

Drexel University

Catalog 2010-11

Pennoni Honors College

Drexel University's Pennoni Honors College deepens and enriches the University experience for students from all majors who have demonstrated academic achievement and varied intellectual interests. Students are selected for admission based on multiple indicators of intellectual strength, accomplishment, and motivation, including a written statement, high school and perhaps college GPA, activities, and SAT scores. Honors students must maintain a GPA of 3.2 or higher once accepted, make satisfactory progress toward their degree, participate in Honors courses, and demonstrate conduct befitting an Honors student. Entering freshmen are invited to apply, based upon their credentials. Students not directly invited may apply between March 1st and June 1st. Current Drexel students may apply through the end of their pre-junior year.

The Pennoni Honors College is named after Annette and Drexel graduate C.R. "Chuck" Pennoni, CEO of Pennoni Associates and two-time interim president of the University. Honors students endeavor to emulate his qualities of strong leadership, integrity, and commitment to Drexel.

Members of Pennoni Honors College take part in a variety of courses that pair small groups of students with some of Drexel's best professors, creating the feeling of a small college without sacrificing the diverse academic opportunities offered by a major research university.

Diversity is also found inside the classroom. Honors students are drawn from all majors and represent many countries. Honors students share their interests and abilities, introducing their peers to new ideas and activities.

The Pennoni Honors College helps prepare students for admission to graduate and professional schools and for seeking fellowships to further their education at home and abroad.

Academic Program for Honors Scholars

The Honors College offers a number of academic options for its students. These opportunities are designed to be intensive, and are taught by faculty members who understand and accommodate Honors students' abilities and aspirations. These options include:

- **Honors-Section Courses:** These courses fulfill traditional major requirements but offer Honors credit. While the subject remains the same, the classes are taught to smaller groups, consisting entirely of Honors students, and on an advanced level that encourages discussion and practical application. Honors-section courses include, among other subjects, physics, English, business, general psychology, chemistry, biology, and philosophy.
- **Honors Colloquia:** These interdisciplinary courses introduce students to topics not typically covered elsewhere. Individual courses in the colloquia may include lectures and presentations from a number of Drexel faculty members, each an expert in the specific facet he or she is discussing. Past Honors Colloquia courses have addressed such topics as The Hidden God in Cinema; The Internet; The Graphic Novel; and Torture and Terrorism.

- **Independent Study:** Honors students frequently come across topics in their general coursework that they would like to investigate in greater detail. To accommodate this, the Honors College encourages students to study and research a topic of their choosing with guidance from a faculty member.
- **Honors Options:** With permission from their instructors and approval from the Honors College, Honors students may elect to enhance Non-Honors courses to yield Honors credit. The student and faculty member conducting the class agree on the specific terms before the course begins and jointly submit a proposal to the Director of the Honors Program. In this manner, students earn Honors credit for the course.

The Great Works Symposium

The Great Works Symposium is a series of team-taught, interdisciplinary courses, each one focused upon a great human achievement or important global problem. Each course typically has at least three instructors, representing three different academic disciplines, and typically there is a series of about ten guest lecturers, recognized experts on the topic, also representing a wide variety of disciplines and points of view. Each course is broader in its content than what could be covered by any one academic discipline or any single textbook, but each has a concrete center of focus. Each topic is broad and important enough that it is relevant to the education of any student. Topics are selected which have aspects of relevance to contemporary social, political, and economic concerns. Topics of past Great Works Symposia include, among others, Globalization; The Atomic Bomb; The Internet; The Bhagavad-Gita; The Brooklyn Bridge; and Energy.

Custom-Designed Major

The Custom-Designed Major, which will accept its first students for academic year 2011-12, enables students to pursue an individualized course of study at Drexel University not readily available through an existing major, or a combination of existing majors and/or minors. The program is designed for highly motivated students whose interdisciplinary curiosity and career ambitions cannot be satisfied by a traditional major.

Center for Civic Engagement

The Center for Civic Engagement was created to help all Drexel students learn about citizenship through service learning. Related goals include encouraging students to develop concerns about the city in which they are living and studying and to have these sentiments translate into positive action. The CCE aims to help Drexel's neighbors feel better about having Drexel in the community and to contribute to a stronger Philadelphia overall. The CCE manages UNIV 101: Introduction to College Life with its embedded civic engagement component.

