The University of Saint Joseph prohibits discrimination against any persons on account of their race, color, religious creed, age, sex, sexual orientation, mental or civil union status, national origin, ancestry, present or past history of mental disorder, mental retardation, learning disability, or physical disability in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and employment practices.
The Honors Program

The Honors Program at the University of Saint Joseph offers highly motivated students the opportunity to excel in a challenging yet supportive academic environment.

What can you expect?

- A community of bright and talented young women who come in as fellow students and graduate as lifelong friends
- Lively interdisciplinary classes with outstanding faculty
- Challenging assignments that allow you to explore topics deeply and critically
- The chance to explore your own passions in mentored independent studies
- A wide range of extra-curricular activities
- Opportunities to present your work at regional and national conferences as well as our own USJ Symposium Day
- Use of the Honors Lounge with its couches, study table, computer, coffee pot, and mini-refrigerator (affectionately known as R2-D2).

“The Honors Program is a family within a family where everyone knows each other by their first name. Participating in the Honors Program not only boosts your résumé, but it also deepens your ability to think things through, helps develop lasting friendships, and provides you with professional networking and leadership opportunities.”

— Danielle Cowee ’09, M’10, Biology
(above left)
The Honors Program Offers Distinct Advantages

- **A competitive edge** in applying for graduate school programs and full-time jobs
- **Mentoring relationships** with distinguished faculty members
- **Networking opportunities** with successful alumni
- **The distinction** of graduating “in Honors”

“Professors look forward each year to meeting the new cohort of Honors students. These students bring an intellectual and creative spark to the campus both in and out of the classroom.” — Elizabeth Vozzola, Ph.D., Honors Director and Professor of Psychology

The Honors Curriculum

The flexible Honors Program curriculum is designed to help students meet curricular requirements for graduation as well as to cultivate and enhance each student’s area of interest. Students are required to take:

- **Four Honors Courses** (12 credits) in the arts and sciences
- **One Junior Independent Learning Option** (3 credits) consisting of a mentored research project, a service learning seminar, or a study abroad experience.
- **One Senior Capstone Seminar** (3 credits) offering an intensive interdisciplinary course in a team-taught environment.
A Sample of Recent Student Research Projects

Presented at Northeast Region Honors Conferences

- “Off Center: When Children's Lives are Disrupted by War and Trauma”
- “Andersonville Prison during the American Civil War: A Study of Northern Accountability”
- “Dutch Political and Societal Responses to Muslim Immigration in the Netherlands from 1980’s to Present”
- “Popular Works Can Get it Right: Schizophrenia and Families in I Know This Much is True and A Beautiful Mind”

Other Projects

- “Ethical Considerations in Emergency Care Settings: An Exploration of Patient Rights, Advance Directives, and Choice of Provider”
- “Level of Preparation of General Education Teachers to Teach Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders”

“From my perspective, the biggest advantages of the Honors Program include the opportunities to develop deep, mentoring relationships with professors and to conduct research that is meaningful on a personal and professional level.”

— Agnes Curry, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Philosophy, Past Honors Director

Amber Newman ’12, Psychology, travelled to the Netherlands with the Psychology-embedded study abroad class and developed an Honors independent study project exploring differences between Dutch political and societal responses to Muslim immigration. She presented her research results at an Honors talk as well as the Northeast Region Honors Conference in Baltimore, MD.
Who are the USJ Honors Students?

- They are independent, self-aware, intellectually curious, and confident women from all academic disciplines.
- They are campus leaders.
- They are student athletes.
- They are a community of friends and colleagues who share a love of learning and a desire to improve the world.

Recent Honors Activities

- Trips to Philadelphia and Montreal
- Ethnic dinners and films at the annual USJ Foreign Film Festival
- The annual welcome dinner hosted by President Pamela Trotman Reid
- A trip and guided tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City
- Events to support our Bicycle-friendly Campus initiative
- Joint trip with the drama society to the play *Hedda Gabler* at the Hartford Stage
- Talks on topics from Honors students’ study abroad adventures to preserving the papyrus in the Egyptian Book of the Dead
- Stress reliever/service pizza lunches in our lounge where you can create cards for hospitalized children or paint a pet rock

“Working with the Honors faculty at USJ has had a profoundly positive impact on my time here. They have gotten to know me on an individual level and have motivated me to reach my full potential both in and out of the classroom.”

— Julie Pattyson ’14, Mathematics major with English minor, GNAC All Conference Cross Country runner, 2012 Valparaiso Experience in Research by Undergraduate Mathematicians Fellowship

Honors students also enjoy participating in a wide range of co-curricular and extracurricular activities.

“I’m really glad I went to the Met with the Honors Program. The trip was led by Professor Keller and her knowledge (and energy) made the trip like none I ever had before. I’m already looking forward to going again next year.”

— Mary Duffy ’15, Psychology and Nutrition

Learning Outside the Classroom

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Where are they now?

Christina Zarrella ‘03 graduated with a degree in Environmental Science and minors in Biology and Philosophy. She won the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Scholarship to attend Yale University’s master’s program in Forestry and Environmental Studies and currently works as an administrator with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, DC.

Amie Senland ‘07, Psychology, (shown far left) is working on her doctoral research in Fordham University’s Ph.D. in Applied Developmental Psychology program examining empathic and moral development of young people with autism. While at USJ, she won the Northeast Psychological Association’s Undergraduate Research Award for her studies of moral perspectives on Harry Potter. (This was subsequently published in the Journal of Research in Character Education as “Christian Perspectives on Harry Potter: Tool of Satan or Christian Parable?”)

Some recent graduates of the USJ Honors Program are:

- Completing an M.D./Ph.D. program in Pediatric Medicine at the UConn Health Center and Medical School
- Practicing as attorneys
- Working for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Completing MBA programs and climbing the corporate ladder
- Earning Ph.D.s in English, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Microbiology, and Psychology
- Working on nuclear reactors for the U.S. Navy and studying Nuclear Engineering
- Coordinating political campaigns
- Working in museums and cultural institutions across the state

Learn more about the Honors Program

CONTACT:

Office of Admissions
860.231.5216
admissions@usj.edu

The Honors Program
Elizabeth Vozzola, Ph.D., Director
860.231.5545
evozzola@usj.edu
www.usj.edu/honors