



# BATTEN

## HONORS COLLEGE

*of* VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

### **VISION**

The Batten Honors College of Virginia Wesleyan inspires, engages, and prepares academically talented students to become leaders, environmental stewards, and impactful citizens in the global community.

### **MISSION**

The Batten Honors College of Virginia Wesleyan provides a transformative experience for high-achieving students and equips them with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of an ethical, thoughtful, and influential global citizen who understands the interdependence of society, culture, and the environment.

## OVERVIEW

The Batten Honors College prepares academically advanced and socially engaged students to lead society's professions and institutions with innovative approaches and ethical values that steward an environment threatened by global degradation and climate change.

Grounded in the three pillars of Environmental Stewardship, Global Citizenship, and Leadership, the Batten Honors College curriculum builds skills in critical thinking, research, collaboration, and communication. Successful students demonstrate independent thinking, social responsibility, and self-discovery while challenging students to view the world from a variety of perspectives grounded in the Liberal Arts and Sciences. Student experiences in the Honors curriculum will include seminar-style courses, faculty mentored research, and a global residency experience. Regardless of a student's major, they will gain a broader perspective on the connection between themselves, their academic discipline, the environment, and the world.

Student experiences in the BHC curriculum will range from small seminar-style courses to an immersive, semester-long, global experience. The interdisciplinary seminars will include lectures and group discussions led by faculty from two or more disciplines. Students will develop analytic, leadership, collaboration, and communication skills through the Honors courses. Honors students learn by doing - the BHC requires experiential learning opportunities beyond the classroom, including research and/or internship, and extended service projects at home or around the globe.

Each year, 40 students are accepted into the program. Twenty Batten Fellows receive a scholarship covering the full cost of tuition. An additional twenty students receive a scholarship that is nearly three-quarters of annual tuition. No matter the student's major, all Batten Scholarships are renewable for Fall and Spring semesters for four consecutive years. Scholarships are awarded based on the student performance during the competition. VWU may offer additional financial aid or financial incentives in conjunction with the honors college scholarship.

Students who do not remain in good standing, including reasons regarding student conduct, may be subject to forfeiture of their scholarship. In the event a BHC student loses their scholarship, their financial aid package will be readjusted to their initial VWU merit scholarship.

Batten Honors College policies are in addition to and do not supersede Virginia Wesleyan University policies. BHC students are expected to adhere to both the Batten Honors College policies as well as all VWU policies. VWU policies can be found in the most recent editions of the Academic Catalog and the Student Handbook.

## **PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

After participation in and graduation from the Batten Honors College, students will have demonstrated the ability to:

1. Express ideas clearly, insightfully, purposefully, and persuasively in different forms and contexts and to a variety of audiences.
2. Recognize and apply diverse global and cultural perspectives and multiple disciplinary approaches to analyzing and solving a complex issue or problem.
3. Demonstrate and practice leadership (organization, planning, communication, and delegation), organizational (collaboration, planning and assessment), and personal skills (self-discipline and task management) when working individually and collaboratively.
4. Recognize the responsibilities of citizenship, demonstrate social consciousness, and understand how their knowledge and skills can be applied to benefit their communities.

## **BATTEN HONORS COLLEGE ACADEMIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

<b>COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE</b>	<b>SEMESTER HOURS</b>
HON 110: Contemporary Environmental Issues	4
HON 210: Seminar in Global Citizenship	4
HON 310: Seminar in Leadership	4
HON 480: Senior Seminar	4
Two Honors Electives at 300/400 Level	8
Global Residency Requirement	
Immersive Educational Experience Requirement	
Maintain an electronic portfolio	
<b>TOTAL HOURS REQUIRED:</b>	<b>24</b>

## **GLOBAL RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**

After their first year of study, BHC students will undertake their Global Residency Experience by studying abroad for a semester in the ISEP exchange program, at the VWU Global Campus (Tokyo), or in another study away experience. All Global Residency experiences will be approved by the Dean and coordinated through the Office of Global Engagement. All Batten Scholars will receive a grant that will cover flights to/from the global program and assistance paying for required VISA fees. Depending on the global program, students may have to pay additional application fees, housing costs, and international health insurance fees.

