

RIT Honors Program Student Policy Handbook

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Statement of Values

The Honors Program recognizes academic excellence, service to the community, and exercise of leadership skills as core elements of a university experience that prepares students to play positive roles in society and make meaningful contributions to solving problems of national and global significance. Toward maintaining a climate conducive to such growth, the Honors Program is dedicated to the principles outlined in the university’s Core Values, Honor Code, Diversity Statements, Compliance Policy, and Code of Ethical Conduct. And as a community of creative, intellectually active people who act ethically with personal and professional integrity, the Honors Program is committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment that fosters human dignity, provides equitable opportunity, and celebrates the contributions of all students and employees.

Academic Requirements

Students must complete the equivalent of 15 credits of honors-level academic work by the time they receive their undergraduate degrees. We use the word “points” instead of using the word “credits” because we recognize that students can strive above and beyond a typical academic program in co-curricular ways. Generally speaking, one *point* is equivalent to one credit for an academic course. For example, completing any 3-credit honors course earns three points.

To fulfill the academic requirements you must meet the **GPA standard** specified for your year level ([click here](#) for specifics), earn an overall undergraduate GPA of at least 3.5 by the time of graduation, and complete honors-level academic work in three categories:

- Honors in General Education¹ (3 points)
- Honors in your Discipline (3 points)
- Other Honors Achievements (9 points)

Students must **complete at least 1 honors point per year until achieving at least 15 points.**

For information about cocurricular requirements see the section of this document that discusses complementary learning ([click here](#) for details).

Earning Honors Points

Most students fulfill the honors achievement in general education by taking a designated Honors First Year Seminar in the first year; each of these courses fit into a student’s program as a general education elective. Other honors achievements can be completed in a variety of ways, listed below.

Important Note: The Office of the Registrar tells the Honors Program about honors courses that you take, but earning points in any other way requires you to tell us about it by submitting a request in the User Tools segment of the honors web site.

Honors Courses

Honors courses are identified by the honors attribute in the bulletin, and often by name (e.g., MATH-241H Honors Linear Algebra).

- Successful completion of an n -credit honors course counts as n points.
- You do not need to report an honors course (except in the special case discussed below) because the Office of the Registrar sends course completion information to the Honors Program after each semester. However, we have occasionally seen omissions that we don't understand, so at the beginning of the following semester you should double

¹ This requirement is waived for students who enter the Honors Program through the internal admission process.

check your status card at the Honors Program web site.

- At most one honors course (max 3 points, total) may be completed at other universities.
 - Transfer credit must be accepted by RIT.
 - Such a course must be designated as *honors* on an official transcript.
 - Such a course cannot fulfill the *Honors in the Discipline* requirement.
 - Honors points are subject to the review of the Program Director.

Honors Options

An honors option is something that you do to have some fun in a standard course. It is typically a project that extends your learning above and beyond the usual expectations of the course. An honors option is supervised by the instructor and approved in advance by the Honors office. Application forms and examples of approved proposals are at the Honors Program web site.

- All students may apply honors options to courses at the 200-level or higher, but only first-year students may apply honors options to 100-level courses.
- You must give a public presentation of your work (*e.g.*, presenting your work at a symposium, show, club meeting, or to faculty in your department, *etc.*).
- You must earn a grade of at least B– in the course for the honors option to count toward completion of your academic points.
- Successful completion of an honors option in a *n*-credit course counts as *n* points.
- Applications for honors options will not be accepted for courses that are offered as Honors in the same academic term.
- Your honors option must be completed in the same semester that you propose it. In *rare* cases, a short extension may be granted after consultation your professor, but your request for an extension must be received (via email) before the final exam period is over.

Faculty Mentored Independent Study or Special Topics

Is there a topic that piques your interest but it's not in a course? Make one! Many professors are amenable to helping you develop a plan of study and guiding you toward new ideas and skills. Make an agreement with a professor (and perhaps some of your peer colleagues) and sign up for the appropriate independent study course.

- The course must be 200-level or higher.

- You must submit an honors option for that course (in the first week of the semester) to earn honors points.
- At most 3 points per semester.

Graduate Coursework

You may count graduate-level course work (600 or above).