Cultural Passport Program

The City of Philadelphia is steeped in culture and history, all the while offering a thriving environment for commerce. Because Drexel is located only minutes from Center City, the University is able to use Philadelphia as an extended classroom in which to deepen students' understanding of the world, their environment and themselves. Drexel University's Cultural Passport program provides one free admission to more than 30 of Philadelphia's best cultural, historical, and performing arts institutions during a student's first year. Students are provided a Cultural Passport early in the fall and may use it for one calendar year. Passports are provided to all freshmen, 1st year graduate students, law students and medical students as well as to all transfer students. Once a student has been given one free admission to a particular institution, the hope is that they will choose to return using the discounted rates for college students that are posted in the Passport.

The Office of Undergraduate Research

Drexel University's Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) provides the opportunity for undergraduate students in good standing to integrate a faculty-mentored research, scholarship or creative opportunity into their undergraduate education. The Office of Undergraduate Research is housed within and managed by the Pennoni Honors College, but is a resource for all Drexel students, enrolled in all colleges and schools and virtually every academic discipline.

Services available through the Office of Undergraduate Research include:

- STAR: for first year students (see below)
- The *DISCOVER* database of faculty-sponsored research and creative opportunities
- Support for students to present their work at professional conferences

Other services include the provision of research-related information, development and management of undergraduate research opportunities, the support of courses to prepare students for research, and support for undergraduate conference attendance including the Colonial Academic Alliance Undergraduate Research Conference and the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). We encourage Drexel students to explore *DISCOVER* to find listings of work-study opportunities, research placements, and other opportunities to work with Drexel faculty.

STAR Scholars

Managed by the Office of Undergraduate Research, STAR is a special program for academically talented first-year students enabling them to incorporate a faculty-mentored research, scholarship, or creative project within their undergraduate curriculum. STAR matches 100 entering freshmen with faculty mentors and provides them with the opportunity to complete a funded ten-week summer internship in their intended field of study.

Approximately half of each year's cadre of STAR Scholars is selected prior to their entrance to college; the remainder are nominated by faculty following their first term in college. Students enrolled in any department within the university are eligible to participate. In order to be considered for participation, students must achieve a 3.5 cumulative GPA and meet eligibility requirements for admission to the Pennoni Honors College.

During freshman year, STAR Scholars may participate in a series of seminar programs to prepare them for their summer of research. In spring term, STAR Scholars and their mentors sign an agreement outlining their respective responsibilities for the summer internship. STAR projects may take place within any college or school, department, or interdisciplinary laboratory. A limited number of international opportunities are available for work outside of the United States. While students are completing their summer research internship, they are provided a \$4,000 stipend and receive university housing.

The STAR program proves a means for students to explore a major course of study, gain valuable research or creative experience as well as practical skills for career and graduate school and benefit from a close mentoring relationship with faculty.

Fellowships

The Drexel Fellowships Office fosters students' broad vision and intellectual ambition by encouraging their application to a wide range of nationally competitive, highly prestigious awards such as Fulbright, Gates-Cambridge, Rhodes, Goldwater, Truman, and others. Through intensive one-on-one advising and writing support, as well as outreach and education, the office supports students across the University, at all degree levels and in all fields of study, throughout these rigorous application processes.

The Smart Set

The Smart Set is Drexel University's online arts & culture journal, which has won national and international acclaim for its essays, reporting, and criticism. The journal is regularly linked by such high-profile publications as *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *The Economist*, and *Arts & Letters Daily*. Reaching readers all over the world, *The Smart Set* logged around two million page-views in 2009. Besides a stable of award-winning professional writers and some of Drexel's top faculty as contributors, *The Smart Set* also hires talented students to help with editing, writing, photography, and design.

Visiting Scholars Program

The Visiting Scholars program is a highly selective program that allows high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors to register for college courses—on a space-available basis—at Drexel University's University City Campus, while completing high school. Students attend regular University courses with upper-class Drexel students, and must meet the same requirements as other Drexel students in the class. Visiting Scholars receive full college credit and a Drexel University transcript for all work completed with a passing grade. Applicants must demonstrate the responsibility and maturity expected of university students, and have the approval of their high-school principal or guidance counselor to participate. It is important to note that this is not a dual-enrollment program; the Visiting Scholars program does not offer high-school credit through college courses.

