

# Early Honors Handbook

Travel!

Critical Thinking

Effective Communication

Quantitative Reasoning

Scientific Inquiry

Self-Direction

Social Responsibility

Sustainability

Pre-Med

Pre-Law

Philosophy

Politics

Entrepreneurship

Media Literacy

Communication Studies

Literature, Arts & Music

Alaska!

See, Do, Become @ APU



## *Welcome to APU & the Early Honors Program!*

Thank you for choosing to spend your senior year at APU.

As an Early Honors student, you've earned a seat in rigorous courses that fulfill your high school graduation requirements while you complete your first year of college. Congratulations and welcome!

As a full-time APU student, you are in a program, not just courses. You'll enjoy the privileges of a private university, including APU's intentionally small class sizes taught by faculty eager to help you realize your goals. You'll make the change from high school studies to becoming a successful college student.

### *Here's what's awaiting you . . .*

- ✓ Early Honors students never deal with lockers and crowded hallways. Instead, you'll be among talented peers who are a lot like you – ready for new challenges and planning *now* for college and a fulfilling life after high school.
- ✓ Early Honors students have easy access to APU academic advising. Whether you're preparing your course schedule, seeking to join on-campus clubs and activities, or looking for homework help, you'll find the Early Honors program director and advisors ready to guide you.
- ✓ Early Honors students enroll in classes taught by APU full-time faculty who are recognized regionally, nationally, and internationally. Your Early Honors success helps set you apart from other high school seniors as you apply to college. Early Honors lets you demonstrate your ability to set and achieve high standards.
- ✓ Early Honors students go far. You'll join APU Early Honors alumnae whose members include graduates of elite public and private universities nationwide.

*"I loved Critical Thinking. It's the kind of course that's never offered to high school kids. I went away to college understanding what was expected academically and socially."*

*-Daniel Smith, mechanical and aerospace engineering student, who went on to Florida Institute of Technology*

## What will I take away from Early Honors?

At APU, the focus is on developing ‘competencies’ that prepare you for success within and beyond academia.

*Through your program at APU, you will focus on crucial questions of competency and develop knowledge and skills to advance those competencies.*

### **com-pe-ten-cy**

*/'ka:mpətənsi/* **noun** *n pl -cies*

an ability or skill; the quality of being able to perform; a quality that permits or facilitates achievement or accomplishment

## Early Honors Competencies

Crucial Questions	Competency	Knowledge & Skills
<i>What questions should I be asking? How do I make decisions of consequence?</i>	<b>CRITICAL THINKING</b>	demonstrating knowledge and skills related to analysis, problem-solving, reasoning, and decision-making
<i>How do I get my point across in writing, with others, and in public?</i>	<b>EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION</b>	demonstrating knowledge and skills related to written communication, public presentation, clarity of one's expression through various forms, systems, and media, and appreciation for meaning, tone, style, nuance, and context of others' communications
<i>How do I take stock of the world around me? How do I make things add up? How do I account for change?</i>	<b>QUANTITATIVE &amp; SCIENTIFIC REASONING</b>	Demonstrating knowledge and skills related to the computation, quantification, observation, and evaluation of information for data-driven decision-making
<i>What do I need to know to ground my work? How do I substantiate the things I know and believe?</i>	<b>INFORMED INQUIRY</b>	demonstrating knowledge and skills related to methods of interpretation, historical perspective, literary tradition, information literacy, and research
<i>What do I want to do with my life? How do I get there?</i>	<b>SELF-DIRECTION</b>	demonstrating knowledge and skills related to resilience, goal setting, project management, professionalism, reflection, and self-understanding

## Deep Learning Begins Here - The Foundations

*The foundations of your program are intensive, faculty-taught seminars that develop momentum and passion for further study and success in higher education.*

### Critical Thinking

Fall semester starts in “block” with Critical Thinking. A major difference between high school and college is the style of learning, more than the quantity of information. Thinking well – not just memorizing, but questioning, analyzing, and communicating logically – is vital in college, regardless of the class or field of study. As a bridge between previous and future schooling, this foundational course examines thinking and learning as topics themselves, refining specific skills such as inductive and deductive reasoning.