- The graduate course must appear in the undergraduate segment of your transcript (so put it into the undergraduate cart when you enroll).
- A 3-credit graduate course *in your discipline* fulfills the disciplinary facet of the Honors Program (see below).
- A graduate course that is not in your discipline still counts, but not as fulfilling the disciplinary facet of the Honors Program.
- The graduate course may be completed at another university, but transfer credit must be accepted by RIT.
- At most 6 points, total

Faculty-Mentored Research Experiences

Research is understood broadly to include investigative, exploratory, creative, and innovative works. Research does not have to be in your discipline, but you can count it as an Honors Achievement in the Discipline if it is!

- This work cannot be part of an activity that is named by your home program as a requirement (*e.g.*, research that is part of a required course) but it can be an *extension* of such an activity. In that case, your faculty mentor must send correspondence to the Honors Program providing a brief description of the extension and confirming your successful completion.
 - Your work may be part of a larger, on-going research effort. It does not need to start and stop with you.
- You must (1) give a public presentation or exhibition of your work, (2) produce a written report about it, approved by your faculty mentor as demonstrating the substance and quality expected of undergraduate, honors-level work, and (3) submit your report to the Honors Office.
- What matters to the Honors Program is that you have a faculty mentor who is engaged with you, guiding your work.

- It is okay if you are paid a stipend.
- It is okay if you are earning academic credit.
- It is okay if you are working on a project simply because you are intrigued by it.
- This work may be done at another university (*e.g.*, NSF REU programs). In this case, your faculty mentor must send correspondence to the Honors Program describing the research experience and confirming your successful completion.
- Points are awarded based on the time that you commit to the project:
 - 60 hours earns 1 point
 - 120 hours earns 2 points
 - 180 hours earns 3 points
- At most 3 points per semester

Competitive Fellowships and Awards

One point is earned by completing an application for an eligible international fellowship through RIT Global; eligible programs include the Marshall, Mitchell, Rhodes, Schwarzman, Churchill, and Fulbright (full, not summer). If you have questions, please check with RIT Global.

- At most 1 point, total

Coached Entrepreneurship Experiences

Points are determined by a Coach from the RIT Simone Center, based on entrepreneurial waypoints (progress toward creation of a company) and participation in designated experiences that foster entrepreneurship such as the Simone Center IdeaLab.

- At most 3 points, total

Non-required Co-op or Internship

Points are earned for experiential learning such as co-op or internship that is undertaken beyond the experiential learning requirements of your degree program.

- Note the word “beyond” in the previous sentence. You can earn points in this category only after completing the experiential learning requirement for your degree program.
- Your college must formally recognize your work as both (1) falling within your program’s definition of co-op/internship, and (2) beyond the experiential learning requirements of your program.

- If you are completing a double-major (e.g., Applied Mathematics *and* Photography), one major is designated as *primary* in the RIT computer system. The language above refers to that major.
- Points are earned as follows:
 - 1–3 full weeks of full-time work earns 1 point
 - 4–9 full weeks of full-time work earns 2 points
 - 10 full weeks or more of full-time work earns 3 points
- At most 3 points, total²

Non-required Study Abroad or Work Abroad

Points are awarded for successful completion of international academic experiences affiliated with a university, based on the duration of the experience (see below).

- This activity must be recognized and recorded by RIT, either through RIT Global (the Study Abroad office) or the Office of Career Services and Co-op.
- If you are completing a double-major (e.g., Mechanical Engineering *and* Applied Modern Language and Culture), one major is designated as *primary* in the RIT computer system, and that major is used to determine whether international work and/or study is required.
- Points are earned as follows:
 - 1–3 full weeks earns 1 point
 - 4–9 full weeks earns 2 points
 - 10 full weeks or more earns 3 points
- If the international travel is part of an honors course, you will earn the larger of the available points (e.g., the honors points associated with the course, or the honors points listed here, but not both).
- At most 3 points, total

Non-required RIT-Sponsored Study Away

Whereas study abroad refers to international experiences, the term *study away* refers to domestic experiences. Points are awarded for successful completion of study away experiences *sponsored by RIT*, based on the duration of the experience (see below).

² With input from your home department, the Honors Program will consider petitions to accept a second such co-op. Petitions must explain why the second co-op/internship offers distinct advantages not afforded by the first additional co-op/internship, and the circumstances must be compelling.