## **IMMERSIVE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT**

Students will be required to complete one of three immersive activities - Undergraduate Research, Internship, or Extended Service Learning. Students will apply to the office to receive credit for their experience. Undergraduate Research should be able to qualify the student for Summa Cum Laude graduation requirements. Internships can be through a major, paid or unpaid, or accomplished outside of credit bearing courses. Service Learning projects should meet the demands of service learning as established by the Wesleyan Engaged Office. Many BHC students have and often will undertake all three, but only one is required to graduate.

## **THE BATTEN HONORS COLLEGE DEGREE**

Graduates of the Batten Honors College receive a diploma recognizing their accomplishment. In order to graduate, students must complete the academic requirements and be in good standing as a member of the honors community. Graduates must have a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher and at least a B average (3.00) in all honors courses (HON and HNRS). In addition to the academic component, graduates must be active members of the honors residential community by participating and attending important university events as representatives of the Honors College. Events include mandatory attendance at BHC Founders Day Convocation, Founder's Day events, BHC Matriculation, BHC Capstone Ceremony, The Ryan Research Symposium, other institutional ceremonies and events. Students who do not remain in good standing with the BHC are subject to the rights and penalties outlined by the university. If the student completes all requirements for graduation but are below the GPA or course requirements, the student can still graduate with a degree from VWU.

## **UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE**

The Virginia Wesleyan University Honor Code guides our approach to academic integrity. A Batten Scholar who is found to have committed an act of academic dishonesty by the Honor Council may be subject to immediate dismissal from the Batten Honors College.

## **PUBLIC, CAMPUS, & SOCIAL MEDIA CONDUCT**

Batten Honors College students are expected to maintain a high standard of behavior by adhering to Virginia Wesleyan's Standards of Student Conduct and respecting the rights of others. Any member of the Batten Honors College who is found to have committed an act of behavioral misconduct by the Community Arbitration Board and/or the Community Review Board may be subject to immediate dismissal from the Batten Honors College.

By association, students are representatives of the Honors College in virtually all aspects, even on social media. As community members and potential leaders, students are strongly encouraged to model civil discourse and aspire to the highest standards not only face-to-face but also virtually. Behavioral misconduct includes online and social media communications.

## **BATTEN HONORS ACADEMIC AND GOOD STANDING POLICY**

Students must meet these requirements to remain in good standing in the Batten Honors College:

- Uphold and adhere to University-wide standards of student conduct policies as outlined in VWU Student Handbook, VWU Mission Statement, Wesleyan Creed, and VWU Honor Code.
- Being active members in the campus community by participating in and attending important university events as representatives of the Honors College. Events include mandatory BHC Founders Day Convocation, Founder's Day events, BHC Matriculation, BHC Capstone Ceremony, and other institutional ceremonies and events.
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher (please note that a minimum GPA of 3.50 is required to graduate with Latin Honors).
- Minimum B average (3.00) in all honors courses (HON and HNRS)
- Complete BHC requirements in a timely fashion including completing all 100 and 200 level HON courses within the first two years, unless granted a waiver by the BHC Dean.
- Maintain full-time enrollment status (at least 12 credit hours per semester)
- Meet Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress, as determined by the Office of Financial Aid.
- Must maintain good financial status with no financial holds on their student receivable account.
- Meet VWU thresholds for the Selective Retention Policy as outlined in the Student Handbook.

## **BATTEN HONORS COLLEGE HOUSING POLICY**

The Batten Honors College is a residential program with a living learning community housed in Honors Village. All Honors College students, even those who live within any Coastal Virginia community, are required to live on campus. Honors students are housed as part of a living learning community in the Honors Village. This inclusive student community provides a learning experience that goes beyond the classroom, strengthens student engagement in campus life, and develops meaningful social connections.

