



**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

Canada's Capital University

**Honours at  
Carleton University**



**carleton.ca**

## Why choose an Honours program?

For many students, a university education is an important first step in preparing for a challenging and satisfying career.

University studies offers the opportunity to acquire knowledge in a particular field and to develop the kinds of skills that will make you competitive in a demanding work force.

Many of these opportunities are realized in a four-year Honours program, and an increasing number of Carleton students are making this choice.

## What are the advantages?

- Learning will be more personal as you will work more closely with your professors.
- You will be on a more intensive study path that builds your knowledge and expertise.
- You will acquire a strong, marketable skill set that keeps your career options open.
- You may have access to co-operative and internship opportunities that offer valuable work experience.

Is it worth the extra investment in time and the higher level of commitment? We think so.

## Making learning personal

Being an Honours student means being able to work closely with your professors. Honours seminar courses have smaller enrolments, providing you with exceptional opportunities to get to know your professors and let them get to know you.

In many disciplines, Honours students take an active role in faculty research projects. Having the chance to work alongside some of the most accomplished researchers in the country not only develops your research skills, but also introduces you to knowledge breakthroughs that may affect your future career.

Having your professors as colleagues and collaborators also puts you at a distinct advantage when it comes time to ask for references. Many of our professors have extensive connections to the work world, from private sector companies to government agencies, and can introduce you to employment opportunities that may otherwise not be available.

## Greater expertise

Not only does an Honours program provide more options, it also builds your expertise in your chosen field.

Your overall breadth of knowledge is developed in a number of ways:

- your specially designed fourth-year seminars are more focused and offer a greater depth of discussion and research on specific topics;
- your Honours essays or projects provide an opportunity to explore areas of individual interest even further and become more knowledgeable and skilled; and
- the formal concentrations that are available in some Honours programs enhance knowledge in a particular area of study. For example, Honours History students can opt to specialize in International History, while Honours students in the Bachelor of Science program in Geography can pursue a concentration in Geomatics. Having these kinds of specializations on your diploma when you graduate signals your expertise in a certain area.

## Developing marketable skills

In today's changing job market, you can expect to have five or more careers over your working life.

Being flexible and adaptable, thinking critically, and having the ability to learn new concepts will be vital to your success. An increasing number of employers are looking for people with strong communication, analytical and research skills—the kinds of skills that can be applied to any number of job settings. These skills are at the heart of an Honours program.

As an Honours student:

- you will have the chance to become more proficient as a writer, researcher and presenter;
- you will take part in senior seminar courses that challenge you to examine an issue in detail, to develop and write an argument and to defend it convincingly;

- you may undertake a research thesis where, working in the lab or in the field alongside a professor, you tackle a problem experimentally, using the latest technology and techniques;
- you will discover the excitement of using the powers of reason and communication to demonstrate your point of view, and become adept in the art of applying, honing and integrating your acquired knowledge;
- you will be eligible for many professional programs such as law and medicine for which an Honours program is a prerequisite;
- you can apply for graduate studies at the master's and doctoral levels; and
- you will have more to offer to a greater number of potential employers.

It all adds up to more choices over time.

### **Valuable work experience**

Honours students have the advantage of being able to select from a number of co-operative and internship opportunities that are simply not available to students in a three-year program.

For example, Carleton Honours Political Science students can apply for parliamentary internships in London, England, while Honours Bachelor of Science students in our Biology program can complete co-operative work terms in industry or government settings.

Getting hands-on experience in real work environments will help you gain practical skills to complement your academic studies and can provide you with valuable contacts in the job market.

The fact that you can earn money while you are studying in a co-op program is certainly a benefit, but the strides you will make in gaining confidence, learning to take initiative, challenging your creativity, and honing your judgment are also invaluable.

### **Making the switch to Honours**

We think there are lots of strong reasons why you should choose an Honours program. And we hope the information that we have provided for you here will help you make the decision that is right for you.

Think over the Honours option and let us know if you are up for the challenge. If you would like to discuss your plans with us, please give us a call and we will do our best to help.



**Caitlin Oleson,**  
*Sociology and Mass Communication*  
*2010 graduate*

*"The Honours program required me to take classes which I would not have considered otherwise, such as theory and statistics. These classes have put me at an advantage when applying to graduate programs as they demonstrate high research skills and a solid background in my field. The Honours program also gave me an opportunity to do an independent research project that really gave me a chance to explore areas that interested me most. In working with my department on this project, I learned a lot about the research process and I gained confidence in my own abilities. I also think graduating from an Honours program gives one a competitive edge and a mark of distinction upon entering the workforce. I am continuing onto a Master of Arts in Sociology."*

**Do you want more information?  
Please contact us at:**

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Recruitment Office**

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