- This activity must be recognized and recorded by RIT.
- If you are completing a double-major (e.g., Mechanical Engineering *and* Applied Modern Language and Culture), one major is designated as *primary* in the RIT computer system, and that major is used to determine whether study away is required.
 - If this travel experience is part of an honors course, you will earn the larger of the available points (e.g., the honors points associated with the course, or the honors points listed here, but not both).
- Points are earned as follows:
 - 1–3 full weeks earns 1 point
 - 4–9 full weeks earns 2 points
 - 10 full weeks or more earns 3 points
- At most 3 points, total

Honors Achievement in the Discipline

Students in the Honors Program develop an extra layer of depth in their chosen fields by doing honors-level work that accelerates them toward the frontiers of knowledge, culture, and technology while engaging in positive, collegial relationships with faculty mentors. Students can fulfill this requirement by successfully completing **any** of the experiences listed below the following important notes.

- **Note 1:** In this context, the word *discipline* means the branch of knowledge in which your major is found (not your minor, not your immersion). As a practical matter, the faculty of your home program decide what is in the discipline.
- **Note 2:** If you are completing a double major, you are expected to complete this facet of your honors work for your *primary* major.
- **Note 3:** Your honors work in the discipline must total at least 3 points but may come from a collection of experiences rather than a single academic achievement.

We strongly recommend that you contact the office at honors@rit.edu or your college advocate if you have questions, or just want advice from people who care about your success.

Faculty-mentored research in your discipline

Research is understood broadly to include investigative, exploratory, creative, and innovative works.

- Only research done in and after your third year can fulfill the discipline requirement (if it were a course, it would be 300-level or higher). However, as mentioned above, research

activity can also earn honors points in the elective category.

- How do you know if a research project is “in your discipline”? Talk to people. Ask a professor in your home program or ask your college Honors Advocate to direct you to the right people. Here are some surefire ways to make sure that your work is in your discipline:
 - Work with a faculty mentor *from your home department*. You might have more than one faculty mentor, perhaps from different departments. That’s okay.
 - Have the Head (or Associate Head) of your home program write an email to the Honors Program telling us that the research is in your discipline.
- Other requirements were itemized previously. They include a required presentation of your work and a high-quality written report appropriate to your discipline. The report must be submitted to the Honors Program office before points can be awarded.

Honors option in an upper-division course in your discipline

- Such a course must carry at least 3 credits and must be at the 300-level or above.
- The course may be either required or a program elective.

Graduate Course in your discipline

- Please check with the Honors Program Office!
- Such a course must carry at least 3 credits.
- There is a cap on the number of graduate courses that can be applied to fulfilling honors requirements. See the previous note about graduate course work.

Upper-division honors course in your discipline

- Such a course must carry at least 3 credits and must be at the 300-level or above.

Points Submission Window

Honors points must be submitted within one semester of completion, and ideally in the same semester. To submit honors points, see the User Tools page of the Honors Program web site.

Complementary Learning (CL)

Some kinds of learning are best accomplished outside the classroom, so an important part of the Honors Program is participation in activities that complement traditional academic work. Complementary learning activities typically involve service to the community, and participating in events that expose students to new cultures or challenge their ways of thinking about their relationship to the larger society.

- Students in the Honors Program are expected to complete **at least 20 hours** of complementary learning each year until they have both...

completed at **least 15 points** of honors academic work,
and
 recorded a total of at **least 70 hours**.

Here are two examples:

- Example 1: In an academic tour de force, Alex earns enough honors points to complete the academic side of the program by the end of the second year. Having done 20 hours of complementary learning in the first year and another 20 in the second year, Alex is expected to continue doing and recording complementary learning (at least 20 hours per year) because $20+20 < 70$.
- Example 2: Morgan stacks up an impressive 40 hours of complementary learning in both first and second years, but Morgan intends to complete the academic requirements of the Honors Program by counting some graduate course work in the fourth year. Although $40+40 > 70$, Morgan is expected to continue doing and recording complementary learning (at least 20 hours per year) until the academic side of the program is done.
- You are expected to do more than *one* thing per year! **No activity can earn more than 15 hours** (neither a one-time nor a distributed effort such as Alternative Break, serving as an officer in a student organization, etc.)
- You should report your complementary learning hours contemporaneously (no more than one month between activity and reporting) at the Honors Program web site.
- Students must fulfill the complementary learning requirement by the end of their penultimate semester. (e.g. If graduating in May, the complementary learning requirement of at least 70 hours must be fulfilled by the end of December.)
- First-year students: Activities must be completed during or after Honors Orientation.
- The submission cycle for complementary learning is Sept. 1 – Aug 31 each year (with a grace period of one month during the transition to the new cycle). Submissions that fall outside of this cycle will not be approved.
- Internal Admission students: Your annual cycle begins in the fall semester after you are formally accepted into the Honors Program.

