

**GRAND CANYON  
UNIVERSITY**

HONORS COLLEGE

# HONORS COLLEGE

EMBRACE THE CHALLENGE. ENRICH OUR FUTURE.



## MESSAGE FROM **THE DEAN**

Our mission is to ensure that students in our Honors College develop into exemplary graduates and influential agents of change who will lead and serve in the workplace, within their local communities and beyond.

Honors students have invigorating opportunities that extend far beyond their classroom experience. These include mentorship, interdisciplinary collaboration with honors faculty and peers, invitations to speaker events and access to honors organizations, community service projects, networking events and other engaging activities.

Traditional study abroad, mission trips and short-term global education programs can also create deep, meaningful experiences. We believe our students possess the vast potential to greatly impact both the local and global community. We also believe that social, spiritual, community and team-oriented ventures both inside and outside of GCU can help our students position themselves to create both a career and a life filled with purpose.

We look forward to engaging you in academic and experiential opportunities. We welcome you to an exciting new year defined by personal growth, scholarship, achievement and leadership. Your future awaits at the Honors College at Grand Canyon University!

***Breanna Naegeli, PhD, Dean of the Honors College***

# OUR MISSION AND VALUES

**THE HONORS COLLEGE** at Grand Canyon University is dedicated to cultivating a learner-centric environment that promotes character, integrity, intellectual growth and practical application through interdisciplinary collaboration. We empower students to amplify their purpose through intentional curricula and comprehensive co-curricular experiences. Honors graduates emerge as adept communicators, evidence-based decision-makers and deliberate global contributors while becoming good stewards of their faith and purpose.



## **STRENGTH IN A CHRIST-CENTERED COMMUNITY**

We value relationships over transactions.



## **INNOVATION THROUGH INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION**

We conduct strategic, purpose-driven research to drive innovative solutions.



## **CHARACTER AND INTEGRITY**

We work from the context of a Christian worldview and embrace servant leadership.



## **GLOBAL EXPLORATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

We promote cultural awareness by engaging with diverse communities.



## **COMMITMENT TO SERVICE AND SERVICE-MINDED LEADERSHIP**

We strive to develop transformational leaders committed to advocacy and action.



## **COMMITMENT TO LIFELONG LEARNING**

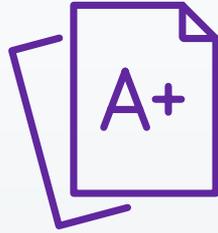
We devote ourselves to continual professional and spiritual growth.

# THE HONORS COLLEGE TODAY



**2,922**

HONORS COLLEGE STUDENTS



**3.84**

AVERAGE INCOMING  
UNWEIGHTED GPA



**4.12**

AVERAGE INCOMING  
WEIGHTED GPA



**272**

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE  
AND SERVANT LEADERSHIP  
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

## TOP ENROLLED PROGRAMS

**1** Bachelor of Science in Biology with  
an Emphasis in Pre-Medicine



**2** Bachelor of Science in Nursing



**3** Bachelor of Science in Psychology



**4** Bachelor of Science in Business Management



**5** Bachelor of Science in Marketing  
and Advertising



**6** Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science



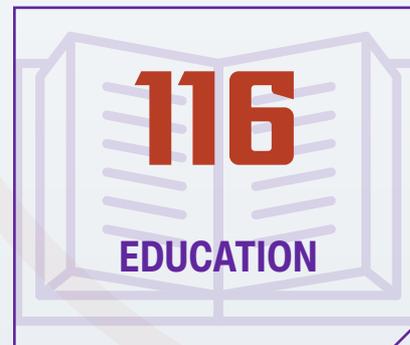
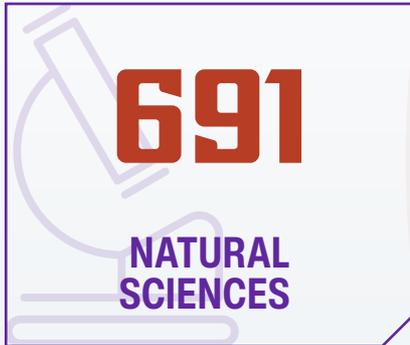
**7** Bachelor of Science in Biology with an  
Emphasis in Pre-Physical Therapy



