“Becoming a leader is synonymous with becoming yourself. That simple, that difficult.”

—Warren Bennis

It’s your competitive edge.
You’re looking for an **academically challenging** environment where **passionate** professors and peers inspire you to be **CINCINNATI SMART**.

You’re looking for the freedom to **explore your passions** and the **support to achieve** your goals and dreams.

You’re looking for a **place to shine**.

The **University Honors Program** offers just that. You’ll be challenged through honors seminars and experiential learning projects focused on:

- **Global Studies**
- **Community Engagement**
- **Leadership**
- **Research**
- **Creative Arts**
University Honors Welcome Retreat

The honors first-year experience includes a welcome retreat just prior to fall semester. You’ll make friends, flex your leadership muscles and start to see the limitless possibilities before you as a University Honors student. Oh, and did we mention you’ll have fun?

In *Gateway to University Honors*, a one-credit hour course, you’ll be challenged to **roll up your sleeves and take ownership of your future**. You’ll also create a learning portfolio through which you’ll integrate your UC and UHP experiences and learning.

Throughout your first year, you’ll have many opportunities to meet other students and become engaged in the UHP community right away!

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“The welcome retreat set the tone for my University Honors experience.
- I learned the basics of the program, what I could accomplish and the importance of the honors community all before my first day of classes. I made valuable connections with my peers, the honors staff and other professionals who will be able to help accomplish my goals for my time at UC.”

— Jaime Maier, Class of 2018 Industrial Design
You’ll take honors seminars, which are small, interdisciplinary and usually discussion-based – an ideal way to connect with faculty and peers from across the university. Honors faculty will challenge you with creative projects and experiences that take learning beyond the typical classroom.

In Chemical Aspects of Forensic Science, for instance, you may find yourself digging into forensic analysis alongside students from majors as diverse as music, nursing, English, engineering or architecture.

In seminars like Music, Art and Thought in Medici Florence, you’ll have the opportunity to visit another country for a week-long study tour to see, touch and explore the culture and history you’ve been studying.

You’ll gain hands-on experience and build community through service learning courses like Exploring Community Engagement, which holds class sessions in various locations in Cincinnati and explores UC’s urban environment.

Or, picture yourself dining at a local 4-star restaurant – the culmination of Business Etiquette and Professional Image – for a delicious challenge to live what you’ve learned!

Other honors seminars that will motivate and inspire you include:

• Climate Change: Think Globally, Act Locally
• Exploring Leadership
• Inquiry to Innovation
• Exploring Biomedical Research
• Social Entrepreneurship
• Music and Architecture
• Public Health in South Africa
• Engineering Your Community
In the University Honors Program – thanks to grants awarded for experiential learning projects – big ideas are encouraged and rewarded!

Undergraduate Research
What’s your big idea? Delving into that could be one of your most valuable learning experiences. While studying abroad in Australia, Lindsey Freson (College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning, graphic design, class of 2015) became interested in marine life and combatting its widespread destruction. She spent the following summer on a research expedition in The Bahamas, funded by the National Geographic Society, assisting with research on the population stability of crinoid echinoderms in the tropical western Atlantic.

UC Forward
This exciting teaching and learning initiative matches students, faculty and external experts, each from differing perspectives, to create innovative and transformative answers to problems and uniquely develop tomorrow’s workforce. UHP students are engaged in a variety of UC Forward experiences, including the Niehoff Studio and the Live Well Collaborative.

Study Abroad
University Honors students are strongly encouraged to study abroad! Recent study abroad experiences have taken our students around the world to places such as Australia, Brazil, China, Germany, Ghana, India, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Russia, Spain, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and more!

Experience Reflect Integrate
I learned how to better understand people that are different than me. I wanted to take myself out of my comfort zone.

— Mahima Venkatesh
Biological Sciences
Class of 2015

ALTERNATIVE BREAK PROGRAMS
Honors students opt to spend their breaks serving others while learning about issues facing the communities and organizations they work with.

CO-OP
Co-op provides an ideal opportunity for honors experiential learning projects. International co-op offers an exceptional chance to learn a second language and gain valuable global experience.

CREATIVE ARTS
Alison Kaufman (College Conservatory of Music, voice, class of 2014) came to UC from California. She spent a summer in Italy studying music, voice and Italian with the CCM Spoleto Festival to hone her opera performance skills and learn in a different environment.

THE LEADERSHAPE INSTITUTE
Looking for a unique opportunity to develop as a leader? This week-long leadership institute focuses on leading with integrity and results in the creation of a powerful vision for the future. It will be one of the most insightful, high-impact weeks of your life!
“Becoming a mentor has been a great experience because I’m able to work with a student who is just as excited about having a mentor as I am about being one.”

— Brian Barney, Class of 2015

“The University Honors Program has given me the resources to enrich my academic learning at UC. I have explored passions within and outside my major and become a more well-rounded person. From studying abroad in Spain to researching at the College of Medicine, the University Honors Program has supported me financially and personally. University Honors connected me with the right people and resources to succeed, while letting me have autonomy of the direction of my experiences.”

— Mahima Venkatesh, Class of 2014

Community Engagement

Brian Barney

- Health Sciences/Pre-Physical Therapy, from the greater Chicago area
- Cincinnati Youth Collaborative Mentor
- Varsity Athlete, Track & Field
- RAPP Accelerating Racial Justice Program
- Undergraduate Research: Evaluating the Aerobic Capacity of Persons with Chronic Stroke
- Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity

Research

Mahima Venkatesh

- Biology and Pre-Med
- Biomedical Research Mentoring Program
- Pediatric Neurology Research: The Effects of Botulinum Toxin Injections to Reduce Muscular Spasticity
- Chemical Aspects of Forensic Science honors seminar
- Honors study tour to Ghana
- Workfest alternative break service-learning program
- Summer study abroad in Madrid, Spain
Leadership

Anh Tran

» Architecture
» International student from Vietnam
» Ambassador for Undergraduate Office of Admissions
» Summer Orientation Leader
» Honors study tour to Paris
» Photography co-op in Hawaii

“The University Honors Program has allowed me to study the history of theatre in Japan, direct a musical theatre workshop for inner-city students, create an intensive training experience in New York, and many other opportunities in the theatre. **None of these opportunities would have been possible without the support of University Honors.**”

— Katie Wesler, Class of 2014

Creative Arts

Katie Wesler

» Musical Theater, lead in CCM production of “Singing in the Rain”
» Participated in Japanese Language and Culture Experience study abroad
» Summer Theater Internship: Missouri State University
» Red Mountain Winter Workshop in Birmingham, Al
» Senior Showcase: “Understanding Talent Agencies in NYC”

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Global Studies

Nate Bodenshatz

» Aerospace Engineering
» International co-op in Germany
» LeaderShape Institute
» Undergraduate Research: Tensegrity Structures
» SIERRA Unmanned Vehicle Project (to assist in wildland forest firefighting)
» Teach for America Alternative Spring Break and plans to work for TFA after graduation

“Co-oping abroad provided an amazing opportunity to learn about other cultures. I traveled to several countries and met wonderful people from all over the world.”

— Nate Bodenshatz Class of 2014
All first-time students applying for bachelor’s degree programs at UC are considered for admission to the University Honors Program – an invitation-only opportunity for top scholars.

And while we are looking for students who excel academically, we’re also looking for leaders, innovators and explorers – young adults reaching out to their local communities and beyond. We pay close attention to your co-curricular activities and the personal statement you’ve written as part of your application to UC.

University Honors students represent a diverse cross section of the student body who welcome the challenge of a richer and deeper college experience.