Overview

Complementary learning activities often involve volunteering your time and talents with non-profit organizations for the benefit of others. In this section we describe different kinds of acceptable activities.

Direct Service to a Non-Profit Organization

The words *organization* and *volunteerism* are at the heart of direct service. Direct service must be **sanctioned by a non-profit organization** (typically designated as a 501c3 organization for tax purposes) whether you do it with the organization or on its behalf, and direct service is not paid or compensated in any way.

Examples of service include (but are not limited to):

- Volunteering at an animal shelter or a soup kitchen
- Any event organized by the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement
- Volunteering at a literacy program or at your local library
- Volunteering with Pick up the Parks or Habitat for Humanity
- Staffing a blood drive or a 5k-race to benefit a non-profit organization

Non-examples of service include (but are not limited to):

- Giving blood (different than staffing!)
- Running in a 5k Race (different than staffing the race!)
- Tutoring a friend
- Working for your local library is not direct service if you are paid for your time or compensated in any way.
- Raking your elderly neighbor's leaves as an individual act of kindness rather than work with or on behalf of a non-profit organization

Note: **preparing** to serve is different than serving. Preparation (training, rehearsal, creation of materials) is typically not recognized.

- Volunteering your time as a firefighter **is** recognized as complementary learning because you are donating your time and energy to a public institution (which is non-profit). However, the boot camp training that you must complete in preparation does **not** count.
- Volunteering your musical talent at an event that supports a non-profit organization **is** recognized as complementary learning, but the rehearsals leading up to that event are **not** (they are a kind of training).

Indirect Service

Whereas direct service is done **with** an organization, indirect service (which CLCE calls "advocacy") is done **for** a non-profit organization. This category includes *indirect*

philanthropy, by which we mean unpaid time spent gathering on behalf of a non-profit organization — you are making other people’s philanthropy possible.

Examples of advocacy include (but are not limited to):

- Organizing a food or toiletries drive and delivering the collected goods.
- Volunteering your time to generate funds for the Girl Scouts by selling cookies, provided that you are not given anything for your efforts (you cannot be paid in any way).
- Staffing a table at Relay for Life. (Walking on your own is good, but it’s direct philanthropy.)
- Staffing a table with information packets promoting a non-profit organization

Leadership Activities

The Honors Program recognizes leadership activities as complementary learning (unless paid) including the leadership of student organizations registered with Campus Groups.

Examples of leadership include (but are not limited to):

- Successful completion of a *Momentum* program offered by the CLCE
- Time spent actively engaged in an executive board position for a student club (e.g., President, Vice President, Treasurer)
- Time engaged in the responsibilities of an officer or representative to the Honors Council or the RIT Student Government
- Time spent representing the student organization in an official/authorized capacity

Non-examples include (but are not limited to):

- Attending meetings (distinct from leading them)
- Attending events (distinct from organizing or staffing them)

Citizenship

Citizenship activities are unpaid time in which you promote the goals of a non-profit grassroots civic or governmental organization with the overarching goal of promoting a cause or challenging a policy.

Examples include (but are not limited to):

- Attending a political rally or a social-change protest
- Attending RIT’s Expressions of King’s Legacy events
- Volunteering for a political campaign
- Volunteering as a door-to-door representative of the Environmental Defense Fund

Non-examples include (but are not limited to):

- Time spent making signs in preparation for a rally
- Paid positions for political campaigns

Designated Activities

Participating in events designated by the Honors Program as complementary learning is, of course, complementary learning. You should look for these activities in weekly email from the Honors Program.