# THE HONORS COLLEGE TODAY

## ENROLLMENT BY COLLEGE

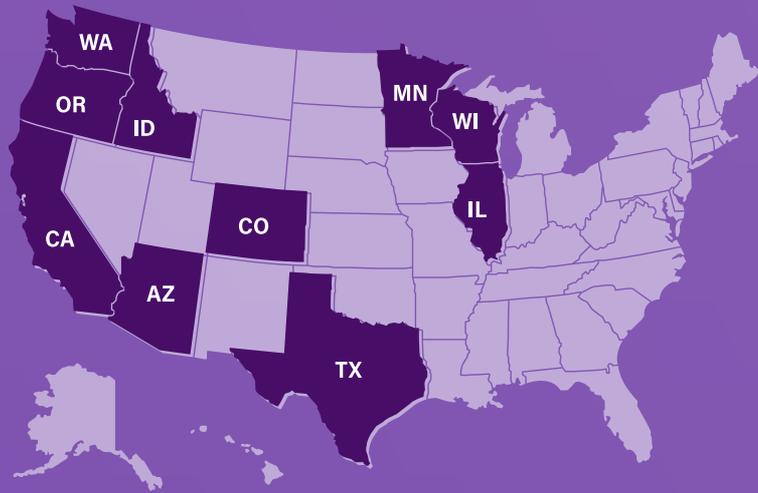
As of Fall 2023



**270+** HONORS COLLEGE COURSES OFFERED

As of Sept. 2024

# THE HONORS COLLEGE TODAY



## MOST COMMON HOME STATES

1. ARIZONA
2. CALIFORNIA
3. WASHINGTON
4. COLORADO
5. MINNESOTA
6. OREGON
7. TEXAS
8. ILLINOIS
9. IDAHO
10. WISCONSIN

## GENDER BREAKDOWN

68%

Female

Male

32%

## ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN

White: 59%

Hispanic or Latino: 24%

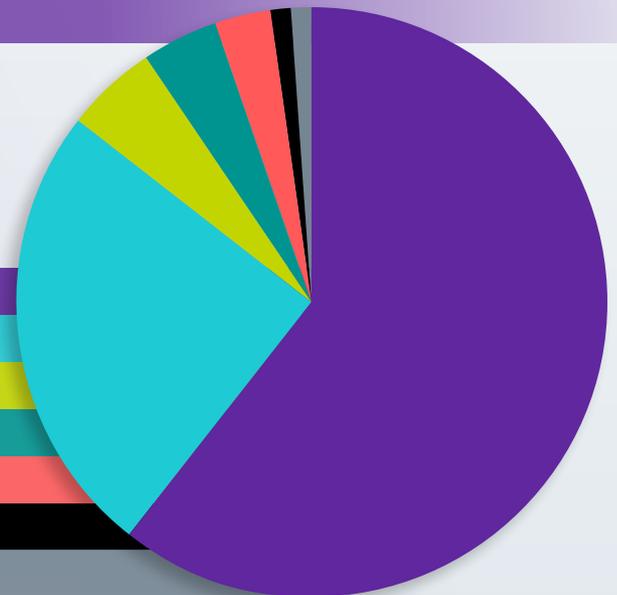
Mixed Race: 6%

Asian: 4%

Black or African American: 3%

Native American or Native Alaskan: <1%

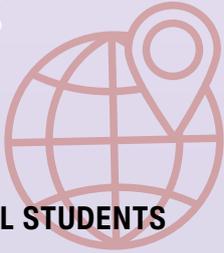
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: <1%



