

Clarified Criteria for Honors Nominations

Alverno College's Honors Program acknowledges undergraduate service-minded scholars. The criteria for honors are centered on two broad categories: academic excellence and service excellence. These two categories are rooted in the philosophy underlying the Alverno curriculum, which effectively integrates academic achievement with professional and personal life. Nominations for honors are submitted by the faculty of the student's major and support areas. Nomination letters include detailed information on how the student has met the criteria for honors. These nominations reflect the student's entire journey at Alverno. A cross disciplinary committee reviews the submissions looking for key characteristics and distinctive qualities that include independence, commitment, resilience, enthusiasm, creativity, influence, and mastery. The committee deliberates until they reach a unanimous decision and final list of honor graduates. The criteria for honors nominations are found below.

Scholarship is not an end in itself but an integral part of the total life experience.

The honors candidate demonstrates outstanding scholarship. Evaluation includes consideration of the process of scholarship as well as the product. The basic attributes of scholarly excellence include:

The honors candidate demonstrates outstanding service. Evaluation of the quality of her service includes consideration of the outstanding ways in which the candidate extends her academic work into service contexts. The basic attributes of service excellence include:

Key Characteristics

Scholarly Excellence

Service Excellence

*Independence
Mastery*

Masters the central ideas, theories, and methods of her discipline in an outstanding way. Displays this mastery through independent application in new situations as well as throughout all of her course work.

Demonstrates an independence of mind and action, taking a proactive responsibility in the broader community with intention and positive impact.

*Integration
Habituality
Resilience*

Directs and organizes her experiences into a meaningful whole. Consistently makes connections across her learning from a variety of formal and informal settings. Habitually demonstrates resilience, thriving in situations of change, challenge, or disappointment.

Consistently endeavors to make contributions to others that integrate her knowledge and abilities in rich dimensions across broad contexts within and beyond the College. Approaches multiple changes, challenges, and setbacks as sources of learning that she incorporates into her service.

*Commitment
Enthusiasm
Creativity*

Sets goals and takes risks that energize personal learning and professional development. Reflect an enthusiasm for disciplinary learning in and out of the classroom and creates distinctive works that engage self and others.

Demonstrates her commitment to and enthusiasm for disciplinary scholarship through the quality of her outreach activities. Maximizes her opportunities to enhance the lives of others in creative ways.

*Influence
Awareness*

Acts on the recognition that her behavior influences broader audiences. Executes scholarly work that is consistently contextual, based on her awareness of the influential nature of both her work and her learning.

Consistently steps outside of self to focus on the development of others. Displays accuracy in self-assessment with an awareness that facilitates goal setting as well as goal accomplishments.