UCCS Honors Program – Cohort 2027

Vision

The UCCS Honors Program aims to foster an academic culture for intentional learners who are committed to service and personal growth, while making positive contributions to the local and global community.

Core Values

Central to these aims is an appreciation for Gray Matters, which we understand as the unique perspective, or mindset, that multiple or competing complex views can exist at the same time. Engaging with Gray Matters allows us to appreciate diversity in both ideas and solutions. Gray Matters explores the intersection of the mind and society with a focus on how we think, learn, and live. Topics of discussion are designed to investigate the role of ambiguity in the gray spaces of human endeavor. Honors Program courses anchor the philosophy of our Honors Program, namely, that many, if not all, real-life situations are more accurately characterized as complex or Gray Matters (as opposed to black and white). Students learn adaptability and flexibility through the various Gray Matters interdisciplinary themes from disciplines such as complex systems, leadership, communication and education, history, ethics, philosophy, psychology, mental health, and others.

This commitment to Gray Matters is the foundation of the Honors Program's core values. Honors Program students are encouraged to embed Honors Program core values in their Honors Portfolio (see below).

Honors Program students will strive to embody and promote these core values:

(a) To foster empathy and compassion for people, including oneself.
(b) To embrace the realization that there are always multiple and diverse perspectives.
(c) To recognize that both collective wisdom and individual solutions may be appropriate alternatives in problem solving.
(d) To support diversity, equity, and inclusion of action and thought.
(e) To exhibit open-mindedness, self-reliance, intellectual curiosity, personal responsibility, and integrity.
(f) To promote an understanding of and appreciation for scientific discourse and scholarship.

Learning Outcomes

The Honors Program motivates students who want to broaden their horizons beyond the classroom by promoting their:

- Passion for life-long learning with stimulating peer-group interactions.
- Appreciation for diversity of thought and opinion.
- Development of creative problem-solving skills and analytical thinking.
- Preparation to be outstanding candidates for future education and job opportunities.

- Contributions to the global and the local community.
- Leadership aspirations by including all perspectives in decision making.
- Understanding of Gray Matters, its ambiguity, indeterminacy, diversity, and complexity.

Admission Criteria and Scholarship Eligibility

Approximately thirty $1000/year Honors Scholarships, renewable with tiered increases for a total of four years of scholarship are awarded, by invitation only, to those students who have:

(a) earned a cumulative high school GPA of at least 3.5 preferred but not required.
(b) submitted a required essay (1000 words),
(c) completed an interview with Honors Program representatives.

The Honors Admissions Committee reviews all applications and, by the end of February, selects the invited finalists for a face-to-face interview.

Policy on Transfer Students

Addendum from March 10, 2017

Up to five incoming transfer students may be admitted into the Honors Program in the fall of each year. The deadline to apply for the fall semester is April 15th. Applicants must submit their GPA and a statement explaining why they want to be part of the Honors Program. The Honors Program Admissions Committee will inform these students of their final decision by July 1st.

Admitted transfer students are not eligible for scholarship during their first year in the Honors Program. The following year, they are automatically eligible for the Honors Program scholarship if they meet the program's criteria. Transfer students are not guaranteed four years of scholarship as they are placed with, usually, advanced cohorts based on total number of transfer credits and credits taken at UCCS.

Transfer students must complete the entire Honors Program curriculum. They should enroll in the fall offering of GPS 3010 (Gray Matters) course, instead of GPS 1010 (Gray Matters). Transfer students entering the program with more than 60 credit hours counted towards a degree program can petition to the Honors Executive Committee to waive the requirement of GPS 1010/3010 from their plan of study. The Honors Program expects the equivalent of GPS 1010 has been taken by the transfer student at their previous institution.

Students can review the criteria for their cohort year on the Honors web site. Interested students should contact using their UCCS-email address the Honors Program staff, Associate Director, and Director for further information and instructions.

Student Ambassadors

Any Honors Program student who is in good standing and who has completed a minimum of two semesters in the program is eligible to apply to be an Honors Program Student Ambassador. Student Ambassadors perform a variety of duties, such as supporting setup at

engagement events, mentoring other Honors Program students, helping during class time, and serving as a liaison between Honors Program cohorts and Honors Program staff. Student Ambassadors who successfully perform their assigned duties will automatically satisfy all engagement requirements for that year. Contact your Honors advisor if interested.