# THE HONORS COLLEGE TODAY

27

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



323

STUDENT LEADERS  
ON SCHOLARSHIP



650

FIRST GENERATION  
COLLEGE STUDENTS

*Self reported data as of fall 2022*



78%

STUDENTS LIVING  
ON CAMPUS



22%

STUDENTS COMMUTING  
TO CAMPUS



2,216

ALUMNI BETWEEN  
2015 AND 2023



*All stats accurate as of Fall 2023*

# WHERE HONORS ALUMNI STUDY<sup>1</sup>

## AFTER GRADUATING FROM GCU, HONORS STUDENTS HAVE SELF-REPORTED ATTENDING GRADUATE SCHOOL AT:

**A.T. Still University**

**Baylor University School of Law**

**Bentley University McCallum Graduate School of Business**

**Brunel University London**

**Capella University**

**Claremont University**

**Columbia University**

**Creighton University**

**Dell Medical School at the University of Texas Austin**

**Florence University of the Arts**

**Georgetown University Law Center**

**Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry at USC**

**Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine**

**John Hopkins Whiting, School of Engineering**

**Liberty University**

**Loma Linda University School of Medicine**

**London School of Economics and Political Science**

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**

**Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences**

**Midwestern University**

**New England Law**

**Ottawa University**

**Phoenix Seminary**

**Purdue University**

**Ross University School of Medicine**

**Saint John's University School of Law**

**San Diego State University**

**Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University**

**St. George's University**

**Syracuse University College of Law**

**Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi**

**Texas Tech University**

**The Graduate School at Northwestern University**

**The University of Queensland**

**UC Davis**

**Uniformed Services University**

**University of Liverpool**

**University of Mississippi**

**University of Notre Dame**

**University of Pennsylvania**

**West Coast University**

**Western University of Health Sciences**

**Wheaton College**

**William Penn University**

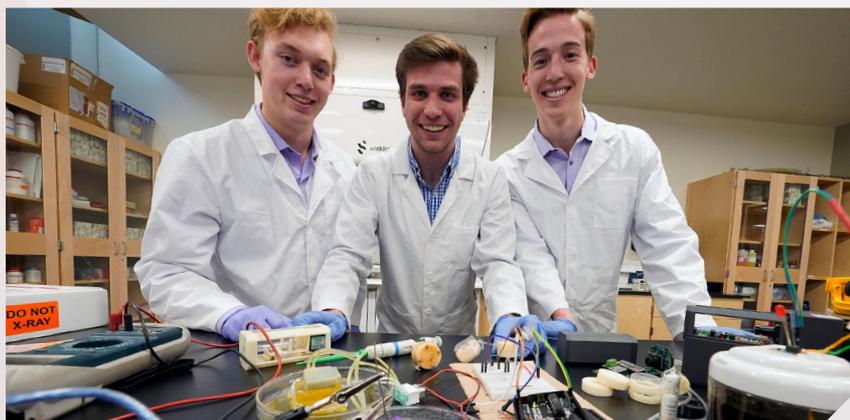
# WHERE HONORS ALUMNI WORK<sup>1</sup>

**Air National Guard**  
**Amazon**  
**Analog Devices**  
**Arizona Cyber Threat Response Alliance, Inc.**  
**Arizona Diamondbacks**  
**Arizona Foothills Media**  
**Arizona State Senate**  
**Banner Health**  
**Barrow Neurological Institute**  
**Better Business Bureau**  
**Charles Schwab**  
**Cisco**  
**Cox Automotive Inc.**  
**Deloitte**  
**Disney Parks, Experiences and Products**  
**Edward Jones**  
**Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)**  
**Google**  
**Honeywell Aerospace**  
**IBM**  
**Intel Corporation**  
**Internal Revenue Service**

