Education requirements. It involves 37 semester credits of honors and leads to the designation "John Nevins Andrews Scholar" at graduation. The second option involves additional study within a discipline, and earns 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.

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

recommendation—suggest they will benefit from participation in SAGES or Departmental honors.

The great majority of students accepted into either honors curricula surpass the following qualifications:

- A minimum overall GPA of 3.50 on all secondary credits
- Scores of 26 on the ACT or 1200 on the SAT.

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.

SAGES: While admission is preferable before regular college courses commence, admission thereafter is possible. See under "SAGES" above.

SOCIETY OF ANDREWS SCHOLARS

Students in Departmental Honors and General 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. Fees charged as part of the honors application process are used exclusively for student activities by the Society of Andrews Scholars.

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 Scholars each year who meet the rigorous requirements. See Appendix, p. 354.

GRADUATION DISTINCTIONS

Designations are conferred at graduation on students who, one

Interdisciplinary Seminars planned for future years:

HONS325 (3)
Justice
 Elective.

HONS345 (3)
What Is "Other?" The Non-Western World
 Required.

HONS365 (3)
Cosmos
 Required.

HONS415 (3)
Thinking Theologically: Christian Life and Faith
 Required.

HONS180, 380 (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.

HONS295, 495 (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.

HONS398 (1)
Research Pro-Seminar
 Preparation for the senior thesis or creative 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 largely reflects the presentation of the thesis or project at the Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar; a DG is assigned until then. A SAGES required course.

HONS497 (2-4)
Senior Honors Research
 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. An approved thesis requires 2-4 semester credits.