Honors Program's Accelerated Masters Pathways (AMP) Ambassadors

Students in the Honors Program have the opportunity to consider pursuing Accelerated Masters Pathways (AMP) as AMP-Ambassadors during the semester they are enrolled in the Conversations about Complexity (HNRS 3011) course. Interested students should send an email to Honors Program AMP Coordinator, Faculty and Staff expressing their interest to pursue a specific AMP. AMP Ambassadors are eligible for additional scholarship funds, as budget permits, which will be added per semester until the student is formally accepted into an AMP program. Once students are accepted into their specified AMP, they are eligible for additional designated scholarship funding as explained on pp. Y.

Plan of Study Requirements and Scholarship Renewal

Students accepted in the Honors Program will have the opportunity to interact with motivated and like-minded peers, who understand that good citizenship includes contributing to society. The Honors Program accepts students from all degree programs and expects our students to complete our curriculum-based plan of study, as described below, in addition to courses in their individual degree programs.

The Honors Program curriculum is designed to be compatible with university requirements. GPS 1010/3010 (Gray Matters) fulfills a requirement for all degree programs. Many of our students embed HNRS 3011 (Conversations About Complexity) into their degree program to fulfill elective requirements and meet general education requirements for Inclusiveness, Navigate, Sustainability, and Writing Intensive courses. Honors 4950/5950 (Portfolio Independent Study) provides flexibility for students' degree programs by allowing students to choose to take this course for 1 to 3 credit hours. Students are encouraged to work with the Honors Program Director if they have questions about the Honors Program curriculum and their degree plan.

Students will graduate with University Honors if they successfully complete the following requirements:

1. Engage in regular one-on-one meetings with Honors faculty advisors. An Honors Program advisor is assigned to each student for the duration of their participation in the Honors Program, and **students are required to meet with their advisor every semester** to assess the progress towards completing the Honors Program Curriculum.

2. Students must take the Honors Program's **Gray Matters course (GPS1010/3010) (3 credit hours), the Honors version of this required first-year seminar**. This course anchors the philosophy of our Honors Program, framing gray matters with complex

systems. During this class, students are assigned to their Honors Program academic advisor.

3. Students must take **Conversations About Complexity (HNRS 3011) (3 credit hours)** ideally during their first year. This course is typically offered in spring and summer semesters and helps students explore ideas for their Honors Program Portfolio (HNRS 4950/5950).

   On a case-by-case basis, students who cannot take HNRS 3011 due to restrictions in their degree plan may petition the Honors Program Director and Faculty to substitute a course.

   Students who do not take HNRS 3011 will be asked to read and produce written commentary on one or more of the core values of the UCCS Honors Program to cover all four designations for this course in the Compass Curriculum framework including completion of the blueprint requirement as the outcome. Details for this additional assignment will be arranged between the student and their Honors program advisor, on a case-by-case basis.

4. Students must take the **Honors Program Portfolio Independent Study (HNRS 4950/5950) (variable 1-3 credit hours)** by the end of their second year at UCCS unless a variation is in place for the student in consultation with their Honors Program advisor and approved by the Honors Program Director. Portfolios can take a variety of forms, including**:** a project, a capstone, a thesis, a document, a piece of art, a framework, a movie, an animation, a poster, or a computer program, a simulation, a 2D/3D game, study abroad, or another form where a student, using topics and tools in their chosen area of study including online gray matters and complex systems resources. Under the guidance of Honors Program advisors, portfolios (1) explain their narrative and understanding about an experience, a problem, a case study, a theater production, a research project, a study abroad experience, or a computer program analysis (2) while also exhibiting an understanding of Gray Matters.

   HNRS 5950 is cross listed with HNRS 4950. Students enrolled in HNRS 5950 must satisfy all HNRS 4950 requirements and, in addition, complete one online course certification in complex systems through Complexity Explorer (complexityexplorer.org).

   Portfolio reports must be submitted to the Honors Program between October 30 and November 15 for the fall semester graduation, or between March 30 and April 15 for spring semester graduation. HNRS 4950/5950 is also offered during the summer with July 5 through July 31 submission dates. Submissions are reviewed by an Honors Program Portfolio mentor, which could be any UCCS faculty (based on student requests) or the student's Honors Program advisor. All portfolios must be reviewed additionally by at least two Honors Program Faculty members. Their feedback must be provided to the student within ten days after the student submits their report.

HNRS 4950/5950 may be taken for 1 to 3 credit hours, based on students' preferences, portfolio scope, and degree program constraints. Students should consult with their designated Honors Program Advisor to determine how many credit hours to take and to identify portfolio readers.

