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Honors RAPs

Do I have to take the honors course(s) affiliated with the Honors RAP?

Yes, you are required to enroll in the main honors course (and seminar if it is a component of your RAP) that is a part of your Honors RAP. If you have AP credits for the course that is a part of your Honors RAP, you should talk with your advisor when you are here for New Student Orientation. If there are course conflicts with an aspect of the Honors RAPs, we can sometimes make accommodations, but on a case-by-case basis during New Student Orientation. Since the courses are an integral part of the Honors RAP, if you don’t sign up for the courses in your Honors RAP, you will likely be dropped from your Honors RAP.

How do I find a roommate in my Honors RAP?

You may meet someone who is in your Honors RAP in a variety of ways. When a student has signed up on the RAP sign up page (after being accepted and confirming their acceptance), then they may look at the list of students in their RAP who have decided to share their contact information. Some students choose to participate in the on-line roommate matching process that is offered by the Office of Residential Student Services. If you are in an Honors RAP, you will only be matched with others in your Honors RAP. If you don’t indicate you want a particular roommate, then you will be randomly assigned one.

How does an Honors RAP work with my major?

If you are in one of the Honors RAPs associated with a College or a major (i.e. BioTAP, Isenberg Honors RAPs, Engineering Honors RAP, or Nursing Honors RAP), the classes that are a part of the Honors RAP will help you satisfy your major and/or honors requirements.

The remaining Honors RAPs are meant for students with any major. They typically satisfy honors requirements and/or university requirements.
You will sign up for your courses when you attend New Student Orientation. You will first meet with an academic advisor in your college or major. Please let that person know that you are in an Honors RAP. Your advisor may recommend dropping the Honors RAP if the courses conflict with classes that are in your major.

**Where are the Honors RAPs located?**

Honors RAPs are located in the two first-year buildings designated for Commonwealth Honors College students: Oak and Sycamore Hall, both located in the Honors Residential Community.

**What is the difference between an Honors RAP and Honors Housing?**

Honors RAPs are course-related programs located within first-year honors buildings. All students are eligible for honors housing, even if they are not in an Honors RAP. There will be a very limited number of non RAP spaces in honors first-year buildings.

**What if I want a roommate who is not interested in an Honors RAP?**

Students must live with a roommate who is in their Honors RAP. There are a designated number of rooms on the Honors RAP floors for the exact number of students in the Honors RAP.

**What is an Honors RAP?**

Honors Residential Academic Programs (RAP) are intentionally designed programs for honors students who want to live together and take honors courses together. A few Honors RAPs require a declared major (Isenberg School of Management, College of Engineering, and the School of Nursing) and others are multidisciplinary, allowing any student interested in exploring the topic a bit more to join.

**What are the benefits of joining an Honors RAPs?**

Students who join Honors RAPs can more easily work on projects and study with their classmates since they live nearby. Students in Honors RAPs also tend to have more lively discussions in their courses since they know their classmates so well. You will be living with others who have similar interests. The Residence hall staff (RAs and Peer Mentors) hold programs that connect students in the Honors RAP with their faculty and with the topics of their Honors RAPs. Research has shown that students in Honors RAPs often have a better academic GPA after their first semester, demonstrating the academic support that comes as a result of being a part of one of these programs.

**Once I'm in an Honors RAP, how do I sign up for courses?**

You will sign up for your Honors RAP courses when you attend your New Student
Orientation in June or July. If you can’t attend a New Student Orientation session, an honors advisor will work closely with an advisor in your major to enroll you in your Honors RAP courses.

**Once I'm in an Honors RAP, do I need to sign up for housing?**

Yes, you must complete your Housing Preference application and confirm that you want to join the Honors RAP that is indicated. If you sign up for an Honors RAP after completing the Housing Preference Application, you will need to reconfirm your enrollment in the Honors RAP.

**If I don't get into an Honors RAP, can I still get into Honors housing?**

Although many spaces in first-year Honors buildings (Oak, and Sycamore) are designated as Honors RAP spaces, the remaining spaces will be available for students who are not in Honors RAPs. Students will enter their housing preferences into the Housing preferences application form on SPIRE before or during Summer New Student Orientation. Students will be placed according to their randomly assigned priority selection number.

