

A pair of black-rimmed glasses is resting on a stack of books and papers. The glasses are the central focus, with their reflection visible on the pages below. The background is softly blurred, showing the edges of several books and a red ribbon bookmark. The overall scene suggests a study or academic environment.

# Honors Education in Arkansas

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# Benefits for Honors College

- Pros:
  - ✓ Students get to attend smaller classes with more attention for each student.
  - ✓ Honors credentials can help students have a higher chance to get into graduate school or medical school.
  - ✓ Faculty gives more attention to honor students.
- Cons:
  - ✓ Honor students will be affected if the university must make a budget cut.
  - ✓ Honor students must share resources like the library with the other student body of the university.
  - ✓ Honor students might be considered special and treated in the wrong way. For example, some universities will not want to have a “better class” in the student body.

# How Many Honors Education programs are in Arkansas?

- There are 11 NCHC recognized honors programs in Arkansas Universities.
- The 4 we are discussing are Southern Arkansas University, University of Central Arkansas, Arkansas State University, and Arkansas Tech University.



# Application Process

- Each Arkansas University Honors program has a different process, some have more steps than others, and some are more competitive than others. They typically consist of a required ACT score and/or GPA and a secondary application or essay.



# Southern Arkansas University

- Admission and Graduation Requirement:
  - ❖ Looks at high school GPA, ACT or SAT scores (incoming freshman)
  - ❖ For current SAU students, students with a 3.5 GPA or higher can apply for honors college
  - ❖ Students transferring from 2+2 program must hold a minimum GPA of 3.25 and must submit an online application, essays, and letters of recommendation like incoming freshman
  - ❖ To graduate with honors students must have 24 honors hours courses (3 honor hours a semester) and keep a 3.25 GPA to remain in Honors College
- Incentives:
  - ❖ \$300 each semester, honors hall, early registration, free trips, and designation for honors graduation on transcript and diploma

# University of Central Arkansas

- Admission and Graduation Requirement:
  - ❖ GPA either high school or college at least 3.5; no minimum ACT
- To graduate students must have 15 hours of 3000-level and 4000-level courses in Honors College

## Incentives:

- ❖ \$2,000/ Semester Stipend,  
Private Room Upgrade  
Scholarship

# Arkansas State University Honors College

- Admissions Criteria and Graduation Requirements

- ❖ A minimum requirement of a 28 composite on the ACT **AND** a High School GPA of 3.50 or higher. (Incoming Freshmen)
- ❖ 18 college credit hours, 3.25 cumulative GPA and a recommendation from a faculty member or advisor. Also, a separate application. (Transfer students and current ASU Students)
- ❖ Graduation requirements have different options, the highest honors requires 24 honors credit hours, 12 upper level, a senior thesis and a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

- Incentives or Perks

- ❖ Many scholarships that require secondary applications, starting at a \$500 per semester value.
- ❖ Opportunities to Study abroad along side peers.
- ❖ LLC- a smart classroom building and multiple housing options.



# Arkansas Tech University Honors College

- Admissions Criteria and Graduation Requirements
  - ❖ For University Honors application, an applicant must have Early Admission to Tech, which is based on an ACT score of 27 or higher or being in the top 10% of your graduation class, and a GPA of 3.5, and then they must complete a prompted Essay portion to finish applying.
  - ❖ There is an interview portion as well.
  - ❖ To graduate with honors students must complete 21 honors hours, which are laid out in the course catalog as curriculum. This includes mentorship and Senior project.
- Incentives or Perks
  - ❖ A \$2,000 dollar scholarship
  - ❖ Volunteer Service opportunities.



# Sources

- <https://thecollegesolution.com/the-pros-and-cons-of-honors-colleges/>
- <https://web.saumag.edu/honors/about/>
- <https://www.nchchonors.org>
- <https://uca.edu/honors/shc/>
- [The Honors College \(astate.edu\)](https://www.astate.edu/honors)
- [University Honors Selection Process | Arkansas Tech University \(atu.edu\)](https://www.atu.edu/honors)