All portfolios are published as part of the Kraemer Family Library's Digital Collection using the portfolio template available on the Honors website or from your Honors Program advisor. All portfolios must be based on proper academic sources and methods and those must be cited by the student.

Other potential venues for publication and presentation include: CSURF (Colorado Springs Undergraduate Research Forum); Mountain Lion Research Day (poster presentation); the annual Summer School of Complexity and ICORE Symposium; regional conferences specific to student majors; and research synthesis/case studies for nursing students. Alternative forms of portfolio presentation will be available to disciplines where emphasis is on visual or performing arts.

5. Students must **maintain a minimum overall cumulative GPA of 3.5 for scholarship renewal each academic year**. Honors Program students whose cumulative GPA is 3.49 or below will undergo extensive review by Honors Faculty in May and June. These students are expected to have an upward trajectory plan for their GPA in place by June 7th. Scholarship renewal is determined on an individual basis as recommended by their designated Honors Program faculty advisor. These students will be required to meet with their Honors Program advisor twice a year.

6. Additionally, to continue receiving their scholarships, students must **participate in Honors Engagement events adding up to at least 6 hours per semester** (i.e. 12 hours per academic year). These events include frequent film showings and discussions, trail clean-ups, social outings, and the Summer School of Complexity and ICORE Symposium which is held in July every year as part of UCCS-Honors Program's Summer School of Gray Matters and Complex Systems. The Honors Program records attendance at these events where there are opportunities to engage with faculty and peers.

   In cases of an unavoidable scheduling conflicts, students may receive permission to count "outside" engagement hours toward their required total. In these situations students should:(1) contact the Honors Program ahead of time, explaining the nature of the scheduling conflict; (2) propose an alternative event; (3) explain how this alternative event (or engagement opportunity) will involve themes, concepts, or ideas valued by the Honors Program, specifically gray matters framed as complex systems; (4) and produce a 2-page written overview and analysis of the event, after attending it. Approval of alternative engagement hours is subject to the discretion of the Honors Executive Committee.

   After April 15th, any student lacking engagement hours will be asked to view online modules and submit a 2-page written overview and analysis of the module to the Honors Program. **The yearly deadline to satisfy all engagement hours is the end of**

Spring semester. Engagement hours must be completed for faculty to recommend renewal of honors scholarships.

7. A Public Speaking course (COMM 2100) is recommended but not required.

Cohort and Scholarship Tier Determination Information

Students can choose to remain with their incoming cohort years for 4 years, *OR* they can take a one-time option to switch to any cohort in the Honors Program for which they meet the requirements. Based on the total number of credits transferred and taken at UCCS, an Honors student, at the *end of their first or second year and by April 15th*, can, in writing, inform the Honors Office that they want to opt for a higher credit scholarship tier based on their number of completed credit hours, thus foregoing the lower-tier scholarship for that year. This option may provide a better scholarship amount for those intending to finish their undergraduate degree in less than the typical four years. In these cases, the Honors Program will review student eligibility and approve the appropriate scholarship tier. For students who begin this path but end up needing a fourth year of support, the Honors Program will honor its four-year scholarship commitment by keeping the lower-tier scholarship amount for the student.

Honors students are eligible for a maximum of 4 years of Honors Program scholarships.

Transfer students. The Honors program pairs transfer students with their cohort based on credit hours. Students with more than 30 credit hours are considered second years; students with more than 60 credits are considered third years; and students with more than 90 credits are considered fourth years. Official credit count is determined by verifying the total of number of transfer credits and UCCS credits a student has when joining the Honors Program. Transfer students do not receive scholarships during their 1st year with the Honors Program. Once a transfer student has completed one year in the Honors Program, they are automatically considered for scholarship tiers based on number of credits in Table A or B in this document. The number of scholarship years with Honors Program are determined by the number of total credits, transferred and at UCCS. For example, a transfer student who joins UCCS with a total 30, 60, and 90 or more credit hours will be eligible for up to two, one and zero years, respectively, years of scholarship.

Budget Permitting. The Honors Program reserves the right to manage its yearly scholarship amounts in a way that maximizes benefits for all cohorts. Based on yearly retention and eligibility data, ideally, the Honors Program will allocate funds using Table A scholarship tiers, using Columns 3-5 scholarship tiers as shown in cohort 2027 scholarship tiers (table below). If the budget does not allow, then the Honors program will use Table B. If the budget does not permit either options shown in Tables A or B, the Honors Program will use Option C, which uses only column 5 amounts, *regardless of grade point*. [1]

[1] If the budget does not permit either options shown in Tables A or B, the Honors Program will use **only** column 5 amounts for all rows.