Examples of designated activities include (but are not limited to):

- Volunteering at the fall research symposium, spring gala, or open houses
- Participating in service events run by the Honors Council
- Alternative Break organized by the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement
- New Horizons events through the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement
- The Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement *Momentum* program
- The annual Fram Critical Thinking lecture

Non-examples include (but are not limited to):

- Attending the spring gala or pop-up pizza events
- Simply attending Student Government or Honors Council meetings

Designated Roles (OL, RA)

As you will see below, paid positions are almost never recognized as complementary learning. Here is the list of exceptions:

- **RIT Orientation Leaders**, whether working for New Student Orientation or as Honors Mentors, are credited with **15 hours** per year for their contribution to building the community.
- **RIT Resident Assistants** are credited **15 hours** of complementary learning in recognition of the unpaid time spent helping residents on behalf of RIT.

Categories Outside of Complementary Learning

In addition to the non-examples listed previously, there are broad categories of activity that are almost always outside the scope of complementary learning. If you have any questions, please email honorscomplearning@rit.edu.

Academic Pursuit is not Complementary Learning

Time that you spend furthering your academic knowledge, including participation as an investigator in a research project, is not recognized as complementary learning. (However, faculty-mentored research counts as honors points!)

Compensated Time is not Complementary Learning

Excepting the special roles described above, activity is not recognized as complementary learning if you are paid for your time, effort, or skill in any way. This includes prizes wages, payment in kind, stipends, and scholarships, reimbursements, etc. If you have questions, ask!

Conflicted Time is not Complementary Learning

The word conflicted is not an emotional state, as used here. Rather, we mean that activity is not recognized as complementary learning if it is or appears to be a conflict of interest (e.g., appears to have a transactional nature). Also included under this umbrella are activities might reasonably be described as coerced. For example, imagine that a student's professor asks them to do a favor during the semester. Questions arise immediately...

- Is the student hoping to affect their grade in a positive way? (*Perceived transaction is a deal breaker, whether real or not.*)
- Do they fear an unfavorable effect on their grade if they don't help? (*Perceived coercion is a deal breaker, whether real or not.*)
- Is the student just being a helpful, and following their own interest in developing positive professional relationships with faculty? (*Great!*)

As a practical matter, rather than struggling to understand and evaluate the nuances of such situations, the Honors Program simply disqualifies them from consideration.

Activism is not Complementary Learning

The CLCE uses the word activism to mean activities that promote or educate about an organization that is not registered as a non-profit (i.e., not 501c3). *You should be paid if you are doing work for a company* — even if you think the company is great and that it contributes to the good of society.

Direct Philanthropy is not Complementary Learning

Direct philanthropy is the giving of gifts to a charitable or non-profit organization, often but not always monetary in nature. (This is something that you might do because you want to make the world a better place. That's good. Do that, even though it's not complementary learning.)

Examples of direct philanthropy include (but are not limited to):

- Donating money to a church, political campaign, or crowdfunding campaign
- Giving household items to Goodwill
- Giving food or toiletries to collection drives

Illegal and Rehabilitative Activity is not Complementary Learning

Activity is not recognized as complementary learning if it is illegal. Nor is it recognized if completed due to a mandate from the Center for Student Conduct, or a local, state, or federal court or agency.

Reporting Complementary Learning

Your reporting should be contemporaneous with your activity. Rather than collecting a single long list of activities to report at the end of the year, report activities in the same week they are done (or as soon as possible, but no later than one month after the event).

- To report your complementary learning:
 - Navigate to <https://www.rit.edu/honors/>
 - Click on User Tools
 - Click the button that says “Submit Complementary Learning”
- Service to or with the Honors Program, including participation in activities organized by the Honors Council or the Honors Program Office, the event organizer will pass your name to the Honors Program office along with a description of the event and the number of hours that you contributed. The Honors Program office will record these hours for you.
- Important reminders about submissions:
 - You cannot list yourself or another student as the “Reference Contact Email.” Please use a supervisor, organizer of the event, faculty / staff advisor, or other non-student contact to verify your participation or involvement.
 - Submissions that fall outside of the annual reporting cycle, Sept. 1 – Aug. 31 each year, will not be accepted. (There is a grace period in the transition month entering the new cycle).
 - If you are not sure if something will count as complementary learning – email us to ask *before* the event / experience takes place.

Double-Major

When students choose to pursue a double-major, questions about requirements are answered relative to the major that has been declared as *primary*. (For example, is co-op a required part of the program?)

