

International Honors Program Program Objectives

General Education Program Pacific Lutheran University

Framing Language and Program Goals

The International Honors Program is a challenging and creative way to satisfy most core curriculum requirements, reflecting PLU's unique mission and emphasis upon the liberal arts. Consisting of interdisciplinary and some team-taught courses, this multi-year program consisting of seven required courses, explores contemporary issues and their historical foundations through an integrated and multi-national approach. The program attracts inquisitive, caring students from all disciplines. Many Honors students choose to live in a designated wing of Hong International Hall, our international residence; whether inside or out, participants in the IHON Program form a thriving living/learning community.

General Education Element Description

The International Honors Program (IHON) is a rigorous alternative to the General Education Program at Pacific Lutheran University. Rooted in the university's emphasis on liberal arts education, International Honors consists of interdisciplinary courses that explore contemporary issues and their historical foundations through an integrated, multi-national approach. International Honors asks students to consider the ways in which their unique interests and intellectual gifts can be of service to the common good. Through broad and deep learning, students are challenged to consider their vocation as leaders within both local and international communities.

IHON students complete 28 credits hours (7 courses) within the IHON program as well as General Education requirements in Writing (101), Physical Activity, Mathematical Reasoning, Science and Scientific Method, Alternative Perspectives, and Cross Cultural Perspectives.

General Education Element Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the International Honors Program, students will be able to:

1. articulate and critically evaluate key historical foundations and traditions of the Western world;
2. compare and contrast the historical foundations and traditions of the Western world with other-than-Western histories, cultures, and traditions;
3. demonstrate an awareness of the diversity of scientific practices and an understanding of how these practices relate to issues of international significance;
4. articulate, contextualize, and critically reflect upon at least one mode of artistic expression and its relationship to cultural values systems in Western and other-than-Western culture;
5. compare, assess, and contextualize, the questions of what it means to be human in a global era from the perspective of two or more Humanities' disciplines;
6. analyze and contextualize the development and variation of human culture and institutions from the perspective of two or more Social Sciences disciplines; and,
7. evaluate individual, local, and international issues from both a multi-disciplinary perspective and from various ethical frameworks and situate and assert personal values and ethics within this diverse, global context.

Alignment with the ILOs:

The International Honors Program introduces students to the integrated nature of the Integrative Learning Objectives. The ILOs are intended to provide a conceptual reference for every department and program to build on and reinforce in their own particular curricula the goals of the General Education Program. The ILOs are meant to serve as a useful framework that unifies education throughout the University, while disciplinary study provides students with the knowledge and understanding of a field that will allow them to function in their chosen area.

Knowledge Base

These four statements describe the knowledge base expected of all PLU graduates:

- A broad knowledge of the basic liberal arts and sciences.
- An understanding of the interconnections among these basic liberal arts and science that provide the broad framework for living with the complexities of life.
- An in-depth knowledge of a specified area of knowledge designated as a major within the university.
- An understanding of the interconnections among the basic liberal arts and sciences and the in-depth knowledge of her/his specified major area.

In addition to the knowledge base described above, and an awareness of how different disciplinary methodologies are used, every student at Pacific Lutheran University is expected to develop the following abilities:

Critical Reflection

- Select sources of information using appropriate research methods, including those employing technology, and make use of that information carefully and critically.
- Consider issues from multiple perspectives.
- Evaluate assumptions and consequences of different perspectives in assessing possible solutions to problems.
- Understand and explain divergent viewpoints on complex issues, critically assess the support available for each, and defend one's own judgments.

Expression

- Communicate clearly and effectively in both oral and written forms.
- Adapt messages to various audiences using appropriate media, convention, or styles.
- Create symbols of meaning in a variety of expressive media, both verbal and nonverbal.

Interaction with Others

- Work creatively to identify and clarify the issues of concern.
- Acknowledge and respond to conflicting ideas and principles, and identify common interests where possible.
- Develop and promote effective strategies and interpersonal relationships for implementing cooperative actions.

Valuing

- Articulate and critically assess one's own values, with an awareness of the communities and traditions that have helped to shape them.
- Recognize how others have arrived at values different from one's own, and consider their views charitably and with an appreciation for the context in which they emerged. Develop a habit of caring for oneself, for others, and for the environment.
- Approach moral, spiritual, and intellectual development as a life-long process of making informed choices in one's commitments.
- Approach one's commitments with a high level of personal responsibility and professional accountability.

Multiple Frameworks

- Recognize and understand how cultures profoundly shape different assumptions and behaviors.
- Identify issues and problems facing people in every culture (including one's own), seeking constructive strategies for addressing them.
- Cultivate respect for diverse cultures, practices, and traditions.