Accelerated Masters' Program (AMP) Boost Eligibility. Each year, all AMP-enrolled Honors Program students may qualify for additional scholarship funding. All qualifying AMP students will receive the same amount of funding which is determined by the amount of remaining funds available to the Honors Program for an academic year and based on eligibility determined annually after April 15th. *In-depth information about AMP enrollment is detailed further below in this document.*

HP60/90 and AMP60/90 scholarships are mutually exclusive. A student can only receive one of these options at a time.

TABLE A: COHORT 2027 Scholarship Tiers

Column 1	*Column 2*	*Column 3*	*Column 4*	*Column 5*
	Scholarship amount	**Scholarship amount for GPA of 3.5+ *and* required engagement hours**	**Scholarship amount for GPA of 3.0-3.49 *and* required engagement hours *and* upward trajectory requirement, if recommended by Honors Program advisor**	**Scholarship amount for GPA < 3.0 *and* required engagement hours *and* upward trajectory requirement, if recommended by Honors Program advisor**
First-year Cohort regardless of credit hours	$1000			
Second-year Cohort *or* 30 credit hours or more		Progress checks each semester *and* $1500 (AMP Ambassador add [$0-$600])	Two one-on-one advising sessions *and* [0-$1500]	Two one-on-one advising sessions *and* [0-$1000]
HP60: Third-year Cohort *or* 60 credit hours or more, and *NOT* enrolled in AMP		Progress check each semester *and* $2000	Two one-on-one advising sessions *and* [0-$2000]	Two one-on-one advising sessions *and* [0-$1000]
HP90: Fourth year Cohort *or* 90 credit hours or more, and *NOT* enrolled in AMP		Progress check each semester *and* $3000	Two one-on-one advising sessions *and* [0-$2500]	Two one-on-one advising sessions *and* [0-$1000]
HPAMP60: Third year or 60 credit hours, AND enrolled in		Progress check each semester and *$4500*	Two one-on-one advising sessions *and* [0-$3000]	Two one-on-one advising sessions *and* [0-$1500]

UCCS-AMP Ambassador, OR HPAMP90: fourth year and 90 credit hours (AMP90) and ALSO enrolled in AMP (AS budget allows)		(AMP-Boost add [$0-$600]		
An undergraduate student can apply for fifth year scholarship which is for those AMP scholars who have completed six or more AMP credits and need assistance to complete the remaining 6 additional credit hours. Student must be close to both Bachelors and MS degree completion. (As budget allows)		Progress check each semester and $0-$4500	N/A	N/A

Explanation of Columns in Table A

(a) Column 1 indicates the two categories of scholarship which are mutually exclusive.

(b) Column 2 indicates scholarship of Honors Program cohort amount for those students who apply to UCCS Honors Program and are offered admission to the program.

(c) Column 3 represents the scholarship amounts for students (1) whose GPA is 3.5 or higher the end of Spring semester and (2) have fulfilled all of their engagement hour requirements. 85-90% of UCCS Honors Program cohort satisfy the criteria of column 3. Approximately 15% are UCCS-Honors Program AMP Ambassadors who may receive [$0-600].

(d) Column 4 represents the scholarship amounts for students (1) whose GPA is between 3.0 and 3.49 and (2) have fulfilled all of their engagement hour requirements. Students who match with this column meet their advisor once a year with three possible outcomes: (1) Their GPA rises to 3.5 or higher thereby moving the student to column 3 for the following year (approximately 60% of column 4 students); (2) Their GPA remains in the 3.0-3.49 range and they stay in column 3 for an additional year (approximately 30% of column 4 students); (3) Students whose GPA remains in the 3.0-3.49 range for more than two years do not receive additional scholarship funds. Pending completion of engagement hours, they remain part of the Honors program under the "once a cohort always cohort" policy.

(e) Column 5 represents scholarship amounts for students (1) whose GPA is below 3.0 and (2) have fulfilled all of their engagement hour requirements. These students are given

extra advising sessions with at least two UCCS-HP faculty. Students whose GPA remains below 3.0 for more than two years do not receive additional scholarship funds. Pending completion of engagement hours, they remain part of the Honors program under the "once a cohort always a cohort" policy.