Undergraduate v. Graduate Status

Some students’ matriculation status changes from undergraduate to graduate (*e.g.*, students in an accelerated BS/MS program, and the Physician Assistant program in the College of Health Science and Technology).

- At the time of transition, the GPA record for the undergraduate segment of your academic career is finalized, and that's the number used by the Honors Program when evaluating your progress.
- Undergraduate students in the Honors Program enjoy the benefit of enrolling in up to 24 credits at no additional cost (two extra courses per semester). This benefit terminates when status changes from undergraduate to graduate.
- The transition to graduate status occurs in semester after you have completed enough credits to meet the count required for the undergraduate degree. (This varies by degree program but typically falls between 120 and 129 credits. See your academic advisor!)

Cohort and Year Level

For administrative purposes, students in the RIT Honors Program are assigned to a cohort, identified by the academic year in which they enter. Each cohort includes the group of first-year students who enter in the fall, and the group of students who enter the program through the Internal Admission process in the spring.

Year-Level

For the purposes of assessing academic performance against GPA standards, a student's "year level" is based on the year that the student matriculated into RIT, not the year in which the student entered the Honors Program.

Internal Admission (IA)

Except for the Honors First Year Seminar, students who enter the RIT Honors Program through the Internal Admission process are expected to meet the academic requirements specified for the cohort they enter.

Honors Grants

Each student in the RIT Honors Program is eligible for up to \$500 in grant funding (as a one-time expense, or as multiple smaller expenses) to support activities that lead to honors points.

- Allowable expenses associated with participation in professional development travel, and honors-related travel.
 - Professional conference registration
 - Travel for study abroad, travel for professional development conferences, travel with the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement, travel as part of an honors

college-cohort. (If by car, see the RIT standard mileage rate.)

- Allowable expenses leading to honors points
 - Materials for honors courses or options (not standard course-related costs)
 - Materials for research (i.e., not part of a class). Honors Grant money may be used to purchase supplies for extracurricular faculty-mentored research and honors options, but any items that are not consumed by the research become the property of RIT if they were purchased (in whole or in part) with Honors Grant money. For that reason, any student who applies to use grant money in this way will be required to provide a letter of support from a faculty member in which the faculty member agrees to assume responsibility for any unused supplies that are purchased (in part or in full) with Honors Grant money.

- Honors Grants are paid as reimbursements of eligible receipts.
 - Receipts must be itemized and presented to the Honors Program.
 - RIT cannot reimburse for tax or alcohol on receipts.
 - You are expected to provide a table that lists the total on each itemized receipt, the tax on each, the amount from alcohol on each, a net total of allowable expense (tax and alcohol subtracted from each receipt's total), and a net total.

- Only students in good standing with the Honors Program can access Honors Grants.

- The use of Honors Grant money must be approved in advance.

- Honors Grant money may not be used to cover standard college-related costs such as tuition, books, materials, online subscriptions, kits, or tools; nor does it cover living expenses such as rent, food, or fuel.

- Honors Grant money may not be used for events that happen after a student's graduation, even if expenditures are incurred before graduation.

- Honors Grant money may not be used to subsidize others' activities (e.g., treating a friend to coffee at a conference).

- Honors Grant money may not be used to pay tuition at another university.

Leave of Absence

An official leave of absence (LOA) from the university is understood as a pause in a student's pursuit of a degree from RIT. This pause extends to all aspects of education. For this reason, the complementary learning requirement will be prorated according to when a student takes the LOA and for how long.

For example, a student who takes a half-year LOA is responsible for half of the year’s complementary learning hours. A student who takes a year-long LOA is exempted from that year’s complementary learning requirement. If you are considering a LOA, contact the Honors Office to confirm the specifics of your complementary learning requirement.

Co-op and Study Abroad

Students who are on co-op, or who are engaging in an extended study abroad experience are understood to be actively pursuing a degree from RIT. They are responsible for completing the annual complementary learning requirement.

Standing, Continuation, and Withdrawal

Progress toward completion is measured at the end of the fall and spring semesters. Students are in **good standing** (we also say **continued** in the program) provided that they

- complete at least one honors point each year (until reaching at least 15 points)
- maintain a GPA that meets or exceeds the minimum shown in Table 1
 - If you are in a BS/MS program, your matriculation status will change from *undergraduate* to *graduate* at some point (depending on your program and your path through it — check with your academic advisor). RIT segments your GPA calculation into two parts: (1) your undergraduate career, and (2) your graduate career. The GPA mentioned in Table 1 refers to your undergraduate career, only.
- complete the annual complementary learning requirement
- have no conduct-related complaints or findings.