**Housing and Social Activities**

**Do I have to pay to ride the bus?**

Buses on campus are free, provided you have your UMass ID card; the fee is already worked into your bursar's bill, so use the bus! You can find the UMass Transit schedule and times online at: [http://www.umass.edu/transit](http://www.umass.edu/transit).

**How can I find out about housing options off-campus?**

See [Commuter Services and Housing Resource Center](https://www.umass.edu/housing).

**How do I find a roommate in my Honors RAP?**

You may meet someone who is in your Honors RAP in a variety of ways. When a student has signed up on the RAP sign up page (after being accepted and confirming their acceptance), then they may look at the list of students in their RAP who have decided to share their contact information. Some students choose to participate in the on-line roommate matching process that is offered by the Office of Residential Student Services. If you are in an Honors RAP, you will only be matched with others in your Honors RAP. If you don’t indicate you want a particular roommate, then you will be randomly assigned one.

**What is the difference between an Honors RAP and Honors Housing?**

Honors RAPs are course-related programs located within first-year honors buildings. All
students are eligible for honors housing, even if they are not in an Honors RAP. There will be a very limited number of non RAP spaces in honors first-year buildings.

Are Honors RAP communities located on quiet floors?

Although you will be living with other honors students, these floors are not designated as quiet floors. Students across campus are expected to be quiet between 11pm-7am.

Are there any places on campus to practice my musical instrument?

If there are no programs happening, students are welcome to use the CHC Events Hall piano for practice. There are also rooms in the Fine Arts Center (FAC). Look for sign-up sheets at the FAC to reserve a room.

Are there other places on campus, besides the library, that I can access computers?

There are many locations on campus that provide quick computer access:

- You can use OIT computer kiosks placed around campus: multiple labs in the library, laptops that you can sign out, Bartlett Hall, Lederle Graduate Research Tower, Fine Arts Center, Thompson Hall, Goodell Bldg, and Whitmore Administration Building.
- The Learning Commons in the library has a lot more space than it seems. If you go either left or right and go all the way down, you will see more computers that are available.
- Specific floors in the library have computer labs. Look on the index in the elevators to see which floors have labs.

Can I be in a Honors RAP and live in a different building on campus?

The Honors RAPs are designated to a particular building, so you must live in the building in which the program is designated.

If I don't get into an Honors RAP, can I still get into Honors housing?

Although many spaces in first-year Honors buildings (Oak, and Sycamore) are designated as Honors RAP spaces, the remaining spaces will be available for students who are not in Honors RAPs. Students will enter their housing preferences into the Housing preferences application form on SPIRE before or during Summer New Student Orientation. Students will be placed according to their randomly assigned priority selection number.

Can I join a non-Honors RAP?

Yes, honors students can join non-Honors RAPs offered by the university, they are
located outside of the buildings designated for honors students. Some are restricted by major or college.

**Orientation**

**What if I miss the Honors Fall Orientation?**

We will schedule an alternate meeting for those who are unable to attend. You should complete the registration, because there will be an option to notify us that you cannot attend, and we will be in touch with more information.

**Who attends the Commonwealth Honors College Induction Ceremony?**

This official induction ceremony that begins the Honors Fall Orientation is for students, parents, and guests. You will hear from Dean Priscilla Clarkson as well as other university faculty and students.

**If I am participating in the UMass Minuteman Marching Band Orientation can I also participate in the Honors Fall Orientation?**

The schedules for both orientations conflict with one another so unfortunately marching band members are unable to participate in the entirety of the the Honors Fall Orientation. Band members are however **welcome and encouraged** to come to the Honors Induction Ceremony held Wednesday, August 29th from 5p-6:15p. Family and friends are also invited to attend. Please let us know if you or any of your guests require special accommodations because of a disability or medical need. Please call Bonnie with any questions regarding Marching Band at 413.545.7755, ummbrecruit@music.umass.edu.