(f) A student can receive a maximum of two years of either column 4 or 5 scholarship amounts. In such cases, students will not receive any scholarship in their fourth year. They must fulfill their engagement hour requirements to remain in the program under our "once a cohort always a cohort" policy.

(g) Students who stay in the program without a scholarship are eligible for the Director's Spirit Award honoring their persistence in and support of the "Gray Matters" vision of UCCS Honors Program.

(h) In support of UCCS AMPs and budget permitting, the UCCS Honors Program supports Honors students taking 12 credit hours at the 5000+ level by providing a fifth year scholarship, potential amount indicated in column 3. Fifth year cohorts must fulfill engagement hour requirements during their fifth year as well. They will also sign a SOU (Statement of Understand) again, a mechanism UCCS Honors Program uses to make all entering cohorts part of UCCS Honors Program tradition since 2007.

Good Standing Requirements for Scholarship Renewal

A UCCS Honors student shall not violate other University, College or department-specific rules and policies sufficient for disciplinary action.

To maintain the Honors Program Scholarship, the Honors Program expects students to have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher and completed engagement requirements each academic year. By the end of spring semester, students maintaining a GPA of 3.5 and above, satisfying engagement hour requirements, and making continued scheduled progress, as described in the Program's plan of study, towards completing the Honors Program curriculum, will continue to receive the Honors Program Scholarship for the next academic year. Additionally, these students are required to meet with their Honors Program advisor each semester.

Honors Program students whose cumulative GPA is equal to or less than 3.49 who have completed full engagement hours will undergo extensive review by the Honors Executive Committee in late of May and early June. If they continue, they must show progress towards completing the HP curriculum as indicated in the Program plan of study. These students will be expected to have an upward trajectory plan for their GPA in place by June 7th for scholarship renewal, on an individual basis as recommended by their Honors Program advisor. Additionally, these students are required to meet with their Honors Program advisor twice a year.

Students with a cumulative GPA of below 3.0 and who have completed full engagement hours will undergo extensive review by the Honors Executive Committee in late May and early June, and if they continue, they must show progress towards completing the HP curriculum as indicated in the Program plan of study. These students will be expected to have an upward trajectory plan for their GPA in place by about June 7th for scholarship renewal, on an

individual basis as recommended by their Honors Program advisor. Additionally, these students will be required to meet their Honors Program advisor twice a year.

Students with a cumulative GPA below 3.0 and lacking engagement hours will not receive any scholarship, but they may still complete the Honors Program curriculum if they choose. Any student leaving the Honors Program must do so in writing to the Honors Program Administrator.

5th year AMP scholars:

- Students who have completed at least six credits towards their AMP course credits and are accepted into a UCCS AMP program may be eligible for one additional year (i.e. fifth year) of funding. In these cases, students **must still be enrolled as an undergraduate** student in their bachelors' degree program in order to complete all 12 credit AMP hours by the end of their fifth year. Priority will be given to those ambassadors who cross-pivot[2] from one college to another college's AMP program.
- Regardless of year at UCCS, once a student has completed up to 12 credit hours of AMP prerequisites and course credit, they are no longer eligible to receive any Honors Program AMP scholarship funding.
- Honors Program AMP Program students may choose to replace HNRS 4950 with CS 6000 (Introduction to Computer Science), LEAD 5700 (Introduction to Research and Statistics) or LEAD 5000 (Introduction to Leadership Studies). If these courses are not a good fit in the relevant AMP program, the UCCS-Honors Program AMP Coordinator will help the student to find an equivalent qualifying 5000+ level course.
- Honors students receiving AMP scholarship funding must make a presentation to fellow honors students. The student's advisor will assist the student with their presentation schedule and submission to the Digital Collection of that report following normal procedures in place for HNRS 4950.
- Additional variations may be allowed for those students who cannot fit HNRS 4950 in their normal course curriculum, similar to past practices which UCCS-Honors Program has developed to support all cohorts based on their degree programs requirements.

"Once a Cohort, Always a Cohort"

All cohorts will remain part of the Honors Program with or without scholarship eligibility, as the Honors Program supports the "once a cohort always a cohort" idea. When admitting a cohort, the Honors Program commits to providing the same academic opportunities for all students and is invested in helping students plan their degree program and complete our curriculum. All students who complete our curriculum are recognized in a fall or spring graduation ceremony.

[2] Cross-pivot means that the student is interested in an AMP program which is not in the same department where they are pursuing a bachelors. For example, someone in LAS may pivot to another college's AMP program.