Students who are in good standing may continue as part of the RIT Honors Program. Students who are not in good standing may be withdrawn from the Honors Program or placed on conditional status (see below). Students can check their status at the honors web site.

Table 1: Requirements to Maintain Good Standing

Year Level (Matriculated)	Undergraduate GPA	Minimum Points Required Per Year	Hours of Complementary Learning Per Year
1	GPA ≥ 3.2	3	≥ 20 hours
2	GPA ≥ 3.3	1	≥ 20 hours
3	GPA ≥ 3.4	1	≥ 20 hours
4	GPA ≥ 3.5	1	≥ 10 hours
5	GPA ≥ 3.5	1	≥ 0 hours

Conditional Status

As deemed appropriate by the director of the Honors Program, students who are not in good standing may be moved to a **conditional status** rather than being withdrawn from the program.

Conditional status may be appropriate when a student's GPA has fallen below Honors Program standards (particularly in cases of unforeseen events that interfere with academic success, such as a global pandemic), but the student has enough time remaining at RIT to remedy the issue. Conditional status may also be appropriate when students fail to complete complementary learning requirements but are enacting plans to remedy the situation. Such cases are addressed on an individual basis in consultation with the Honors Program staff and other advisors as deemed appropriate.

A student's conditional status may be maintained for at most two semesters, after which the student is expected to have demonstrated progress sufficient to be deemed in good standing. Students who do not meet this requirement will be withdrawn from the program.

Conduct-Related Disciplinary Action

The RIT Honors Program takes seriously students' impact on the community, and their role as representatives of the university and the Honors Program. Students who accept the invitation to become part of the RIT Honors Program agree to conduct themselves with integrity, in a manner that maintains our university and society as a safe place for creativity, curiosity, constructive change, and free expression.

Students may be subject to disciplinary action **for conduct** if found responsible for a breach of RIT policy by the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. Students may also face conduct-related disciplinary action for academic or personal behavior contrary to the values expressed in this document. This includes actions generally classified as bullying (including hazing), harassment, intimidation, or discrimination. Also included are behaviors classified broadly as *dishonest* such as (but not limited to) academic dishonesty, and the submission of fraudulent forms to any part of the university (*e.g.*, proof of vaccination status, complementary learning submissions, forms related to honors options, study abroad, inappropriate use of Honors Grant money *et cetera*).

Disciplinary action may include forfeiture of points, complementary learning hours, leadership roles (*e.g.*, if a member of the Honors Council), or standing. And if said conduct is judged to be egregious, a student may be withdrawn from the RIT Honors Program. In particular, any student who is suspended due to conduct-related issues forfeits their place in the RIT Honors Program.

Appeals

Assignment of conditional status, and conduct-related disciplinary action (short of withdrawal) may not be appealed.

A student may appeal a withdrawal due to insufficient progress toward completion (honors points, GPA, and complementary learning) or a withdrawal due to conduct. The appeal must arrive within one academic term of the decision (*e.g.*, a withdrawal decision that is communicated during the spring semester may be appealed during the summer, but the window of appeal closes when the fall semester begins). The appeal should clearly and concisely explain why the decision should be reversed.

- **Appeal of Withdrawal Due to Insufficient-Progress**

Reversal of withdrawal due to insufficient progress is at the discretion of the Director of the Honors Program and will be made in consultation with the Assistant Director of the Honors Program. The student's academic advisor, the Honors Advocate of the student's home college, and others as deemed appropriate. Reinstatement, if deemed appropriate, may be tied to completion of certain activities and meeting specified academic standards.

- **Appeal of Withdrawal Due to Conduct**

If a student appeals a conduct-related withdrawal, a Review Committee shall be convened by the director of the Honors Program no later than the following semester. The Review Committee should include at least three members, at least one of which is a faculty member and at least one of which is an Honors Advocate. The Review Committee may rely on written testimony and interviews when adjudicating the decision. Overturning the withdrawal decision requires a majority vote (at least 51%) of the Review Committee members.