Batten Fellows are required to live in the Honors Village all four years. Batten Scholars are required to live in the Honors Village for the first two years, and will be housed in the Honors Village on a space available basis thereafter. Those not in the Honors Village will be assigned housing elsewhere on campus. Housing in Honors Village will include the 15+ meal plan, for which students will be charged the current VWU rate.

The Office of Residence Life oversees all residence placements and policies. Batten Honors College policies may impact residency and scholarship availability. Students must abide by both the Honors College and Residence Life policies. If a student loses campus housing privileges for any reason, then the student may be subject to a loss of scholarship as well.

Students who are participating in their Global Residency Experience or pursuing internships, short-term study abroad may file a request with the Dean for a reprieve from the housing policy for those experiences.

## **ACADEMIC WARNING, PROBATION, DISMISSAL, AND WITHDRAWAL**

The Batten Honors College expects all members of our community to uphold and support high academic and ethical standards. Although BHC advisors will monitor student progress at midterm and after each semester, formal review of each student by the BHC office will occur at the end of each academic year to ascertain the status of each fellow and scholar. Students determined to be in good standing will maintain their status within the Batten Honors College through the following academic year. Students who are not in good standing are considered for Honors warning, Honors probation, or dismissal from the BHC. Typically, a student will be placed on Honors warning if they are close to, but not meeting the requirements for good standing (i.e. GPA is slightly below 3.0).

A student will typically be placed on honors probation when more than one of the requirements are not met or the student has failed a course. A status of warning or probation triggers the Honors support program.

*The Honors Support Program* is designed to communicate BHC expectations, provide resources and services, assist students in developing an improvement plan, and provide a period of time for students to make adjustments. In the Honors Support Program, students will receive assistance through regular meetings with an Honors advisor, as well as the resources or services needed, such as administrative support, career counseling, tutoring, study groups, and other professional services. Students, in consultation with an honors advisor, will develop an Academic Improvement Plan that is an individualized action plan with specific goals set for the semester. Students placed on Honors warning will remain active participants in the Honors College curriculum and residential community, but will be required to participate in the Honors support program for that semester and develop an Academic Improvement Plan. At the end of the semester on Honors warning, a student meeting the requirements will return to good standing in the Honors College. If at the end of the semester, the student does not meet the goals in the Academic Improvement Plan and/or the good standing requirements, the student will be placed on Honors probation.

Students on Honors probation are required to participate in the Honors support program and develop a revised Academic Improvement Plan. Those on Honors probation may remain in Honors courses and in Honors housing, but they will lose some privileges, such as priority registration and access to Honors College-funded events, programs or opportunities. At the end of the Honors probation semester, the Honors advisor and BHC Dean will evaluate student progress based upon the student's individualized academic improvement plan. Based on the progress made, a student may return to good standing, be extended another semester on probation, or be dismissed from the Honors College.

Students who have failed under University policy to meet satisfactory academic progress at the end of the academic year or the GPA thresholds that trigger automatic probation, suspension or dismissal as outlined in the VWU selective retention policy may be subject to immediate dismissal from the Batten Honors College.

## **DISMISSAL FROM THE HONORS COLLEGE**

If, in accordance with campus policies and procedures, a student is found to not be in good standing with the Batten Honors College, the student will be dismissed. A student may be dismissed from the honors college and still remain a student at VWU. Penalties, including dismissal, are developed in accordance with all university policies, both academic and community conduct. When a student is dismissed from the honors college, the student loses their scholarship, honors housing status, and is ineligible to receive benefits afforded by the honors college. If the student remains at VWU, the student's financial aid package will be adjusted for the loss of scholarship. Depending on the penalties for dismissal, students may also be eligible to move elsewhere on campus.