If a student wants to leave the Honors Program, they can do so by informing the Honors Program administrator, in writing or by email, that they no longer wish to be part of the Honors Program.

Graduation and GPA Designations

Students must complete the **Honors Program Intent to Graduate form** (available on the Honors "Forms" web site) within 6 weeks of the start of either the fall or the spring semester. The Honors Program staff sends a customary email reminder about this requirement to students, but it is the students' responsibility to fill out and submit the form.

Students will be recognized with appropriate designations, as outlined below, at the Honors Program Spring or Fall graduation ceremony.

- Students who have a cumulative GPA of 3.75 for all their (four or more) years at UCCS who have satisfied all the academic requirements of their cohort year will be recognized as *Dr. Michael Hackman UCCS Honors Program Scholar*s.
- Students who have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 after their last semester and who have satisfied all the academic requirements of their cohort year, including required engagement hours, will graduate with the *Peak Performer* designation from the Honors Program.
- Students who have a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or above (but less than 3.5) after their last semester and who have satisfied all the academic requirements of their cohort year, including required engagement hours, will graduate with the *Mountain Lion* designation.
- Students who have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above (but less than 3.25) after their last semester and who have satisfied all the academic requirements of their cohort year, including required engagement hours, will graduate with the *Honors Graduate* designation.
- Students whose cumulative GPA is below 3.00 but who have completed all other Honors Program requirements (see Plan of Study above) will graduate with the *Spirit in Action* designation. This designation acknowledges the Honors Program's commitment to the "once a cohort always a cohort" idea.

Accelerated Master's Pathway (AMP) and Graduate Advising

Honors Program students are encouraged to explore the possibility of an Accelerated Master's Pathway and Dual Degrees at UCCS. Interested students should **contact the Honors Program staff, and AMP and Graduate Studies Advisor before April 15th of their second year.** Honors Program advisors will connect the students to existing resources for the AMP program of their choice. The Honors Program AMP and Graduate Studies Advisor coordinates the eligibility of Honors AMP Cohorts by providing the names of students eligible for additional AMP Cohort funds to the Honors Executive Committee (see Cohort 2026 Scholarship amounts). Interested students should also contact their Honors advisor about combining their graduate interests with their portfolio interests.

Honors AMP students are responsible for enrolling in appropriate courses for AMP credits and to be in touch with their graduate program advisors from specific graduate fields. *Honors Program Faculty may **NOT** serve as specific AMP degree Advisors.*

For Honors students interested in and accepted into the Accelerated Master's Pathway in the MSCS-McGMI (Media, Convergence, Games and Media Integration), an interdisciplinary degree from UCCS-EAS, the Honors Program has identified CS 5800, CS 5790, CS 6770, CS-McGMI program courses as possible plan of study for HP-cohorts as these courses have strong Complex Systems coverage. Interested students should contact the UCCS-Honors Program AMP and Graduate Studies Advisor for a plan of study by the end of their second year. As early as the beginning of their second year, the student can work with their academic advisor to plan their Honors Program portfolios (HNRS 4950) towards supporting their AMP-application to graduate school, and work with Honors Program staff, Ms. Carol Pina, for permission numbers to register for these classes.

The Honors Program partners with the Graduate School, the Honors Program Summer School of Complexity, the EAS-CS's GMI Program, the ICORE Executive Committee, Johnson Beth-El College's Simulation Center, the McGMI, ICORE's XR and Complexity Systems Group, the Kraemer Family Library, the UCCS Scholarship office, and international partnerships.

AMP60 and AMP90 Scholarship Eligibility

UCCS Honors Program students must contact the Honors Program AMP & Graduate Advisor by April 15th to be eligible for upcoming academic year scholarships. The AMP & Graduate Advisor will verify that students have completed GPS 1010 and HNRS 3011 before forwarding the students' blueprints to the Honors Program Scholarship Committee for consideration. An active application to any one of UCCS's AMP programs is mandatory, by the end of the Spring semester, for AMP cohort funds to be available by Fall.

If admitted to a UCCS AMP, all students who are eligible will receive equal, fixed, one-time scholarships for the following year either based on columns 3 or 4 (Table A)To be considered for scholarship renewal, an AMP student must show progress towards their AMP program by having completed a minimum of 6 credit hours per academic year or 3 credit hours per semester since receiving an Honors AMP Cohort designation.

