CICS Programs and Honors

- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (CS BS)
- Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science (CS BA)
- Bachelor of Science in Informatics (Info BS)
Honors Program Curriculum

**General Studies:** Focuses on breadth of study through honors general education courses.

**Advanced Scholarship:** Gives students a chance to conduct original research over two semesters under the supervision of a faculty member.

- **Departmental Honors:** For students who wish to undertake advanced research within their major. CICIS students (BS CS, BA CS, Info) complete **CS Departmental Honors**.

- **Multidisciplinary Honors:** For students who want to design honors programs of study outside of their major or between their major and other disciplines.

Source: https://www.honors.umass.edu/curriculum-overview
# Honors Program Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Departmental Honors (GSDH)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One CS honors course any level (excluding service courses). One CS honors course at the 300+ level. Can also use some 500/600 Honors Thesis or Project advised by a <strong>CICS faculty member</strong>.</td>
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<th>Commonwealth Honors Scholar on diploma and transcript. <strong>Departmental Honors</strong> listed on transcript.</th>
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<td>Honors Thesis or Project advised by a <strong>CICS faculty member</strong>.</td>
<td>Honors Thesis or Project advised by a faculty member in a different department.</td>
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<td>All students are automatically enrolled as GSMH.</td>
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Apply using form on CS honors website.
# Honors Program Options

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<th>General Studies Honors Only (GS)*</th>
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<td>One CS honors course any level (excluding service courses). One CS honors course at the 300+ level. Can also use <em>some</em> 500/600</td>
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<td>5 General Studies Honors courses, including Honors Writing 112H.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honors Thesis or Project advised by a <strong>CICS faculty member</strong>.</td>
<td>Honors Thesis or Project advised by a faculty member in a different department.</td>
<td>No honors thesis or project.</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>General Studies Honors</strong> on transcript.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply using form on CS honors website.</td>
<td>All students are automatically enrolled as GSMH.</td>
<td>Meet with a CHC Advisor to opt out of advanced studies.</td>
</tr>
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* Note: Only for students entering before fall 2018.
CS Honors Track: Research Requirements

Part I – Preparation: Students spend one semester acquiring the background needed to do research in their desired area and developing a thesis/project proposal. Two options: individual (499Y) or course-based (691DD). Typically 3 credits.

Part II – Project/Thesis: Students spend one semester performing research. The final deliverable is a written thesis document (499T) -- or a written project report (499P). Both require a project presentation. Typically 3 credits.

Source: https://www.honors.umass.edu/capstone-experience
CS Honors Track: Admissions

Course Requirement: Students must have completed the sophomore-level requirements for their degree type to be admitted to the track.

- CS BS: 220,230,240,250
- CS BA: Three out of 220,230,240,250
- Info (tentative): INFO 150, COMPSCI 186/187, INFO 203, INFO 248

GPA Requirement: The minimum GPA to be admitted to the track is 3.4.

Conditional Admission: Admissions to the track is conditional on submitting a 499Y contract and semester plan.

Source: https://www.cics.umass.edu/cics-honors-admission-application
CS Honors Track: Recommended Timeline

Fall Junior Year
- Submit Application
- Find Research Advisor
- Choose Prep Option
- 499Y Proposal
- Research Methods Approval
- Take 499Y
- Take Research Methods
- 499 T/P Proposal
- Fall Senior Year
- Take 499T/P
- Submit Thesis or Project

Source: https://www.cics.umass.edu/ugrad-education/cs-departmental-honors-timeline
CS Honors Track: Alternate Timeline

**Spring Junior Year**
- Submit Application
- Find Research Advisor
- Choose Prep Option
- 499Y Proposal
- Research Methods Approval

**Fall Senior Year**
- Take 499Y
- Take Research Methods
- 499 T/P Proposal

**Spring Senior Year**
- Take 499T/P
- Submit Thesis or Project

Source: https://www.cics.umass.edu/ugrad-education/cs-departmental-honors-timeline
Apply as soon as you are eligible.

If your application is conditionally approved, we will send you detailed 499Y instructions to use in preparing your semester plan.
499Y contract and semester plan are prepared using CHC Paths. Due end of semester prior to starting 499Y. 2-3 pages.

Source: https://honorsweb1.honors.umass.edu/chc-paths/
CS Honors Track: 499T/P Proposal

499T/P contract and proposals are prepared using CHC Paths. Due by last day of classes in 499Y semester.

Source: https://honorsweb1.honors.umass.edu/chc-paths/
**Deliverables:** Final deliverable for honors research is a thesis or project document describing the work. Typically 20 pages in length. Students also give an oral presentation on their work.

**Major Credit:** CS majors allow for up to 3 credits from 499T/P or independent studies to count toward the major.
What are the Benefits of Honors Research?

1. Get a chance to work directly under a faculty member and along side graduate students.

2. Get a chance to contribute new knowledge to a sub-field of computing by publishing your research.

3. Increase the competitiveness of your graduate school and/or job applications.

4. Improve your critical thinking, problem solving, time management, programming, and written and oral communications skills.
CS Honors Track: More Information

Source: https://www.cics.umass.edu/ugrad-education/honors-track
Questions ?