## **VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL FROM THE HONORS COLLEGE**

Students may voluntarily withdraw from the Batten Honors College and remain students at VWU. Students must meet with the BHC Dean and submit a signed withdrawal form to the Dean. Withdrawal from the Honors College will result in the removal of all Batten Honors College notations from the student's transcript. However, honors notations for individual courses will remain and count towards the total degree credits and any general education credits awarded.

Students who voluntarily withdraw from the Batten Honors College are subject to the loss of their Batten scholarship and a repackaging of their financial aid. Students who voluntarily withdraw from the honors college will also lose all benefits afforded by their honors status, including housing, schedule status, honors travel grants, etc.

## **CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT / LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Batten Honors College students are expected to register for courses each semester on a continuous basis (excluding summer) to maintain the degree requirements in effect at the time of their initial enrollment and to be eligible for scholarship renewal.

The Honors College recognizes, however, that a student may encounter circumstances that require a temporary interruption of studies. Under such circumstances, the student must receive an approved leave of absence to maintain continuous enrollment and to be eligible for scholarship renewal. To be considered for a leave of absence, a student must make a written request to the Dean of the Batten Honors College in advance of the semester's absence. Upon reviewing the reasons for the request, the Dean may recommend that the Vice President for Academic Affairs approve a leave of absence.

## **BATTEN HONORS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP RENEWAL**

Batten Scholars are awarded a merit scholarship applicable to undergraduate tuition with a value of full annual tuition or two-thirds annual tuition, respectively. The scholarship is renewable annually, not to exceed four consecutive years, assuming full-time enrollment and satisfactory academic progress.

Scholarships are reviewed for continuation or termination at the end of each semester and for renewal at the end of each academic year by the Office of Financial Aid. Generally, Honors College scholarships are renewed when students are in good standing (see specific requirements above) and terminated when a student fails to meet the requirement for good standing or make Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress.

Students who graduate with their undergrad degree before the end of their four years are eligible to apply their scholarship to graduate coursework. Students must apply and receive approval from the BHC Dean. The scholarship can be applied to graduate courses taken in Fall or Spring, only. BHC scholarships cannot be applied towards summer tuition. Students taking graduate courses in the BHC must still reside on campus.

Students who have been dismissed or withdrawn from the Batten Honors College will have their honors scholarship terminated, but may be offered an alternative merit scholarship congruent with their VWU academic record. Appeals following a loss of scholarship should be directed to the Office of Financial Aid and copied to the Dean of the Batten Honors College.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

This policy manual is published by Virginia Wesleyan University and contains information concerning academic policies, program, and course offerings for the Batten Honors College. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the academic policies contained in this manual. Failure to do so does not excuse students from the requirements and regulations described in this manual.

BHC students are expected to adhere to both the Batten Honors College policies and all VWU policies, with VWU policy superseding BHC policy in all cases, except that BHC students are required to live on campus as a part of the residential program (see page 4 for details), and must pay all applicable room and board fees for this residential portion of the program.

### **ADDITIONAL POLICY DOCUMENTS**

**Disclaimer:** This handbook is not intended to and does not contain all policies and regulations that relate to BHC or VWU students. The University reserves the right to make alterations in programs, course offerings, policies, and fees without prior notice

BHC Admission [www.vwu.edu/academics/batten-honors-college/admission-process.php](http://www.vwu.edu/academics/batten-honors-college/admission-process.php)

VWU Student Handbook [www.vwu.edu/campus-life/student-affairs/student-handbook.php](http://www.vwu.edu/campus-life/student-affairs/student-handbook.php)

VWU Honor Code [www.vwu.edu/about/campus-offices/human-resources/pdfs/honor-code/honor-code.pdf](http://www.vwu.edu/about/campus-offices/human-resources/pdfs/honor-code/honor-code.pdf)

Undergraduate Catalog [www.vwu.edu/academics/catalog.php](http://www.vwu.edu/academics/catalog.php)

Batten Honors College [www.vwu.edu/academics/batten-honors-college/](http://www.vwu.edu/academics/batten-honors-college/)