Honors Program's AMP Designation (HPAMP60/HPAMP90) Cohort Eligibility and Application Process

Honors students are eligible to apply for the Honors Program AMP60 or AMP90 designation if they meet **ALL** of the following conditions:

- Student has completed GPS 1010/3010 (Gray Matters), HNRS 3011 (Conversations about Complexity) and HNRS 4950/4950 (Honors Portfolio) *before* the semester when they want to be designated an Honors AMP-Cohort. No exceptions.
- Student has completed at least 60 credit hours at UCCS towards their undergraduate program including any transfer credits.

- Student has attended UCCS for at least two semesters, not counting summer semester. Include a copy of your transcript with this application.
- Student has been accepted into a UCCS Accelerated Masters Pathway (AMP) or UCCS Graduate Program
- To receive the Honors Program AMP designation and funding, student must be classified as an undergraduate while taking these graduate courses [i.e. HP-cohort must be taking courses toward the UCCS AMP or graduate degree while still an undergraduate at UCCS].

Please indicate which option you plan to pursue. You must take <u>at least</u> 3 credit hours per semester to qualify towards AMP-credit.

_____ **Option A:** Take up to 12 AMP credits from any UCCS AMP Program or Graduate Program. If you select option A, you must include a copy of your acceptance letter from an AMP at UCCS.

List up to 4 classes and the semester you plan to take them in chronological order:

(i) _____
(ii) _____
(iii) _____
(iv) _____

Or,

_____ **Option B:** Take up to 12 AMP credits by applying to MSCS-GMI Program's Gray Matters and Complex Systems course sequence especially available to those UCCS-HP students who have completed their UCCS-HP Curriculum and want to pursue MSCS-GMI AMP program:

(i) (Introduction to Computer Science Research), LEAD 5700 (Introduction to Research and Statistics) or LEAD 5000 (Introduction to Leadership Studies) CS 5790
(ii) CS5800
(iii) Two CS 5000+ course **or** up to 6 credits of CS7060 (GMI-Portfolio).

Option B is a partnership program between the Honors Program and the MSCS-GMI[3] Program with a sequence focused on Gray Matters and Complex Systems for UCCS-Honors Program students. Please note this option requires programming knowledge detailed below. For students selecting option B, Honors Program staff and the Honors AMP and Graduate Advisor will provide the student's name to the MSCS-GMI Program's AMP coordinator who will then coordinate approval of these students into MSCS-GMI-AMP program and once that is completed, provide a letter or acceptance and coordinate permission numbers with MSCS-GMI Program CS-staff.

[3] These courses are offered by the McGMI (Media, Complexity, Games and Media Integration) Program Faculty in Computer Science, and may also apply towards other AMP programs offered by EAS-Computer Science Department, offering Honors Program cohorts more flexibility.

If you select Option B you must complete your MSCS-GMI AMP Program application through the Computer Science Office. The Honors Program AMP Coordinator will work with the Director of the Honors Program, and Honors Program staff will be the POC for you. For option B, Students, *lacking* programming experiences in either Processing, unity3D, unrealEngine or NetLogo, the Honors Program recommends taking CS 7060, up to six credit hours first, so that any programming deficiencies can be sufficiently addressed before enrolling in the other three courses requiring programming term projects/assignments.

The Honors AMP Cohort application deadline is April 15th. Submit all required materials to the Honors Program staff and the Honors AMP and Graduate Advisor. Required application materials include: (1) your current UCCS transcript; and (2) this filled-out form designating option A or B. For option A, include a copy of your AMP acceptance letter and fill out the list of classes in the "Option A" section. For option B, the plan of study is focused on gray matters and complex system available courses with some accommodations.

HPAMP60 and HPAMP90 Scholarship Designation Procedure. After each application deadline, the Honors Program AMP & Graduate Advisor will meet with Honors Program faculty to review the proposed AMP plans of study. Notifications of acceptance will be sent by email to all applicants by the end of the semester in which the application is due. Emails will come from Honors Program staff and will be signed by the Honors Program AMP & Graduate Advisor. If the admissions committee requests any missing documents or further clarifications, applicants have 5 working days (after the email is sent to their UCCS-email address) to respond.

Award Amount Determinations. By June 1-15th, UCCS Honors Program will distribute remaining Academic Year scholarship funds using most recent cohort document approved by UCCS-Council on Undergraduate Education. All eligible candidates will receive the same amount of AMP Boost. Based on the remaining funds, $zero-$1500 per semester, would be allocated for next two semesters to the eligible student depending on that academic year budget availability. Such scholarships will end when the students complete their undergraduate degree, leave UCCS, or leave the UCCS-Honors Program for any reason.