**La Frontera EMPACT**  
**LinkedIn**  
**Make a Wish Foundation**  
**NASCAR**  
**National Urban League**  
**Parsons XTREME Golf (PXG)**  
**Phoenix Children's Hospital**  
**PING**  
**Republican State Leadership Committee**  
**Salt River Project (SRP)**  
**Southwest Behavioral & Health Services**  
**SpaceX**  
**St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center**  
**St. Vincent de Paul**  
**Swift Transportation**  
**U.S. Army**  
**U.S. Customs and Border Protection**  
**U.S. Department of Justice**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**U.S. Navy Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate Program**  
**U.S. White House**  
**Vanguard**

# FEATURED STORIES FROM THE HONORS COLLEGE

**HONORS STUDENTS** Erik Yost, Nathanael Olsen and Camden Marasco establish STELLAR on GCU's campus and collaborate with NASA to prepare and send a microbial fuel cell to the International Space Station to study clean energy for all regions of the world.



**GCU'S CHAPTER** of Alpha Chi National College Honor Society received President's Cup in 2024. GCU's chapter of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars earned Diamond Status in 2022-23. These are honors reserved for the top-performing chapters in the country.

**THE HONORS COLLEGE** celebrates the community engagement efforts, and crowning of alumna Adesuwa Osayaren for serving as Miss Nations of the World in 2018, alumna Jacqueline Thomas for serving as Miss Arizona in 2019, Aubrey Grasz for serving as Miss Nebraska Volunteer in 2022 and Faron Mehdi for serving as Miss Teen USA in 2022.



**DESPITE A DISRUPTION** in global education during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Honors College still successfully deployed hundreds of students abroad since 2015 to engage in short-term global education programs, mission trips, humanitarian outreach programs and study abroad.

**THE HONORS COLLEGE** partners with GCU CityServe and Sleep in Heavenly Peace to build and deliver bunk beds for local families in need.

**THE HONORS COLLEGE** celebrated a decade of growth with alumni and supporters in 2023.

*View all Honors College  
News stories!*



# FEATURED STORIES FROM THE HONORS COLLEGE

**COVID-19** didn't slow down the Honors College's mission to serve. Honors STEMists constructed wheelchairs to donate to patients in need at the Neighborhood Christian Clinic, and Honors VOICES assembled COVID care packages to support students in quarantine and self-care kits for frontline health care providers.

**GCU PUBLISHED** the first issues of the Canyon Journal for Undergraduate Research (CJUR) in 2023 and 2024, featuring first-time student authors from the Honors College.

**HONORS STUDENTS** engaged in the Youth Assembly hosted by the United Nations in New York City, shared business solutions for impoverished regions at the Clinton Global Initiative University, presented scholarly work at various academic conferences and supported TEDx GCU on our home campus in Phoenix.



# WHY THE HONORS COLLEGE?

## ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

- Honors elective courses for career and graduate school preparation (*page 13*)
- Research, publication and academic presentation opportunities (*pages 16-17*)
- Global studies programs, mission trips, traditional study abroad and service-focused outreach (*page 18*)

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Access to all complimentary professional and leadership development programs within the Leadership in Action Institute (*page 14*)
- Additional scholarship opportunities through the Honors Showcase and student leadership programs
- Mentorship, internships, industry projects and networking events
- Collaboration with entrepreneurial-minded faculty
- Honors-focused career fairs
- Opportunity to earn a Graduation with Leadership Distinction
- Opportunity to earn a Graduation with Professional Development Distinction

## EXTRACURRICULAR AND COMMUNITY PERKS

- Honors-exclusive social events and service projects (*page 15*)
- Honors housing and Living and Learning Community in Juniper Hall
- Priority housing for eligible continuing honors students
- Access to study and collaboration space in the Honors Lounge
- Complimentary printing in the Honors College office

## GRADUATION

- Honors diploma and designation on transcripts
- Free honors-exclusive commencement regalia



## FANNY GUERRA | CLASS OF 2023

### *Why Join the Honors College?*

*“The Honors College undoubtedly enriched my academic journey. The faculty’s servant leadership in the classroom and the collaborative environment with like-minded peers challenged me to think critically and grow academically. The academic rigor and engaging coursework prepared me to excel in my current profession and I’m incredibly grateful for the transformative experience.”*

# CUSTOMIZE YOUR HONORS ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

The Honors College curriculum is meticulously crafted to cultivate intellectual depth while fostering enriching learning experiences that captivate and challenge learners.



