

Honors Program



Students posing in the Adirondack Park, New York.

SVA'S HONORS PROGRAM serves students who seek a challenging curriculum in which academic enrichment goes hand in hand with studio practice.

An interdisciplinary program that unites the undergraduate majors, the Honors Program brings talented, ambitious and intellectually curious students together to explore the historical and thematic connections that unite the humanities to the arts. The Honors Program thereby enhances the dual abilities of the visually and academically gifted by integrating academic courses on the interplay between the liberal and visual arts.

Community and collaboration are integral to the program, as students develop a capacity for critical thinking and visual literacy through group discussions, presentations, lectures and field trips to New York City's cultural institutions. Students are encouraged to relate literature, history, philosophy and art history to their own fields, while understanding the influences and impacts of their disciplines and work within a variety of contexts.

Core Curriculum

These humanities and art history courses are offered to Honors students only, creating a tight-knit community in which ideas are discussed and shared both in and out of class.

The core curriculum replaces the foundation courses in Art History and Writing & Literature that all freshmen must complete, and is supplemented by studio courses as required by each specific major.

Completion of the first two years of the program fulfills the majority of humanities and sciences and art history requirements, giving Honors students additional elective choices in their junior and senior years.

First-Year Requirements

- **History and Theory of Modern Art**
- **Modern Philosophy**
- **Political History of the Modern World**
- **Why Modernism?**

Second-Year and Third-Year Requirements

- **The Origins of Art**
- **Human and Divine**
- **Self, Culture and Society**
- **The Cultural Crisis of Scientific Knowledge or From Ancient Myth to the Birth of Modern Science**
- **Memory and History in Film or Issues in Contemporary Art**
- **Natural Science course, including Data Literacy and Visualization, Ecological Economics, or Modern Art and Astronomy**



Honors Library

Library & Events

The Honors Program boasts a small but comprehensive library that includes books and periodicals on art history, philosophy, political history, literature and literary criticism.

Shared with the Visual & Critical Studies Department, the library includes a private kitchen, computers and printers, and an inviting atmosphere for students to read, write and study.

Honors study is augmented by public and private lectures, museum visits, events at artists' studios and New York City's many cultural venues.

Travel



Students celebrating Holi, the Festival of Colors in Mumbai, India.

As a culmination of the Honors Program's interdisciplinary and academic goals, third-year Honors students are given the opportunity to participate in a trip over Spring Break. Past destinations have included:

- **Cusco, Peru**
- **Lisbon, Portugal**
- **Warsaw & Krakow, Poland**
- **Oaxaca, Mexico**
- **Florence, Italy**
- **Mumbai, India**
- **Palermo, Italy**

Flights, hotels, museum and event tickets are covered by the College.

How to Apply

First-time freshmen in Advertising; Animation; Cartooning; Computer Art; Computer Animation and Visual Effects; Design; Film; Fine Arts; Illustration; and Photography and Video who seek academic enrichment and challenge as an adjunct to their studio study are invited to apply to the SVA Honors Program.

Applicants interested in applying to the Honors Program should submit an Honors Program Application form with the required essay to Admissions.

Acceptance into the program is contingent upon SAT scores, GPA and the submitted Application Essay.

Request information at honors@sva.edu to learn more about Honors classes at SVA.

Application Essay

- 01 Download** Honors Program Application from sva.edu/honors
- 02 Write** a 500-word essay on the theme: Why Art?

Ways to submit Honors Program application & essay

- 01 Submit** online with your Undergraduate Admissions Application at sva.edu/apply

02 Mail to:

Undergraduate Admissions/Honors School of Visual Arts
209 East 23rd Street
New York, NY 10010-3994

- 03 Send** by email to honors@sva.edu

Deadline for submission:

February 15



Students discussing the concept of modernism in class



Students visiting the archaeological site of Selinunte, Sicily, Italy



Visiting a baroque church in Porto, Portugal



Mountain climbing on the Tibersmick Mountain Ridge, Iceland



Fontana della Vergogna, Sicily, Italy

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