Teaching high achieving students since 2004

The Honors Curriculum Guide is a helpful resource for Honors students to become familiar with the curriculum of the program. In this guide you will learn about the courses that are offered and a brief background of the amazing faculty who teach them.

The curriculum of the program is made up of courses that help students acquire the necessary skills to become academically prepared for advanced degree’s and responsible citizenship. This is achieved through co-curricular activities and variety of best teaching practices including experiential learning.

Honors courses are taught by passionate faculty committed to mentoring and providing students with instruction offered in an interactive manner promoting classroom dialogue and discussion. Faculty are selected based on their history of teaching excellence and their ability to develop strong relationships with students.

Laurie Foster, M.A.C.T.

Laurie Foster is a full professor in the biological sciences department at GRCC. She has been in public education for twenty six years with experiences ranging from a high school teacher, community college professor, faculty professional development coordinator, and interim dean of instructional support. Professor Foster received her bachelor’s degree from Grand Valley State University and a master’s degree in teaching and curriculum from Michigan State University.

Her particular specialties are in teaching anatomy and physiology, honors biology and general biology for non-science majors.

Professor Foster has continued to expand her curricular expertise into online and hybrid modalities. She is an education practitioner whose classroom presence in whatever capacity, be it students or training colleagues, creates a positive climate for learning that is at the forefront of her contributions to the field of education.

She has been recognized for her skills at the college, state and national levels. She was the recipient of the Biology Teacher of the Year by the Michigan Science Teachers Association, was given the Excellence in Education award - the highest honor bestowed upon staff at her institution, and was also recognized as instrumental in helping her college achieve the notoriety of Phi Theta Kappa’s national honorary award for pre-professional teacher education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BI 101</td>
<td>Biology 101*</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Honors Biology (BI 101H) is a course for students who need to satisfy their transfer requirement for a study in science with a laboratory component. It is intended at the same time to provide an enhanced experience of this discipline. The course will provide a broad perspective on the fundamental scientific realm of biology. It will explore concepts including: the cellular basis of life, the genes and their control of organisms, energy and its capture and use by organisms, the application of evolution as a strand throughout all of biology, the dynamics of populations and their environment, and the diversity of living things and their interactions with each other. The course is specifically designed to promote the curiosity of learners who are comfortable and motivated to apply these biological concepts in a variety of modalities including online learning, papers, journal articles, field visits, and a service learning component. With this course, students will be given opportunity to apply accumulated biological knowledge, address issues facing us as a society, gain confidence in problem solving strategies, and actively demonstrate good scientific investigation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Transfer this course!** Below are the top three GRCC transfer institutions—many more will accept this credit:

- Ferris State University BIOL 103, Biological Concepts
- Grand Valley State University BIO 104, Biology for the 21st Century
- Davenport University BIOL 110L, Foundations of Cell Biology w/Lab

*Courses with Service Learning  **Students are responsible for contacting the transfer institution to verify listed information is current.
Dennis Sutton

Dennis Sutton has taught communication studies in the department of language and thought as a full-time professor since 2002. Prior to that, he was an adjunct instructor at GRCC, Aquinas College and Davenport University. He received a master’s degree in organizational communication from Western Michigan University in 2002 and a bachelor’s of science degree in public relations and advertising from Grand Valley State University in 2000. Prior to beginning his teaching career, he enjoyed a 20-year career in the media as a morning show radio personality and sportscaster.

Course Title

COM 135  Interpersonal Communication

Interpersonal Communication is a course designed to study and practice effective communication techniques for developing and maintaining healthy relationships. Verbal and nonverbal communication, active listening techniques, gender communication styles, diversity, and conflict management will also be examined. This course emphasizes student participation and interaction through small group and dyad exercises. Group discussions and reflective assignments will encourage critical thinking and application of course material to interpersonal relationships. In pairs, students will develop and deliver a presentation related to studies and research geared to interpersonal communication and relationships. Students will also write both a self assessment paper, tied to personality and self-concept assessments, and a paper analyzing a special, ongoing relationship in their life.

Transfer this course!** Below are the top GRCC transfer institutions—many more will accept this credit:

- Ferris State University CHEM General Credit or SCI Elective & CHEM General Credit or SCI Elective
- Grand Valley State University CHM 115, Principles of Chemistry I (lec) & CHM 115, Principles of Chemistry I (lab)
- Davenport University CHEM 150 , Foundations in Chemistry & CHEM 150L, foundations in Chemistry Lab

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Thomas Neils, Ph.D.

Professor Neils completed his bachelor’s of science in chemistry with a math minor at Michigan Technological University in 1983, then attended Cornell University, where he earned a master’s degree in science in 1985, and a doctorate in chemistry in 1989. Since 1994, he has taught all levels of general chemistry at GRCC as well as in quantitative chemical analysis and instrumental analysis.