## HONORS COURSEWORK CAN BE CATEGORIZED INTO THE FOLLOWING:

- Honors Only Cohorts
- Honors Electives
- Honors Addendum Courses
- Honors Enrichment Contracts

*View the full list of honors courses!*



## ISA JOY ABBOTT | CLASS OF 2025

### *Why Join the Honors College?*

*“The Honors College has been an incredibly enriching and transformative part of my journey at GCU. The faculty’s dedicated mentorship and the shared ambition of my peers have pushed me to grow academically while also refining my character, mindset and professional skills. The administration’s active involvement and commitment to student success have opened doors to meaningful opportunities, allowing me to make the most of my college experience and prepare for a purposeful future.”*

# LEADERSHIP IN ACTION >>> INSTITUTE

- Leadership in Action Fellowship
- Honors Student Council
- First Year Committee
- PAC Professional Development and Peer Mentoring Program
- Graduate School Comprehensive Advising Program
- Young Athena Leadership Development Program
- Men of VALOR Leadership Development Series
- Pen to Purpose Journaling Program
- Canyon Emerging Scholars
- Next Generation Leadership Conference



# HONORS COLLEGE SIGNATURE EVENTS

- Service Week
- Friendsgiving
- International Education Week
- Emerging Leaders Career Fair
- Integrity Week
- Honors Showcase
- De-Stress Fest
- Banquet

...and more!



**DEAN'S SPEAKER  
SERIES**

**INSIDE  
ENTERTAINMENT  
SPEAKER SERIES**

**PUBLIC SQUARE  
SERIES**



*Visit [gcuhonors.org](http://gcuhonors.org)  
for more information  
on these programs  
and events!*



# RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

## STEP 1

Join a project with CES, RDP, a Lopes Live Lab or start your own.

### Canyon Emerging Scholars (CES)

CES provides mentoring for students in multidisciplinary problem-solving while supporting faculty research in co-curricular and extra-curricular settings.

### Research and Design Program (RDP)

RDP, which is part of CES, offers students hands-on mentored training from faculty in the fields of science, engineering or technology.

### Lopes Live Labs

Lopes Live Labs represent on-campus locations where students learn, gain access to industry opportunities and experience their education coming to life.

### Learn more about our Lopes Live Labs

These educational spaces provide hands-on, practical learning scenarios that help prepare students for life after college.



## STEP 2

Enroll in HON-355 and/or COM-211HN to sharpen your academic writing and presentation skills.

### HON-355: Academic Journal Writing

This course integrates coaching on the writing and publication processes with the goal of students submitting to the Canyon Journal of Undergraduate Research for possible publication.

### COM-211HN: Honors Public Speaking

This course in oral communication uses focused content to practice the principles of effective message building and presentation skills.

Visit [research.gcu.edu](https://research.gcu.edu)

# RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

## STEP 3

Showcase your work in any of the following:

### Canyon Journal of Undergraduate Research

CJUR publishes exemplary peer-reviewed undergraduate student research supported by faculty mentorship. This publication includes a competitive manuscript selection and peer review process.

### Canyon Undergraduate Research Symposium

CURS showcases exceptional student engagement, experiential learning, research or industry-inspired projects to President Brian Mueller and GCU's executive leadership team.

Get a sneak peek into our 2024 Conference



### Canyon Undergraduate Research Conference

CURC exhibits multidisciplinary research to GCU and community guests featuring undergraduate learners from RDP, CES, CJUR authors and the Honors College.

### Honors Showcase

The Honors Showcase is a platform for honors students to present their work to a board of judges and selected finalists are awarded a scholarship<sup>1</sup>.

