**Honors in Engaged Liberal Arts.** Honors in Engaged Liberal Arts (HELA) provides an alternative to the traditional Honors major as a means to earn an Honors degree. This graduation plan is intended for students who wish to combine their academics with civic or leadership experience by developing projects that involve a serious engagement with a significant intellectual, social, political, or practical problem. HELA requires that students draw from their coursework, integrating curricular learning with co-curricular and engaged modes of learning in which they exercise their own agency to solve problems, enhance civic assets, or otherwise catalyze meaningful change within a community.

Honors in Engaged Liberal Arts may be pursued along with any Honors or non-Honors major in a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, or Bachelor of Science in Chemistry degree plan, or with a Bachelor in General Studies (B.G.S.). Honors in Engaged Liberal Arts is not in itself a major, so it must be pursued in combination with one of the aforementioned degree plans. Students are encouraged to consider HELA projects early, and to apply at least 3 terms prior to the one in which they hope to graduate.

**Requirements for Honors in Engaged Liberal Arts**

A student wishing to graduate with Honors in Engaged Liberal Arts must have

1. been admitted to Honors through an Engaged Liberal Arts application, which includes a proposal;
2. successfully defended their engagement project and its integration with their academic coursework with a reflective capstone document and a public presentation in front of the HELA committee;
3. completed 30 Advanced Engagement Points earned through course work, non-credit-bearing co-curricular or competency-development activities, and project development and execution; and
4. earned an overall GPA of 3.400 at graduation.

A HELA proposal must do the following:

1. Describe the engagement project and make an argument for how many Advanced Engagement Points it is worth.
   a. The project may involve work on or off campus. It may be connected to an already existing U-M engagement program, campus student organization, or an non-U-M external activity. The engagement is expected to be sustained, spanning at least but typically more than one academic term. The engagement project may be a combination of shorter-duration activities if the proposal spells out their connection.
   b. The project may earn up to 18 Advanced Engagement Points, with a maximum of 5 per academic term. A summer counts as a term. At least 10 Advanced Engagement Points must be earned through the project or projects for the student to be eligible for Honors in Engaged Liberal Arts.

2. Describe how the engagement project integrates with student’s prior and prospective academic liberal arts coursework. The student must identify
a. 1-2 prior courses that inform the project. These courses’ credit hours each count as 1 Advanced Engagement Point, for a possible maximum of 6.

b. 4-6 prospective courses that will inform the project. These courses may be a combination of courses in the student’s major, minor, distributions, or electives, with more than half of the proposed courses outside the student’s major.

Although no restrictions apply to the number or percentage of courses that may be shared with minor or supplemental studies program, nor to courses taken P/F, it is expected that HELA coursework not be limited to a minor course of study. These courses’ credit hours each count as one Advanced Engagement Point, for a possible maximum of 18.

c. Any non-credit-bearing courses or other activities that will inform the project. A small component of the academic work may take the form of non-credit-bearing courses, MOOCs (with completion certificates), or demonstrated relevant competencies. These elements must be pre-approved by the Honors Program before they will count. These elements will earn 1 or 2 Advanced Engagement Points per element, for a possible maximum of 5.

3. Demonstrate the feasibility of the proposed project.

4. Include an endorsement by a faculty or staff member who is in a position to evaluate the proposal. If there is no single person who can speak to the engagement and academic parts of the project, two endorsements may be required. In such cases, endorsements from non-academic mentors may be acceptable.

If the student’s application is approved by the Honors Academic Board, the student is admitted to the Honors in Engaged Liberal Arts plan and thereby the Honors Program.

Students are required to work closely with an Honors Program advisor to develop their proposal, to monitor progress in earning Advanced Engagement Points, and to arrange the submission of the reflective capstone document and organize the culminating defense.

The public defense of the project takes place before an audience of the HELA Committee, which will consist of members of the Honors Academic Board, the student’s project advisors, and project stakeholders. The HELA Committee determines whether and to what degree the project earns Honors: Honors, High Honors, or Highest Honors.