Honors Program staff will (1) send an email to accepted AMP Cohorts indicating the award amount and (2) provide a list of AMP-Cohorts to the UCCS Scholarship office so that remaining AY funds could be disbursed in consultation of Director of the UCCS-Honors Program after approval by Associate VC for Academic Affairs.

The Honors Program AMP-Cohort is only available to students officially enrolled in a UCCS AMP or equivalent while an undergraduate at UCCS. If students' status changes to Graduate Student, they are no longer eligible for any UCCS Honors Program Scholarship.

AMP Cohort Blueprint Presentation Requirement at Summer School of Complexity. Each summer, the Honors Program's Summer School of Complexity organizes the ICORE-Symposium around the theme of "local interactions creating global phenomena." The symposium showcases collaborations between the Honors Program's Summer School, the Games and Media Integration Program, the ICORE Executive Committee, Beth-El College's Simulation Center, the McGMI: XR and Complexity Systems Group, the Kraemer Family Library, Graduate

Studies, the Scholarship office, and various other local and international partners. After receiving an AMP designation, all AMP-designated cohorts are automatically invited to prepare and present their blueprints at the ICORE symposium following their designation.

Honors Faculty

Dr. Karen deVries (UCCS-Honors Program AMP and Graduate Advisor)
Dr. Joseph Kuzma (UCCS Honors Program Associate Director, Portfolio Internship)
Ms. Carol Pina (Admin, Engagement hours, All Cohorts communication)
Dr. Deborah Pina-Thomas (Honors Program HUB at Simulation Learning Education Center[4])
Dr. Rob Sackett (Professor Emeritus, Graduate Studies, Portfolio Internships)
Dr. Sudhanshu Kumar Semwal (UCCS Honors Program Director, Graduate Studies and Portfolio Internships)

Our Faculty Portfolio Mentor List is updated yearly and posted on our website. Any UCCS Faculty (including Honors Program curriculum faculty) can serve as an Honors Program portfolio mentor or reader.

NOMAD HUB

The Honors program has established a partnership umbrella called **N**etworks for **O**pen **M**obile **A**daptive **D**ynamics Hub (NOMAD-HUB) to strengthen portfolios in Gray Matters and Complex Systems. NOMAD-HUB emphasizes connectivity, openness, mobility, and adaptability to support all Honors Program student portfolios.

The Honors faculty encourages cross-pivoting of students' Gray Matters portfolio topics and encourages students to broaden into transdisciplinary portfolios with their partners. This pivoting enhances existing collaborations initiated in 2023 when UCCS's Master of Science in Computer Science and the Games and Media Integration graduate courses became available for Honors Program student portfolio work.

As budget permits, the Honors Program's NOMAD-HUB maintains a small number of notebooks and other paraphernalia to support the Honors Program's designated AMP cohorts' projects.

Complexity Collective[5]: Local Interactions Creating Global Presence

The Honors Program is part of the *Complexity Collective,* which consists of:

- The Honors Program's Gray Matters and Complex Systems' three-courses curriculum, and Summer School on Gray Matters and Complex Systems
- The GMI Program's graduate studies and ICORE presence and programming and online offerings of GMI Portfolio, graduate theses and projects, and Honors Program AMP students interested in MSCS-GMI degree program emphasizing complex systems. In

[4] Honors Program HUB on Complexity, Creativity and Gray Matters with McGMI Program Lab at Simulation Learning Center, Helen and Arthur E. Johnson Beth-el College of Nursing and Health Sciences.
[5] Complexity Collective name coined by Dr. Joseph Kuzma, UCCS-Philosophy.

addition, graduate student cross-mentoring across multiple programs is available through short lecture presentations in Honors Program classes by UCCS-EAS's GMI Program students on an invitation basis, encouraging graduate and Honors Program's undergraduate students cohorts mentoring each other.

- ICORE symposium and XR & Complex Systems group consisting of 13 UCCS faculty, International and external ICORE partners (icore.uccs.edu).
- Kraemer Library's Digital Collections Program housing body of work by Honors Program cohorts HNRS 4950/5950 reports and blueprints, and starting ICORE 2025 video Proceedings.
- Access to the Honors Program's GMI-OnLine@ICORE partnership called NOMAD-Studios which has provided online resource to all UCCS-cohorts and GMI-Lab's graduate students. NOMAD-Studios synergistic activity, a market place, to share ideas around releasing limited number of high profile portfolios for outdoor games market places.