

## Honors Program Requirements: Academic Watch

The Honors Program challenges students to pursue academic growth and excellence during their studies at John Carroll University. However, the Director of the Honors Program and the Honors Program Committee understand that students may require a period to adjust to the rigors of college and the JCU Honors Program, or that students may experience circumstances that temporarily compromise their ability to perform at a high level. Students who do not meet the 3.50 grade point average requirements in their first two semesters or during two subsequent consecutive semesters will be placed on Academic Watch. By the end of their studies, all Honors students must show an overall record of superior scholarly achievement, usually demonstrated by a GPA of 3.50 or higher.

During the two-semester Academic Watch, students remain in the Honors Program and continue to receive the scholarships associated with membership while they bring their GPAs up to those required by the program. The details of Academic Watch are outlined below.

**Removal from the Honors Program without Academic Watch:** Students who earn lower than a 3.00 cumulative GPA at the end of an academic year in the Honors Program will be removed without a period of Academic Watch and will be no longer eligible to receive scholarship funding associated with membership in the Honors Program.

**Placement on Academic Watch: Students with cumulative GPAs between 3.0 and the class-specific threshold** are entitled to one year of Academic Watch. Students who are unable to recover their GPAs to the next minimum threshold during the Academic Watch period will be removed from the program. In order to be released from Academic Watch, students must:

- 1. meet with the Director of the Honors Program in first six weeks of the fall semester;**
2. earn a **semester GPA of 3.50** or better in the fall;
- 3. follow up with the Director of the Honors Program in the first six weeks of the spring semester.** During this meeting, the Director will evaluate the student's GPA and outstanding requirements in the Honors Program, and will discuss a course for either continuing or leaving the program;
- 4. recover a cumulative GPA to the following levels,** depending on the student's credit hours earned toward graduation, by the end of the second semester of Academic Watch:  
**sophomores** (25-54 credit hours): 3.30 cumulative GPA or better;  
**juniors** (55-85 credit hours): 3.40 cumulative GPA or better;  
**seniors** (by end of fall semester): 3.45 cumulative or better.

Failure to meet any of the obligations listed above may result in the student's immediate dismissal from the Honors Program.

**Petitions:** Students with a cumulative GPA above a 3.30 but below the stated requirements may submit a letter of petition to the Honors Committee to remain in the Honors Program beyond the usual two-semester Academic Watch, or to be permitted to commence work on the Senior Honors Project. In determining dismissal or the conditions for a student's continuation in the Honors Program, the Director of the Honors Program will only vote to break a tie within the Committee. All decisions by the Honors Committee are final.

**GPA Requirements for Commencing the Senior Honors Project:** Students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.40 or better by the end of spring semester of their junior year in order to begin work on the Senior Honors Project. Students are advised that failure to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.50 in their final year may result in dismissal from the Honors Program.

Graduating seniors with an anticipated or current cumulative GPA below a 3.50 must submit a letter of petition the Honors Committee in order to be allowed to graduate in the Honors Program. Honors students must show an overall record of superior scholarly achievement, usually demonstrated by a GPA of 3.50 or higher. Students submitting petitions should therefore demonstrate how they have achieved superior scholarly achievement other than through a GPA of 3.50 or better.

**Other Requirements:** Maintaining a minimum GPA is only one requirement of membership in the Honors Program. Students must also demonstrate progress in completing their Honors coursework, additional competencies, and Senior Honors Projects in order to maintain good standing in the Honors Program.

Beginning in fall 2012, students will be subject to the GPA requirements as outlined in this document.

**Approved:** February 3, 2012 by the Honors Committee. Slight revisions approved 31. October 2013.