## Our 2024 Canyon Undergraduate Research Conference had:

>220

TOTAL STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

80

POSTERS DISPLAYED

46

ORAL PRESENTATIONS GIVEN

37

TOTAL FACULTY ADVISORS SUPPORTING STUDENT RESEARCH

# GLOBAL STUDIES

## SHORT-TERM GLOBAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Honors College offers international short-term global education programs for honors students to enhance their learning and exploration. Lately, we have explored England, France, Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Italy.

## MISSION TRIPS WITH WELL-CHILD INTERNATIONAL

Honors College mission trips give students the life-changing opportunity to make an impact through service, such as teaching English, providing medical services and building relationships with locals in remote villages.

## TRADITIONAL STUDY ABROAD

GCU partners with five prominent study abroad providers to offer students semester-long, full-year and summer study abroad program opportunities that count as earned credit within their program of study.

## SHORT-TERM FACULTY-LED PROGRAMS

Short-term faculty-led programs consist of cohorts of students guided by faculty in their field. Students have the option to earn academic credit by coordinating with their academic department, provided they meet the necessary criteria. Past programs have included a behavioral health program in London and an environmental science program in Costa Rica, offering immersive learning experiences led by experienced faculty.

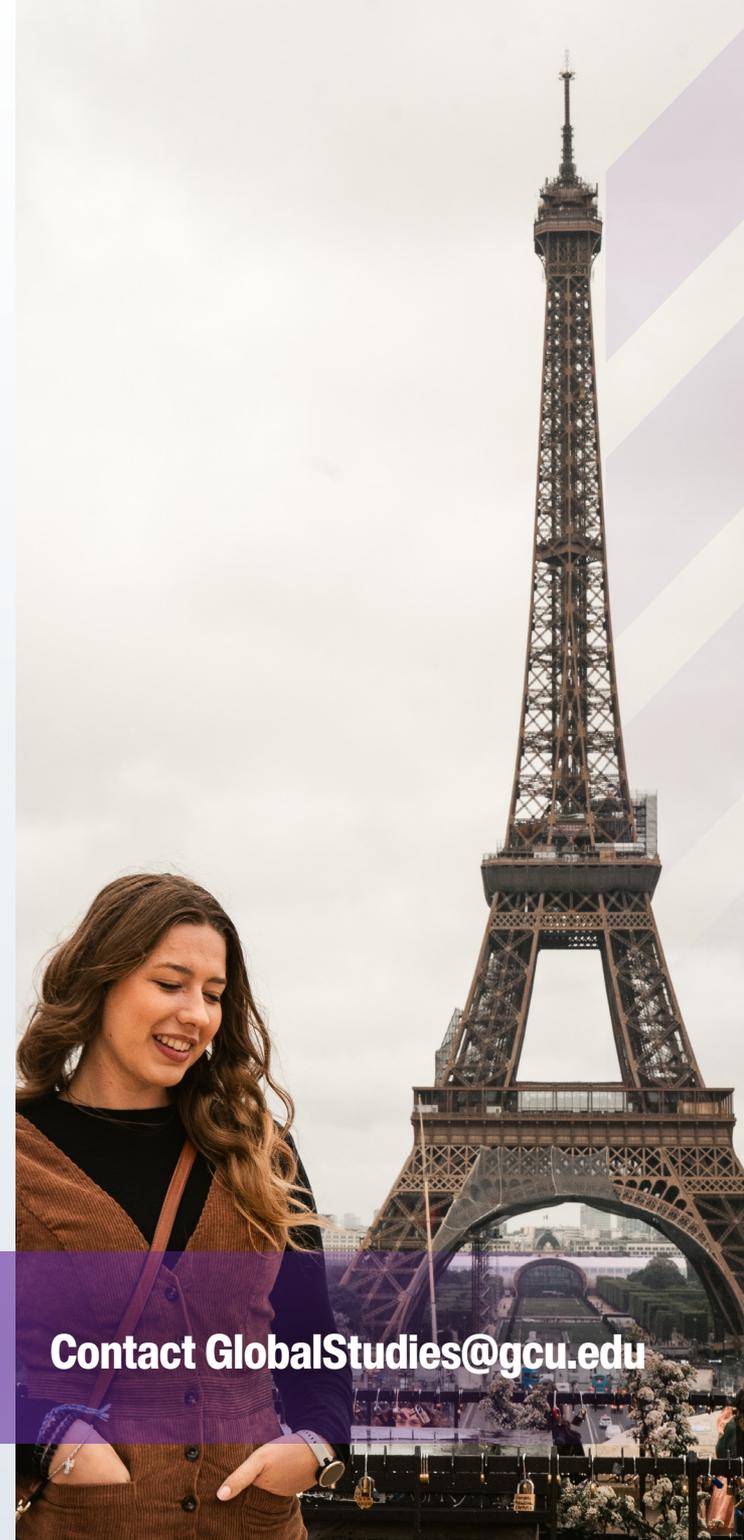
## INTERNATIONAL INTERSHIPS

GCU partners with two international internship providers to offer internships across a broad range of industries. Internships can span from four to 24 weeks and serve as a great option for students seeking professional and leadership development abroad.



