How to Create an Extraordinary Honors Application

for existing USU / transfer students

1. Transcript
   • **Courses**: Take a range of challenging courses at USU—or at least seize on the opportunity to put your courses and grades in context.
   • **GPA/Recommendation**: Work hard to maintain a strong GPA and to get to know your professors; your GPA and letter of recommendation is key to admission and future success in Honors.

2. Resume
   • **Leadership**: Try to take leadership roles in campus and civic activities you care about; instead of just participating in everything, show us that you care deeply about selected activities.
   • **Community Engagement**: Your resume can showcase the connection between your academic skill and your commitment to change the world. Honors students are passionate and dynamic, bringing both talent and energy to USU. Show us what you have already done to make your community better.
   • **Format**: Follow the format on the sample resume for clarity, selecting and showcasing your most impressive accomplishments. The hours spent on each activity determine the number of honors points you will earn upon admission.

3. Essays
   • **Questions**: The USU Honors Program’s motto, from the poet Horace, is “Sapere aude” or “Dare to Know.” Write two essays (250-300 words each) that demonstrate your Academic Curiosity and Honors Interest (see our website at honors.usu.edu for essay prompts). Briefly, you will describe in the first essay a moment in college when you became truly passionate about a specific academic idea, assignment, or activity, and in the second what, specifically, you could bring to one of our interdisciplinary Honors courses or Book Labs, as well as to the Honors community as a whole.
   • **Examples**: Choose your example from college academics carefully, and be very specific about how and why it demonstrates your curiosity. Similarly, use your choice of one specific Honors course or Book Lab to show us what you will bring to our diverse, cross-disciplinary community and why you want to join it.
   • **Plan**: Imagine yourself in the USU Honors Program. Take some time to consider how your curiosity will grow in Honors and how your interest in Honors will develop as you become part of our community. Try to describe the future in real, specific terms.
   • **Impact**: The best essays do more than just discuss what Honors can do for you; they describe what you will bring to Honors. Show us why you want to be here, and why we should want that, too.