

Barrett, The Honors College Overview and Requirements

Barrett, The Honors College curriculum is designed to develop students' habits of mind that enable them to be lifelong learners, creative problem solvers, and participatory citizens in a democratic society. Barrett emphasizes:

- small classes and seminars
- multidisciplinary team-taught courses and other engaged modes of learning
- development of critical reading, discussion, and writing skills

Barrett honors faculty fellows who specialize in honors pedagogy are responsible for offering the core honors curriculum through honors signature seminars and special topics courses. Barrett also collaborates with all colleges at ASU to offer honors seminars and sections, honors enrichment contracts, and undergraduate research, thesis, and creative project opportunities.

Admission to Barrett

Students first apply to ASU and then submit a separate [application](#) to Barrett.

Lower division entry: Students who begin with Barrett in their first year of college are required to take the [HON 171 and HON 272: The Human Event](#) course sequence, turn in either a successfully defended thesis or creative project, and complete 36 honors credit hours (18 of these credits must be upper-division coursework) with a cumulative GPA of 3.25 upon graduation.

Students in their first semester at ASU who are looking to join the honors college in their second semester may submit a [Barrett lower division application](#) if they will have three and a half academic years remaining to address the Barrett lower division requirements.

Upper division entry: Students who begin with Barrett midway through their college careers are required to take [HON 370: History of Ideas](#), turn in either a successfully defended thesis or creative project, and complete 21 upper-division honors credit hours with a cumulative GPA of 3.25 upon graduation.

Transfer students: Students who have graduated or will graduate from an Arizona Community College honors program and who are joining Barrett as upper-division students complete 18 credit hours of an honors curriculum to graduate from Barrett, rather than 21 hours. The course [HON 370: History of Ideas](#) and the thesis experience remain required components of the program.

ASU Online students: Online students who have earned a minimum of 24 credits post high school graduation, including completing the [ASU first-year composition requirement](#), and have a minimum of 60 credits remaining until intended ASU graduation, are invited to apply to join as a Barrett Online student. Barrett Online students are required to take [HON 370: History of Ideas](#) as a live synchronous course offered via Zoom, turn in either a successfully defended thesis or creative project, and complete 21 upper-division honors credit hours with a cumulative GPA of 3.25 upon graduation.

Honors Signature Courses

All Barrett students are required to complete required signature courses and seminars taught by honors faculty fellows.

Students entering the college at the lower division are required to complete a two-semester sequence of [HON 171 and HON 272: The Human Event](#). This is an interdisciplinary seminar focusing on key social and intellectual currents in the development of humanity. Students examine human thought and imagination from various disciplines, including philosophy, history, literature, religion, science, social science, and art. Coursework emphasizes critical thinking, discussion, and argumentative writing.

Transfer students entering at the upper division complete a one-semester seminar, reserved for them, titled [HON 370: History of Ideas](#). The texts are generally selected based on a theme of the instructors' choosing. Coursework emphasizes critical thinking, discussion, and argumentative writing.

Honors Thesis or Creative Project

The Barrett honors thesis or creative project is the culmination of a student's entire honors experience and undergraduate education. The thesis provides students with the opportunity to work closely with faculty and advance knowledge in the discipline in a meaningful way. A thesis or creative project demonstrates experience with design, execution, analysis, and presentation in the chosen field of study.

Students typically enroll in departmental courses numbered 492 and 493 for thesis work under the supervision of the ASU faculty thesis director. Passing credit in 493 will result in fulfillment of the student's upper division Literacy and Critical Inquiry (L) General Studies requirement.

Students may select their own thesis topic and supervising faculty member inside or outside their academic majors. Additionally, students may participate in honors thesis pathways programs. Thesis pathways are unique thesis opportunities in which students can be paired with faculty on interesting and engaging topics. The pathway options provide students a structured experience in completing their thesis while researching a topic that interests them.

Required thesis or creative project elements include a thesis committee, approved thesis prospectus, thesis defense form, formal thesis defense event, and the final thesis work (approved by the thesis committee) which must be submitted to the Barrett Thesis Digital Repository.

