

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES

HONORS

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The CALS honors program allows students to continue challenging themselves through research and coursework. The objective of the honors program is to help students develop critical thinking and problem-solving abilities through specialized courses and to provide students the challenge of designing, conducting, and reporting research in collaboration with faculty from one of the world's leading research institutions.

HONORS

CALS has two different avenues to earn an honors degree designation. Students may complete either based on their interests and goals. Students are not allowed to complete both types of honors. In either option, a student must successfully complete a senior honors thesis approved by the research mentor or committee.

Honors in Research

Students engage in the university's great research tradition through the completion of two research projects: an introductory project and a senior thesis project. Students identify a faculty mentor to oversee their research efforts and support their progression through the program. In addition to the hands-on research experience, students are required to enroll in coursework directed at furthering their knowledge in quality and ethical scientific discovery. Students who successfully complete Honors in Research (<https://cals.wisc.edu/academics/undergraduate/current-students/honors-program/honors-research/>) will receive an honors designation on their diploma.

Honors in the Major

Students complete a specified number of honors credits in a designated set of courses to gain advanced knowledge and inquiry within their major field of interest. A limited number of CALS majors offer this program option; more information is located on the requirements tab for the major. Students who successfully complete honors in the major will receive an honors designation on their transcript and [diploma. A list of majors that offer this option can be found here.](#)

For complete information contact the Office of Academic [Affairs](#).

DEAN'S LIST

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean. Selections to the dean's list are announced at the close of each semester. The student's achievement for only the single semester is considered and is noted on the transcript. To be placed on the dean's list, a student must have achieved at least a 3.5 GPA or above for the semester's study load of not less than 12 credits, on a regular grade basis (A, AB, B, BC, C, D, F), regardless of overall grade point average, and must not have received a grade of F or an Incomplete for any course, or a U (for a pass/fail course) or an N (for Credit/No Credit graded course that was not passed).

GRADUATION WITH DISTINCTION OR HIGHEST DISTINCTION

Students who graduate with a cumulative GPA that places them in the top 20 percent of the graduating class in the college will graduate with "distinction"; those in the upper 5 percent, with "highest distinction." These students must have at least 60 credits on the UW-Madison campus. The notations on the student's transcript will read "graduated with distinction" or "graduated with highest distinction" in the "degrees awarded" section of the transcript. The registrar makes these calculations and updates final transcripts approximately 45 days after the grading deadline for each semester.

DISTINCTIVE SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

A preliminary list of those degree candidates who may be eligible for graduation with distinction is prepared by the registrar prior to commencement. These students are eligible to wear a cardinal stole with their caps and gowns at commencement. Inclusion on the distinctive scholastic achievement list does not guarantee graduation with distinction, which is determined after final grades are awarded.