**Is there financial assistance for attending the Honors Fall Orientation?**

Students inquiring about financial assistance to attend the Honors Fall Orientation must indicate so when they register via the registration link that will be emailed to them. They must demonstrate proven financial need confirmed by the office of financial aid. The financial assistance is a waiver for the orientation program covering the $90 fee, but does not cover meals during orientation. Meals are charged a la carte to each student's bursar bill and will show up on their October bill. For more information regarding this process, please feel free to call our office at 413.545.0742.

**If I participate in the BIOS program can I also attend the Honors Fall Orientation?**

Students who participate in the BIOS program are also welcome to attend the Honors Fall Orientation as the schedules do not conflict. The BIOS program ends Wednesday,
August 29th around 3:30p-4p and the Honors Fall Orientation officially begins with the Honors Induction at the Fine Arts Center at 5p. Check-in for the Honors Orientation is from 4p-5p in front of the Fine Arts Center. If you have questions about the BIOS program please direct all inquiries to Susan Bronstein, sbronstein@acad.umass.edu, 413.545.5742

**Where can I pick up my key and check-in for my residence hall?**

There will be in check-in stations in assigned lots where you will receive your key for your residence hall. Once Residential Life releases housing assignment information they will contact you to give you the information you need regarding times and locations. Please direct all housing specific questions to the Residential Life Student Services office at (413) 545-2100.

**How much time do I have to move in?**

Move in times for Wednesday, August 29th will be assigned to students by Housing Services, check-in times for Honors Fall Orientation participants will be early enough to accommodate your attendance for the Honors Induction Ceremony that begins at 5p.

**Do I need to sign up for a move-in time?**

Yes. Residential Life will send you information regarding how to sign-up for move-in times.

**Can I attend Honors Fall Orientation if I am in the Marching Band?**

Unfortunately, you cannot attend Honors Fall Orientation if you are in the Marching Band. We will schedule an alternate meeting for those who are unable to attend orientation. You should complete the registration, because there will be an option to notify us you are unable to attend, and we will be in touch with more information.

**Is Honors Fall Orientation mandatory?**

No, it is optional, but we hope you plan to join us. If you cannot attend, please indicate so on the online registration.

**Where can I park on move-in day?**

After families check-in and get their keys, they can park in nearby lots. You can expect upwards of a 15 min walk to your residence hall after you move your things in. UMass parking services will be practicing light enforcement. Loading and unloading in purple lots is ok, but no long term parking. Parking in yellow lots is free. Please direct parking questions to the parking services office at (413) 545-0065.

**What are the differences between the Honors Fall Orientation and the University’s Fall Orientation?**
The Honors Fall Orientation is an optional program taking place from Wednesday, August 29th to the afternoon of Thursday, August 30th, and is only open to incoming first-year Commonwealth Honors College students. This program gives honors students the opportunity to meet other honors students, learn more about the objectives of the honors college, meet with Honors Advisors and Peer Advisors, and enjoy the earliest move-in times to their fall housing assignment. The University’s Fall Orientation is for all incoming first-year UMass students from Friday, August 31st to September 2nd. Check the UMass NSO website for more details on the University’s Fall Orientation.

Can I come late to Orientation?

No, the earliest move-in times are on August 29th.

How much does Orientation cost?

The Orientation costs $90. In addition, your bursar bill will be charged a la carte prices for meals you attend. The meal charges will appear on your fall bursar bill in October.

How do I pay for orientation?

Students can pay online. There will be a payment link in the registration email students' receive in their UMass email account. The payment link has also been included below.

https://quikpayasp.com/umass/commerce_manager/payer.do?orderType=HONORS

What are the differences between Power Up and Honors Fall Orientation?

Power Up is a one-credit program available to all incoming first-year UMass students. The purpose of the program is for students to “learn the skills that lead to success in college.” The Honors Fall Orientation is only open to incoming first-year Commonwealth Honors College students. This program gives honors students the opportunity to meet other honors students, learn more about the objectives of the honors college, and meet with Honors Advisors and Peer Advisors.

What if I am in Power Up, can I still participate in the Honors Fall Orientation?

Unfortunately you cannot participate in both Power Up and the Honors Fall Orientation because they occur at the same time.

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