Course Title

CHM 150/151  Honors Chemistry

The better models that we develop for describing nature, the better decisions we will be able to make about how to interact with our world. This course is intended for students majoring in science or engineering who have excellent backgrounds in the theory and practice (lab) of high school chemistry. This course will help students gain more depth and understanding in the fundamental concepts of first semester general chemistry. Emphasis will be placed on topics such as atomic and molecular structure, chemical bonding, intermolecular forces, phases of matter, solutions, stoichiometry, and thermodynamics. The lab is designed to introduce and reinforce lecture topics with an emphasis on quantitative methods. This course meets only in Fall semesters and consists of 4 hours of lecture and 3 hours of lab.

This course is designated as Honors Chemistry, and will count towards completion of the program. It is open to any student. Lecture can be taken without the lab.

Transfer this course!** Below are the top three GRCC transfer institutions—many more will accept this credit:

- Ferris State University CHM 115, Principles of Chemistry I (lec) & CHM 115, Principles of Chemistry I (lab)
- Grand Valley State University CHM 115, Principles of Chemistry I (lec) & CHM 115, Principles of Chemistry I (lab)
- Davenport University CHEM 150 , Foundations in Chemistry & CHEM 150L, foundations in Chemistry Lab

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Lisa Gloege, Ph.D.

Professor Gloege received her master’s and doctorate degrees in economics from the University of Notre Dame. Before coming to GRCC, she worked in the Division of International Finance at the Federal Reserve Board.

Course Title
EC 252 Principles of Microeconomics

Microeconomics examines how individual people and firms make choices and how those choices interact. The class introduces basic economic models of consumer and producer behavior, then extends these models to incorporate a wide variety of market failures. These include market power (why is your book cheaper at Amazon than the college bookstore), externalities (why the government should help you pay for college but tax you for gasoline), and public goods (who should pay for Sesame Street).

The Honors section of this class will allow students to spend additional time reading, writing, and debating public policy issues through an economic lens. We will study such diverse topics as the environment, healthcare, poverty, and education. Honors students in any major may want to consider this course. It is a requirement for a wide variety of undergraduate majors as well as graduate programs in many fields.

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<td>ECON 222</td>
<td>Principles of Microeconomics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Valley State University</td>
<td>ECO 211</td>
<td>Principles Of Microeconomics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davenport University</td>
<td>ECON 200</td>
<td>Microeconomics</td>
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James Hayes, M.A.

Professor Hayes is a graduate of Western Michigan University. Jim has been teaching for 20 years in a variety of environments and levels, including an all-boys military school in South Carolina, and as an Assistant Language Teacher in Numazu, Japan. He enjoys the challenges of teaching Honors courses and students.

Course Title
EN 102 English Composition 2

Prerequisites: Students are required to have passed EN 100 / EN 101 or the equivalent with a “C-” or better. En 102 will continue the personal approach, but quickly move from the subjective to the objective by asking students to take into account perspectives other than their own – gradually moving to a larger context: social, academic, political, and literary. Assignments will include a variety of writing. Professors will select a combination of assignments and essays from the following: career research, interviews, revision of I-centered research into more formal research, argumentation, literary criticism, collaborative writing assignments, and revision of personal essays into works of fiction. One academic or interdisciplinary research paper of 4-5 pages (excluding the Works Cited page) is required. Prerequisite: Final grade of “C-” or better in EN 100/101 or its equivalent. *While Honors EN 102 follows many of the same guidelines as any other 102 class, the level of material is more challenging. Students read and write a wide range of genres, and are expected to embrace the challenges and analyze topics and materials with great depth.

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<td>ENGL 250</td>
<td>English 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Valley State University</td>
<td>WRIT 150</td>
<td>Strategies in Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davenport University</td>
<td>ENGL 110</td>
<td>Advanced Composition</td>
</tr>
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Gordan Vurusic, M.A.

Gordan Vurusic has been teaching at GRCC since fall 2009 as an assistant professor of political science. He has advanced degrees in political science, international economics and political philosophy from Central European University, the University of Amsterdam, Bowling Green State University and Indiana University.

Course Title

**PS 110 Survey of American Government**

This course introduces students to the institutions and processes of American Government, and improves student’s skills in describing and analyzing the context of American politics. The Honors section of this course will include additional journal readings, critical thinking scholarship, and writing-intensive exercises. With a smaller class size, students will have more of an opportunity to engage in discussion that analyzes politics, the role of government in society, and public involvement in government. Students should expect significantly more reading and writing. With this additional responsibility, it prepares the students for the lively give-and-take conversations that take place. By the end of the class, students will be able to intelligently discuss the institutions in American government; the civil liberties and rights issues that America has faced and continues to battle; the various ideologies and interactions of political parties, interest groups and the media; as well as evaluate the alternative economic and social policies.

