

PIETAS HONORS PROGRAM

The Pietas Honors Program (<https://www.bethel.edu/undergrad/academics/honors>) is designed to encourage and serve students desiring a challenging academic program, embodying Bethel's long-standing commitment to the integration of faith and learning. The program is designed to provide an enriched educational experience for students with exceptional academic ability, to create a community for such students, to enhance their preparation for and admission to graduate school, as well as to enhance the general academic environment of the university.

Students in the program take a total of four Honors-specific courses, which fulfill general education requirements. As members of the Pietas Honors Program, students will receive all of the textbooks for these four Honors courses for free. Students also choose one additional course (one at the 200-level or above) to add an Honors tag (H-tag). In H-tag courses, students contract with the course professor to further explore course material of projects. After the first year of the program, students engage in a significant leadership or service position at Bethel University. This could include a role as a resident assistant, campus discipleship leader, leader of a Twin Cities Outreach group, officer of a recognized campus club or organization within the Bethel Student Government umbrella, tutor for the Academic Enrichment Support Center, or many others. In addition to these requirements, there are Honors Colloquia, which students are required to attend throughout their time in the program.

Students interested in applying for the Pietas Honors Program should contact the director of the Pietas Honors Program.

Pietas Honors Program

Code	Title	Credits
HON 160	Pietas Seminar I ¹	3
HON 300G	Pietas Seminar II ¹	3
HON 305K	Pietas Seminar III ¹	3
HON 464P	Pietas Seminar IV ¹	3

Choose one tagged honors course at the 200-level or above

Leadership or Service Requirement

Total Credits 12

¹ This course meets a General Education requirement.

HON 001 • Stewardship Requirement for Honors Program Students. 0 Credit.

HON 160 • Pietas Seminar I. 3 Credits.

An introduction to the meaning and value of a liberal arts education in the Christian tradition and to key facets of the Pietas Program. While exploring a specific topic of interest, the seminar promotes the establishment of community among students, faculty, and varying aspects of student life. Students are also provided with instruction and practice in writing, as well as preparing and delivering oral presentation, in a manner that addresses the strengths and needs of Pietas Program students.

Prerequisites: Admission to the Pietas program. Special Notes: This course fulfills the Inquiry Seminar (GES 160) general education requirement. Offered: Fall, Spring.

HON 205U • Finding Community on the Margin. 3 Credits.

Exploration of community building that occurs in situations of oppression and exploitation along the lines of ethnicity, religion/culture, and/or economic life. With a focus on a people group found outside the dominant cultures of Europe and North America and living in a situation of marginalization and oppression (e.g., Dalits in India or Roma in Europe), understand the larger social, religious, and economic forces that shape the world of this group. Explore the cultural and personal perspectives of the members of this group. Study programs that address these situations and attempt to break the bonds of oppression and exploitation. Seek a faith-based response to these issues.

Prerequisites: GES 130 (may be taken concurrently) or GES 244 (may be taken concurrently); admission to the Honors Program. Offered: Spring.

HON 300G • Pietas Seminar II. 3 Credits.

Analysis and evaluation of community in varying contexts. Investigation of different models of community through reflection, experiential learning, film, fiction, and non-fiction.

Prerequisites: Pietas Seminar I; admission to the Honors Program; [GES 130; GES 160; Contemporary Western Life and Thought (L) course; World Cultures (U) course] or [GES 244; World Cultures (U) course]. Offered: Interim or Spring.

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HON 305K • Pietas Seminar III. 3 Credits.

Contemporary and historical topics are chosen to illustrate societal and cultural interactions with concurrent developments in science and technology. Examples of personal and corporate decision-making processes are stressed, thereby working toward a goal of preparation and motivation for responsible citizenship.

Prerequisites: Laboratory Science (D) course; Mathematics (M) course; admission to the Honors Program. Offered: Fall, Spring.

HON 464P • Pietas Seminar IV. 3 Credits.

As a capstone experience, seniors in the Honors Program will work collaboratively to research, discuss, evaluate, and address an interdisciplinary issue of contemporary civic importance. Through this work, students will have the opportunity to synthesize work completed in other Honors courses and projects as well as give mature reflection on the role of faith in the life of Christian scholarship.