

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.

My honors classes were some of my best at St. Thomas. The small class size and heavy emphasis on discussion was challenging, but also very rewarding. I enjoyed getting to know my peers and professors in such a personal setting, and I left each class excited to return the next week with new questions and ideas.



Honors Seminars

Most students say 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.

The Aquinas Scholars Program approaches topics from a perspective you can't find in normal classes; for example, I took seminars on Nobel Peace Prize Laureates and The Foreign Experience.

Student Board

The student board offers an excellent opportunity for collaboration and leadership. It consists of elected representatives from upper and lower classes, as well as committee chairs who plan social, service, and academic events. The student board plays an active role in running the program. Its goal is to ensure the program meets students' needs. Board meetings are held in the Aquinas Scholars' classroom.

Faculty Board

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

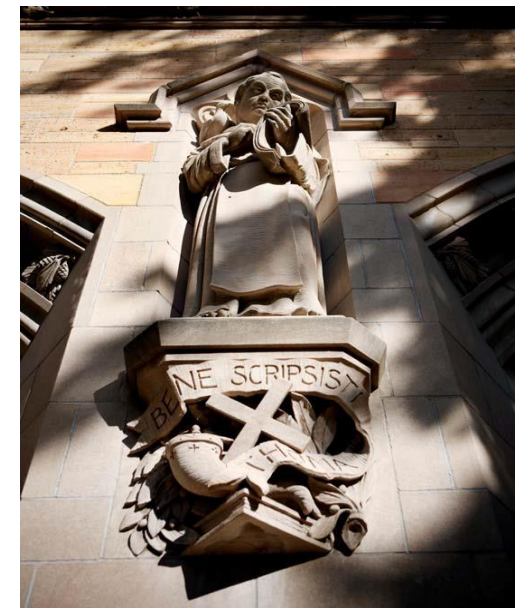


Program Requirements

Aquinas Scholars are required to participate in a minimum number of program activities each semester. Scholars may choose from Service Projects, Social Events, or special events and meetings that are scheduled each semester. Check Announcements on the web site for activities. Refer to the Aquinas Scholars web site for additional details on earning points to fulfill requirements:

www.stthomas.edu/aquinasscholars/policies.

AQUINAS SCHOLARS HONORS PROGRAM



www.stthomas.edu/aquinasscholars

The Aquinas Scholars Honors Program

The Aquinas Scholars Honors Program is the under-graduate 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.

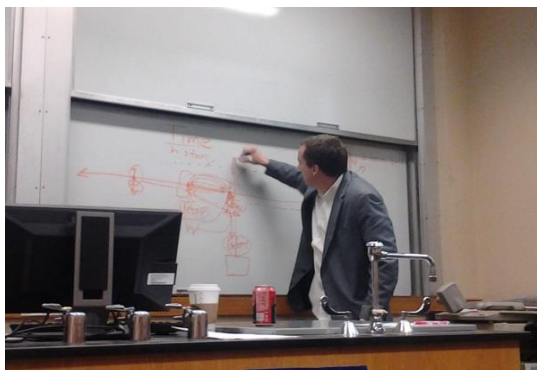
Honors classes will provide you with an intimate learning environment. They are based on active learning, with opportunities to explore provocative subjects in new and exciting ways. Although honors courses represent less than one-fourth of a student's classes, they are usually among the most stimulating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

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

Scholars also have the opportunity to room with a fellow scholar in the Honors Living Learning Community (LLC).

Seminars—A Sample

Apocalypse How	Mindfulness
For God and Country	Professional Ethics
Framing the Family	Sports and Society
In Pursuit of Justice	Will and Grace
Medicine & Religion	World Music



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 first-year scholars to come together for reflection, fun, and relaxation. Events throughout the year for all scholars may include theater, concerts, movies, snow tubing, athletic events, theme dinners, and bowling. These events afford a break from studies and an opportunity to meet new people.



Service Projects

In keeping with St. Thomas' mission of service to the community, scholars organize many service projects each semester. From one-time events to year-long projects, scholars provide assistance in the Twin Cities community. Projects have included tutoring elementary students, serving food at Dorothy Day Center Shelter, making tie blankets for local crisis pregnancy centers, and constructing homes with Habitat for Humanity.

The Aquinas Scholars Program encourages students to take courses in environments that cultivate discussion in small groups and think deeper than in traditional classes at St. Thomas.

Honors Conference

Students have the opportunity to travel to Chicago, Seattle, Atlanta, and other big cities to 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.

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/aquinascholars/faq/.

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 under Policies.

Further Information

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