Honors Credit Hours and Academic Opportunities

Students are responsible for earning honors credit hours outside of the HON signature courses and the thesis or creative project. They may do so by obtaining a grade of "C" or "Y" through participation in:

- honors sections
- honors enrichment contracts
- honors Special Topics courses
- internship, teaching assistant, and research credit
- honors study abroad programs
- T.W. Lewis honors coursework
- graduate-level (500+) coursework

Honors Progress and Support

A dedicated [honors advisor](#) is assigned to each incoming Barrett student. Barrett honors advising is mandatory for students. The honors advisor provides tools for navigating honors requirements, such as the Degree Audit Reporting System, or DARS, and connects students to campus-wide resources, extraordinary opportunities, and programs that create a unique honors experience. Additionally, Barrett students have an assigned major advisor in the college or department of their academic major and a faculty honors advisor.

Faculty honors advisors are disciplinary faculty members who serve as liaisons between their academic units and Barrett, The Honors College. Faculty honors advisors assist students with academic opportunities, information on graduate school, advice on the related field and profession, and assistance with the honors thesis or creative project. Barrett students are encouraged to work with these advisors throughout their undergraduate experience.

Questions should be directed to Barrettadvising@asu.edu.

Lower Division Curriculum

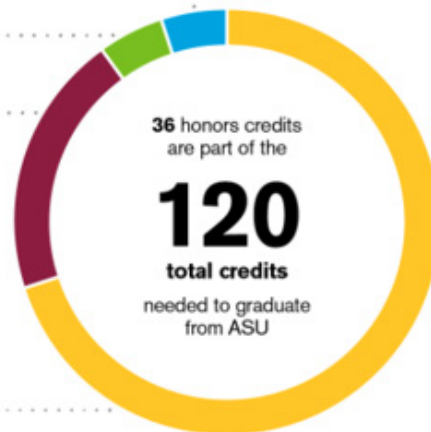
6 credits
The Human Event

6 credits
Thesis/Creative Project

24 credits

- Honors Sections
- Enrichment Contracts
- Special Topics Courses
- Internships/Research
- Barrett Study Abroad
- T.W. Lewis Center
- Graduate courses (500+ level)

Remaining credits
Degree requirements



Advisors recommend earning 9 honors credits per year

Upper Division Curriculum

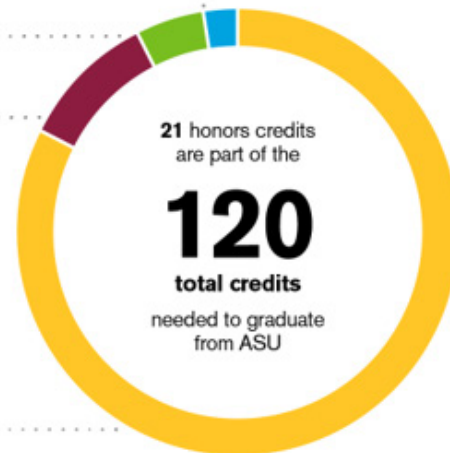
3 credits
History of Ideas

6 credits
Thesis/Creative Project

12 credits

- Honors Sections
- Enrichment Contracts
- Special Topics Courses
- Internships/Research
- Barrett Study Abroad
- T.W. Lewis Center
- Graduate courses (500+ level)

Remaining credits
Degree requirements



Advisors recommend earning 9 honors credits per year

Barrett Online Curriculum

3 credits

The History of Ideas

6 credits

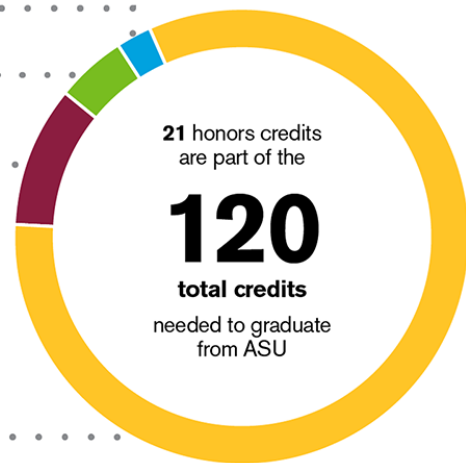
Thesis/Creative Project

12 credits

- Honors Sections
- Enrichment Contracts
- Special Topics Courses
- Internships/Research
- Barrett Study Abroad
- T.W. Lewis Center
- Graduate courses (500+ level)

Remaining credits

Degree requirements



Advisors recommend earning 9 credit hours per year