*Scan to learn more!*

**Contact [GlobalStudies@gcu.edu](mailto:GlobalStudies@gcu.edu)**



# NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETIES

*Engage locally within our GCU chapters and connect with scholars worldwide!*



## National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS)

NSCS is a national honors organization that celebrates high achievement, promotes high standards throughout the collegiate experience, provides outside scholarship opportunities for members, encourages learning through community service and fosters an appreciation for the value of higher education. Visit [nscs.org](https://nscs.org) for more information.

🏆 *GCU's NSCS chapter was awarded Diamond Status in 2023 and is the largest chapter in the country!*



## Alpha Chi National College Honor Society

Alpha Chi is a national college honor society that has promoted academic excellence and exemplary character among college students. Students ranked in the top 10% of their institution receive membership invitations once they've earned 60+ credits. Visit [alphachihonor.org](https://alphachihonor.org) for more information.

🏆 *GCU's Alpha Chi chapter was awarded the President's Cup in 2024 and is the largest chapter in the country!*

## Other Honor Society Chapters at GCU

Delta Mu Delta International Academic Honors Society in Business | Sigma Beta Delta Honors Society (Business) | Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Society | National Association of Teachers of Singing | National Honors Society for Dance Arts | Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society (Education) | Psi Chi, The International Honors Society in Psychology | Sigma Theta Tau International Honors Society of Nursing

