Further Information
For more information about the Aquinas Scholars Honors Program, contact: aquuscholarsdir@stthomas.edu.

The Aquinas Scholars Honors Program
The Aquinas Scholars Honors Program is the undergraduate honors program of the University of St. Thomas. The program is designed to enrich the student’s college experience through intellectually challenging courses and a variety of cultural and social experiences.

Honors classes will provide you with an intimate learning environment. They are based on active learning, with opportunities to explore provocative subjects in new and exciting ways. Although honors courses represent less than one-fourth of a student’s classes, they are usually among the most stimulating classes a student takes.

Aquinas Scholars come from all academic disciplines. The program provides many extracurricular activities and opportunities for leadership and service.

The Honors Class of 2011:

The class discussions don’t just get someone to look at new viewpoints; they force us to come up with them.

The Aquinas Scholars Program engages students in productive discussions and provides a great learning environment. It’s also a lot of fun.

Honors courses in the Department of English provide an excellent atmosphere for lively intellectual debate.

University of St. Thomas
Admission Requirements

After admission to the University of St. Thomas, students must complete a separate application for the Aquinas Scholars Honors Program. The application consists of the student’s academic record and a short essay. Details on the required grade point average and ACT or SAT scores may be found on the Aquinas Scholars web site: www.stthomas.edu/aquinasscholars.

To graduate as an Aquinas Scholar, students must complete four honors sections from the core curriculum and three interdisciplinary honors seminars. Transfer students with 42 accepted semester credits or more take three honors sections and three honors seminars. Students must maintain a high grade point average to remain in the Aquinas Scholars Honors Program. Grade point average requirements are posted on the Aquinas Scholars web site.

Honors Sections

Each semester, the program offers a variety of honors sections of the university’s core-curriculum—the liberal arts classes that all students take regardless of major. Honors sections are limited to 20 students in order to encourage strong student participation and provide an environment for communal learning. Honors sections value depth of knowledge over acceleration of subject matter.

Honors Seminars

Most students say that honors seminars are their favorite part of the program. Seminars are team taught by professors from two departments. They bring together different disciplines on intriguing topics. Students generally lead the discussion on a common reading or question. Seminars are two credits, limited to 15 students, and tuition free.

Past Seminars—A Sample

- Green Capitalism
- Film and Music
- For God and Country
- Ethics.com
- Framing the Family
- Mindfulness
- Civil Religion
- World Music
- Women in Music and Theatre
- Irish Catholic Experience
- Theatre
- Will and Grace

Student Board

The student board offers an excellent opportunity for collaboration and leadership. It consists of four elected representatives from each class, as well as committee chairs who plan social and service events. The student board plays an active role in the running of the program. Its goal is to ensure that the program meets the students’ needs. Board meetings are held in the Aquinas Scholars’ suite, which serves as a gathering space and a study area.

Faculty Board

Faculty members from various disciplines guide the Scholars Program, ensuring that the program is developing in a manner that serves the best interests of honors students.

Honors Conference

Scholars may attend and make presentations at regional and national honors conferences. These conferences are designed to enhance honors programs through communication with other colleges about successes and challenges within programs.

Service Projects

In keeping with St. Thomas’ mission of service to the community, scholars organize several service projects each year. From one-time events to year-long projects, scholars provide assistance in the Twin Cities community. Projects have included tutoring elementary students, serving meals at homeless shelters, and assisting the elderly.

Pizza With A Professor

Throughout the year, scholars gather over a pizza lunch with a professor to discuss a topic in his or her area of interest. Previous discussions have ranged from the existence of free will to the lure of the lottery to the dangers of the Shakespearean period.

Social Events

Each fall, the program sponsors an off-campus retreat for scholars to come together for reflection, fun, and relaxation. Events throughout the year include theater, concerts, movies, snow tubing, athletic events and bowling. These events afford a break from studies and an opportunity to meet new people.