What is Departmental Honors?
Departmental Honors is an Honors track (separate and distinct from Interdisciplinary Honors) that allows students the opportunity to explore their chosen major in greater depth, usually with guidance from a faculty mentor. Students can participate in Departmental Honors alongside Interdisciplinary Honors (which results in a College Honors distinction), or as their only Honors experience at UW (which results in a discipline-specific Honors distinction).

What does Departmental Honors look like?
Departmental Honors requirements vary, but usually constitute an additional 10-15 credits of upper-level coursework, additional research or an extended thesis.

Visit the Honors Program website to see a summary of Departmental Honors options across campus: [https://depts.washington.edu/uwhonors/reqs/#departmental](https://depts.washington.edu/uwhonors/reqs/#departmental)

You can also review Departmental Honors Spotlights, which include thoughts on programs from students, faculty & staff, on our website:

- Computer Science: [http://depts.washington.edu/uwhonors/features/dept_honors_cse/](http://depts.washington.edu/uwhonors/features/dept_honors_cse/)

Why do Departmental Honors?
The value of Departmental Honors lies in the experience of the requirements, rather than the designation you earn upon completion of those requirements. Depending on your department, your experience might include:

- the chance to pursue self-directed, focused research in your area of interest;
- the opportunity to work closely with faculty and community experts;
- building a community of like-minded peers in a cohort;
- access to upper-level, advanced courses or seminars in your discipline.

These experiences might provide excellent preparation for future study or employment, the chance to reflect on your undergraduate experience, and a rigorous exploration of your discipline.

How do I participate?
Typically, students apply for departmental admission in their junior year of college, although some majors have earlier entrance options. Like majors, some Departmental Honors programs are open, some have minimum requirements for entry, and some are competitive. For admission into a Departmental Honors program or details about the process, please speak with a departmental adviser.

Who should I contact?
Departmental Honors program “live” in their academic department, although the Honors Program oversees all Honors tracks. That means the best contact for information about your major’s Honors options is your departmental adviser – but you can always ask an Honors adviser for help identifying that person or getting started!