# MEET OUR ALUMNI



**DENISSE D. GONZALEZ, MBA, MS**

**Electrical Engineer for the Salt River Project**

BS in Electrical and Electronics Engineering  
*Class of 2019*



**CONNOR BRINTON, MBA**

**Associate Director of eCommerce for the Daily Wire**

BS in Business Administration and BS in Marketing  
*Class of 2019*



**SETH GREGG, MS**

**Senior Coordinator of Partnership Marketing for NASCAR**

BS in Business Administration and BS in Marketing  
*Class of 2019*



**AUSTIN BYROM, JD**

**Director of Career Development at Baylor Law**

*Received a full-tuition scholarship to Baylor Law!*

BA in Government and Law  
*Class of 2018*



**DAVINA VEA, DNP, FNP-C, ENP-C**

**ER Medicine Nurse Practitioner at Tribal Health**

BS in Nursing  
*Class of 2016*



**BIANCA JEFFERS, PsyD**

**Licensed Clinical Psychologist for the Arizona State Prison Complex**

BS in Psychology  
*Class of 2018*

*Hear what alumni have to say about their honors experience!*



# MEET OUR ALUMNI



## EMILEE SPENCE

**Computer Scientist at the Federal Bureau of Investigation**

BS in Computer Science  
*Class of 2022*



## NOAH KREPELA

**Nuclear Propulsion Naval Officer in the United States Navy**

BS in Mechanical Engineering  
*Class of 2023*



## ERIK YOST, PMP

**Program Manager at MIT Quantum Photonics and AI Group**

*Received a full-tuition scholarship to Harvard!*

BS in Business Management  
*Class of 2023*



## OWEN VANDERWERF, MD

**Doctor of Medicine at Loma Linda University**

BS in Biology  
*Class of 2019*



## BRIAN MUCYO

**Juris Doctorate Candidate at Georgetown University Law Center**

*Received a full-tuition scholarship to Georgetown University Law Center!*

BS in Finance and Economics  
*Class of 2020*



## CATHERINE TOEWS, DPT

**Physical Therapist at Power Physical Therapy and Wellness Center**

BS in Biology with an Emphasis in Pre-Physical Therapy  
*Class of 2019*

*Hear what alumni have to say about their honors experience!*



# TESTIMONIALS

## ESTELLA SENA | CLASS OF 2024

### *Why Join the Honors College?*

*“The Honors College opened countless doors for connection and growth, allowing me to discover my core values and develop professionally through its impactful programs, especially the Young Athena Leadership Program. With the support of dedicated faculty, staff, and like-minded peers, my experience was transformative, and I am incredibly grateful for it.”*

## CAMDEN MARASCO | CLASS OF 2023

BS BUSINESS MANAGEMENT | MUFREESBORO, TN

### *Why Join the Honors College?*

*“The Honors College provided me with unbelievable opportunities during my freshman year. I networked with professionals, developed my personal brand and now have confidence as I navigate professional life outside of college.”*



See what Camden is up to now!

## SEAN MCGEVER, PHD, MLITT, MDIV HONORS CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW FACULTY AND AUTHOR

*“I am always learning new things from my students and through my lecture prep - I’m the luckiest person in the classroom because I get to learn so much. My goal is for my students to experience a transformation of their head and heart through God’s grace.”*



Pre-Health

Engineering



*Check out these videos highlighting our students’ accomplishments in honors pre-health and engineering!*



# TESTIMONIALS

## JESSICA SYMMES, DNP, FNP-C

HONORS SYMPOSIUM FACULTY, NURSE PRACTITIONER AND FORMER HONORS STUDENT

*“Honors students are driven, curious and so eager to learn. I appreciate the effort that is put forth by the students and leave each class inspired by them.”*



## LANELL M. MASON, PHD

HONORS CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW FACULTY AND SPEAKER

*“College students are at such a pivotal age in their lives. They are laying the foundation of the worldview that they will use to approach the rest of their lives. I feel honored that I have an opportunity to positively impact this work of learning and growing that they are engaged in.”*

## MARETTE HAHN, PHD

HONORS SYMPOSIUM, COLLEGE TO CAREER MOMENTUM AND ACADEMIC  
JOURNAL WRITING FACULTY

*“My absolute favorite part about working with honors students is that they aren’t satisfied with doing the bare minimum or getting by. These students are passionate about digging in, learning, growing and building new skills and experiences so they can make an impact and serve others...In short, they’re inspiring and they give me so much hope for our future!”*



*Meet your honors faculty!*

## CONNECT WITH US



The Honors College at  
Grand Canyon University



@GCU Honors



GCU Honors College



[gcuhonors.org](http://gcuhonors.org)



[gcuhonors@gcu.edu](mailto:gcuhonors@gcu.edu)

To learn about how to be admitted to the Honors College,  
please visit [gcu.edu/honors-college](https://gcu.edu/honors-college)

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HONORS COLLEGE

Grand Canyon University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLCommission.org), an institutional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Please note, not all GCU programs are available in all states and in all learning modalities. Program availability is contingent on student enrollment. Important policy information is available in the University Policy Handbook at [gcu.edu/academics/academic-policies.php](https://gcu.edu/academics/academic-policies.php). Approved and verified accurate by the Dean of the Honors College on Dec. 16, 2024. ©2024 Grand Canyon University 24HOI0065