Transfer this course!** Below are the top three GRCC transfer institutions—many more will accept this credit:

- Ferris State University PLSC 121, Amer Gov 1-People and Politics
- Grand Valley State University PLS 102, American Govt & Politics
- Davenport University POLS 111, American Government

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Kellie M. Roblin, M.A.

Kellie Roblin received her master’s degree in English at the University of Illinois, Chicago. She is internationally certified by Via Lingua International to teach English as a foreign language and holds bachelor’s degrees in English and Psychology from Grand Valley State University. Currently, she is pursuing a master’s of fine arts degree in creative non-fiction from Queens University of Charlotte. She teaches in the English department.

Joan Gearns, M.A.

Professor Gearns has been a full-time faculty member in the English department since 2001. She received a bachelor’s of science degree and a master’s degree in teaching composition in the community college from Central Michigan University and completed coursework for a master’s equivalence in education. She has taught honors composition for Lansing Community and Grand Rapids Community colleges.

Professor Gearns currently teaches HN EN 101, HN EN 102, and HN EN 240.

Course Title

**EN 240 Consulting with Writers**

This course is designed for Honors students who would like to develop their writing and leadership skills while contributing to a collaborative learning environment. There are three basic components: classroom discussion and lecture, writing lab tutorials, and online discussions and assignments. As a result of their weekly tutoring sessions in the Writing Tutorial Lab, students will experience a leadership role on campus, developing their leadership skills, improving their writing skills, and contributing to a collaborative learning setting. Students will work one-on-one with instructors and professional tutors, individually, and follow self-directed studies pertinent to their efforts in the lab. Students will be provided the unique opportunity to work with ESL students and others who have diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and learning styles. Students will meet once a week in the classroom, and the remainder of each week will be spent tutoring two hours per week in the Writing Tutorial Lab and working on-line with their classmates and professors. Students who have received an A in EN 101 are strongly encouraged to apply.

Transfer this course!** Below are the top three GRCC transfer institutions—many more will accept this credit:

- Ferris State University ENGL General Credit
- Grand Valley State University WRT 307, Consulting With Writers
- Davenport University POLS 111, American Government

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Sophie Rubin, Ph.D.

Professor Rubin began teaching college classes in 2003, starting with GRCC’s psychology department in 2011. She earned her doctorate in psychology from Western Michigan University in 2009. She is a licensed clinical psychologist with experience in providing treatment for people with issues such as depression, bipolar disorder, substance-use disorders, anxiety disorders, and marriage and family problems. She has published multiple book chapters and articles related to psychology.

Course Title
PY 201 General Psychology

This course will use hands on activities, in-class discussions, and supplemental material to explore the science of psychology. A primary emphasis will be to revisit foundational research studies which have shaped the discipline. As an honors section, there will be a greater emphasis on critical dialogue, historical context, and the application of the theories to contemporary issues. Topics to be covered include research methods, neurobiology, human development, learning, memory, cognition, personality, and the identification and treatment of abnormal behavior.

Transfer this course!** Below are the top three GRCC transfer institutions—many more will accept this credit:

Ferris State University PSYC 150: Introduction to Psychology
Grand Valley State University PSY 101: Introductory Psychology
Davenport University PSYC 101: Introductory Psychology

PY 231 Abnormal Psychology

Prerequisite: PY 201. As an honors course, Abnormal Psychology will utilize interactive lectures regarding the scientific study of abnormal human behavior. This course examines contemporary scientific understanding of a wide variety of psychological disorders that affect people. Of particular focus are the causes, symptoms, and effective treatment of psychological disorders from psychological, biological, and sociocultural perspectives. As an honors course, an emphasis will be placed on critical thinking and speaking skills while examining key issues within the discipline.

Transfer this course!** Below are the top three GRCC transfer institutions—many more will accept this credit:

Davenport University PSY 201: Abnormal Psychology
Grand Valley State University PSY 303: Psychopathology
Ferris State University PSY 2-S: PSYC General Credit

Kate Byerwalter, Ph.D.

Kate Byerwalter has been a full professor in the psychology department since 1998. She holds an undergraduate degree from Hope College and a doctorate in developmental psychology from Loyola University in Chicago. She previously served as the honors program coordinator and head of the psychology department. She has won the Michigan Campus Compact Award for academic service learning.

Course Title
PY 232 Developmental Psychology*

Honors Developmental Psychology is an interactive lecture course that covers human development from the prenatal period through late adulthood. Students have the opportunity to learn from empirical research in the field, and apply that learning via critical thinking and reflective learning exercises in class. The course also includes class discussions, a field trip, and a guest speaker to supplement textbook and lecture.

Transfer this course!** Below are the top three GRCC transfer institutions—many more will accept this credit:

Ferris State University PSYC 226, Lifespan of Human Development
Grand Valley State University PSY 364, Life-Span Developmental Psy
Davenport University PSYC 303, Psychosocial Health Concerns

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