The University Honors Program is designed to provide a rich academic experience that fosters intellectual development and achievement. The program offers honors course options for fulfilling a number of the University-wide NU Core requirements: introductory and intermediate/advanced knowledge domain courses; comparative study of cultures courses; writing-intensive courses (ENG U111 and ENG U301); and entry-level mathematics. The program partners with campus departments to provide additional honors opportunities. During the first year, students participate in the First Year Reading Project; take HNR U101 (“Enhancing Honors”), a course team-taught with upperclass mentors; can choose from a selection of honors courses targeted to the first-year experience; and can enroll in a variety of small, selected honors sections in place of larger introductory courses. Interdisciplinary honors seminars are offered to sophomores and middlers. Juniors and seniors complete an honors project that typically involves an independent research project or a set of courses designed for upperclass honors students. In addition, upperclass students may take additional honors credits in independent study and as honors teaching assistants.

The program sponsors cultural opportunities including theatre, ballet, and music. The honors experience also includes special housing opportunities in West Village F and Kennedy Hall for first-year students and some housing in West Village C for upperclass students. The Honors Program office in 150 West Village F includes a multipurpose computer lab/lounge and a conference room for student use.

Honors students may earn up to three Honors Program distinctions: Honors Course Distinction, College Honors Project Distinction, and University Honors Program Distinction. Entering freshmen are invited to join based on a combination of their high school academic preparation, SAT/ACT scores, and leadership record. Current students are eligible to apply as second-semester freshmen or rising sophomores with a 3.600 or better cumulative average. Juniors and seniors may join if they have a faculty member prepared to sponsor their Junior/Senior Honors Project.