Spring/Fall 2020 Application Process FAQs

General Application Process

Q. How do I apply to the Honors College?

First-year and external transfer students apply to the Honors College through the Honors College section of the Towson University application, available at www.towson.edu/admissions/undergrad/apply/index.html. Applicants already enrolled at Towson apply to the Honors College through a separate form available at http://www.towson.edu/honors/admission/apply.html.

Q. What do I have to submit in order to apply for the Honors College?

All applicants to the Honors College must submit the following:

- An essay responding to one of four prompts
- A resume detailing academic and extracurricular awards, activities which enhance global awareness, leadership positions, and community service and civic engagement, along with a personal statement about why the Honors College is the best fit for them

Applicants also have the option to provide contact information for one letter of recommendation

Q. How will my Honors College application be reviewed?

A panel of Honors College faculty and staff will review each application on the basis of a number of factors:

- Essay
- Resume
- Secondary/post-secondary school GPA
- Rigor of secondary school course load*
- Standardized test scores (SAT and/or ACT)*
- Class rank (if provided)*
- (optional) letter of recommendation

*Only for applicants from high school or with fewer than 30 completed college credits

Applicants are assessed first and foremost on the basis of their ability to succeed in the Honors College curriculum. There is no absolute cutoff for consideration or automatic admission.

Q. I want to apply to the Honors College but I have a low SAT score/secondary school GPA. Should I still apply?

The Honors College strongly encourages potential applicants who may have a low test score or GPA to apply. The Honors review process is holistic, taking into account a number of aspects related to the applicant as a person and his or her ability to succeed in the Honors College while contributing as a valuable member of our community.
Q. I filled out the Honors section of my Towson application but submitted it after December 1. Will I be considered for Honors College admission?

No. The deadline for Honors College consideration is December 1. While applications begun on or before December 1 may continue to provide the option to apply to the Honors College after that date, only applications submitted and received by Towson University Admissions by 11:59 pm on December 1 will be considered for admission in to the Honors College.

Q. I submitted an application and want to check to make sure you received all of my documents. Who should I speak with?

If you are a new student to Towson and applied through the Towson University application, contact University Admissions at admissions@towson.edu or 410-704-2113. If you are a current TU student, contact the Honors College at honors@towson.edu or 410-704-4677.

**Essay**

Q. Can I submit the same essay for my Towson University application and my Honors College application?

Yes! If you submit an essay for your Honors College application, that essay will also be used in the review of your general TU application, since the Honors application is more focused than the open-ended topic of the general TU application.

Q. How strict is the essay word count requirement?

The range between 500 and 750 words is fairly sizable, and provides the appropriate amount of space to form and support a clear position in direct response to the essay prompts provided. Any essay shorter than 500 words will likely have insufficient support for your argument, and anything longer than 750 will likely be too unfocused.

**Letter of Recommendation**

Q. I have several teachers who want to write me letters of recommendation. How can I provide you contact information for multiple recommenders?

We will only consider one letter of recommendation in support of your Honors College application. Additional letters of recommendation will not be read.

Q. Can you use the same letter of recommendation submitted as part of my Towson University application?

Yes! The recommendation requested by the Honors College asks for specific information and insight, so we encourage you to ask your recommender to respond to the Honors prompt. Their letter can support both your Honors application and general TU application.
Q. My recommender/high school insists on only mailing a hard copy recommendation, or on giving me their sealed recommendation in person. What do I do?

The Honors College strongly prefers letters of recommendation submitted through the online request portal to guarantee the recommendation is correctly attached to your application file. Hardcopy letters can be mailed to:

Honors College  
7800 York Road Building, Suite 134 
Towson, MD 21252-0001

Please ensure that your recommender includes your full name and the name of your high school in the letter. If your recommender gives you a sealed envelope, please write your name and high school on the exterior. This will help ensure the letter is added to your application file.

Q. My recommender/high school only submits recommendations through Naviance (or a similar service). What do I do?

As long as the letter is submitted by the recommender whose name you indicate on your application, it will be included in the review regardless of how TU receives it.

Q. I provided contact information for my recommender, and now they can’t/won’t write me a letter. Now what?

Provide the Honors College at honors@towson.edu or 410-704-4865 with the name and email of a replacement recommender, and we will send them the relevant information to submit a letter of recommendation.

Q. Can my boss/coach/family friend write my letter of recommendation?

The Honors College requests that letter of recommendation writers be primary subject teachers, as our recommendation prompt asks for information regarding your presence in the classroom. If you would like someone who’s not a primary subject teacher to write your letter, you must provide a written justification of why that person is equipped to assess your academic abilities.

Decisions

Q. When will I hear back regarding my application?

The Honors College finalizes admissions decisions no later than the end of January, and all decision letters are mailed out by the middle of February. All applicants receive a decision letter regardless of admission decision.

Q. What do I need to do in order to accept an offer of admission to the Honors College?

In order to accept admission into the Honors College, all you have to do is submit your official Towson University Enrollment Contract with deposit to Admissions by May 1. If you plan to live on campus, you must submit your housing request and deposit to the Department of Housing & Residence life by the deadline that office sets, which will be posted at https://www.towson.edu/studentlife/housing/campus/requesthousing/index.html.