Visiting Scholars may register for one course per term (up to four courses per year). Students may choose from day or evening courses offered through the College of Arts & Sciences, the Goodwin College, or the LeBow College of Business. Because Visiting Scholars are placed in University courses with college students, registration takes place after all current Drexel students have been registered for courses. Therefore, Visiting Scholars cannot be guaranteed enrollment into any course, and no exceptions can be made for closed courses. Enrollment into a particular course is dependent upon available space and the approval of the instructor. Additionally, in order to be enrolled in any course, Visiting Scholars must meet all stated course pre-requisites.

For additional information, visit Drexel University's Pennoni Honors College web site.

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Custom-Designed Major

Bachelor of Science Degree: 180.0 credits

Degree requirements (incoming students, 2011/2012)

The Custom-Designed Major enables students to pursue an individualized course of study at Drexel University not readily available through an existing major, or a combination of existing majors and/or minors. The program is designed for highly motivated students whose interdisciplinary curiosity and career ambitions cannot be satisfied by a traditional major.

The major offers students an opportunity for an early intensive research experience; incorporates cooperative education as part of its degree requirements; and culminates in an original, interdisciplinary senior-year project.

Admission

Only students who qualify for acceptance into the Honors Program and whose desired course of study draws upon disciplines available at Drexel will be admitted to the Program. Each student accepted into the program will be advised by the Program Director and closely mentored by one or more Drexel faculty members expert in at least one of the disciplines comprising the student's proposed course of study.

Admission to the Custom-Designed Major will be determined on the basis of an application portfolio. In addition to the standard Admissions application, the portfolio will contain:

- **a vision statement** describing in detail what the student hopes to accomplish during his or her time in the program, as well as explaining why the student's educational goals cannot be met by pursuing a regular Drexel major, a double major, or a major combined with minors. The vision statement should also contain a plausible plan of study for achieving the student's aims by drawing upon two or more existing Drexel programs.
- **student transcript**
- **SAT scores**
- **two letters of support** from individuals who can speak to the student's desire and ability to embark on an unconventional, individualized course of study.
- **examples** of projects completed independently by the student, in either a school or an extracurricular setting.

Students may be admitted as entering freshmen or by transfer. For additional information about applying to this program, contact the Program Director or the The Pennoni Honors College.

Co-Op and Career Services

Students in the program will complete one co-op cycle, most likely in the spring-summer of the junior year. Students will meet with their career services adviser during their time in the program to closely match career objectives with curriculum design and co-op/research opportunities.

Degree requirements

Foundation requirements

CSDN 101	Introduction to Multi-Disciplinary Methods	1.0
CSDN 102	Knowledge By Design Seminar	1.0
COOP 101	Career Management/Professional Development	0.0
HNRS 200	Introduction to Honors Program	1.0
UNIV 101	The Drexel Experience	1.0
	Humanities courses	9.0
	Social science courses	9.0
	Mathematics courses	6.0
	Science courses	8.0

Written evaluation

At the conclusion of the spring term of the freshman year (or after 3 terms of study for transfers) the student will receive a written evaluation and personal consultation regarding his or her progress. At this point each student will either be allowed to continue in the Custom-Designed Major or will be advised to transfer to another major at Drexel University.

Additional program requirements

CSDN 203	Custom-Designed Major Seminar*	2.0
	Three 300- or 400-level courses in each discipline comprising a significant component of the custom-designed curriculum**	var.
CSDN 304	Custom-Designed Major Project	3.0
CSDN 305	Custom-Designed Major Project	3.0
CSDN 306	Custom-Designed Major Project	3.0

*Taken for one credit each in the sophomore and junior years.

**All prerequisite courses for these selected courses must also be satisfied.

Guided course selection

Students will complete the courses in their agreed-upon customized programs of study under the guidance of the Program Director and other faculty as appropriate. Each student will receive sustained guidance on course selection and sequencing. In addition, at the completion of each academic year, each student will meet with the Program Director to refine and update their vision statement as needed.