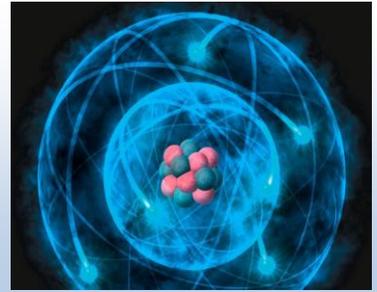
### Writing & Research I: Argumentation

Following the ‘block,’ you dive into APU’s “session” focusing on effective communication and Argumentation. This is not your basic writing course. You work through strategies for effective writing in order to persuade and inform others – you develop the skills of clarity, logic, and research which will help you write for any college course.



### Math & Science

To succeed in competitive admissions processes, you need to continue in math and science sequences at the level most appropriate to your current abilities. We work to identify your interests and placement level for math and science – and then you learn with the best faculty to grow your competencies and confidence in these crucial academic fields. You get a head start, learning the ‘drill’ of college-level quantitative courses where content is covered a much quicker pace than in high school offerings.



### Travel & Politics!

Though not required, APU sponsors a travel course in the ‘January block’ for Early Honors students. Rather than just reading about other cultures, you explore literature through place-based learning. With expert guides and faculty mentors, you read, explore, and gain first-hand experience of the world beyond our Alaskan borders. Following ‘January block,’ the spring ‘session’ includes American Government & Politics – a crucial study not just for college but for life as a citizen. With an emphasis on politics, this course goes further to engage students in current events and relevant issues of the day.



## Travel & Study – Plan for the Best Experiential Learning of Your Life

In past years, the Early Honors Program has sponsored travel courses such as:

- **Searching for King Arthur** – Traveling through Scotland, England, and France, students explored the myths and folklore of King Arthur while visiting the realm and sites featured in these quintessential stories
- **Music and Culture of Cuba** – Traveling through Cuba, students met and talked to many people in various walks of life with diverse opinions about their history and politics. Students danced to salsa music, swam in crystal clear waters, walked through colonial cityscapes, as they considered the musical, artistic, and cultural traditions of this country.
- **Questing with Don Quixote** – Traveling to Spain connected students to the picaresque sites associated with the author of Don Quixote and the adventures of this anti-hero
- **Literature and Culture of Spain & Portugal** – Traveling through Spain and Portugal, students focused on the complex and fascinating history of the Iberian peninsula, with particular attention to literature from the past and present.

## January 2017 Travel Course - ICELAND!!!

*We're off to Reykjavik, Iceland!*

*Fire and Ice and Arctic Peoples*

*The Sagas, Traditional Lore, & Science Fictions*



## Other Courses of Particular Interest for Early Honors

### **PY 15000 Psychology of Adjustment Spring Session**

Consider how human beings adjust to the challenges of living as they grow, learn, build relationships, develop careers, and search for personal meaning. Study the psychological effects of change, and useful strategies for dealing with the stresses of everyday life.



*Breathe!*

**Nora Miller**  
Instructor of  
Psychology

### **Digital Content Development – Take one or all three!**

Develop work-ready skills in digital media.

#### **DIG 10022 Digital Photography Fall & Spring Sessions**

We've all got pictures. But what makes a great photo? How do you work the image to communicate?

*Picture This . . .*



#### **DIG 20030 Digital Video Spring Session**

Anyone can capture a video and post it online – but can you make meaningful stories? Can you use technology in a professional setting? Work with noted Anchorage artist, Tim Remick, to develop your skills with time-based media.

#### **DIG 30067 Digital Audio: Recording Spring Session**

Experiment with the technology – work out your passion for music – it's possible to be recording the next great song or soundtrack.

*Make music  
happen in AK!*

**Eric Redding,**  
Assistant Professor  
of Music



### **CRWR 20400 Creative Writing: Screenwriting Spring Session**

*Write Now!*

Don't wait to tell your story. Work with other students to bring words to life. You only have to look as far as Christopher Paolini (author of *Eragon*) and S.E. Hinton (author of *The Outsiders*) to see how young writers can succeed. Both published their first novels at age 18!



### **SC 12000 Physical Geology, Fall Session**

You grew up in AK but do you know the real story of our land and landscapes? We live in an amazing laboratory of geological processes – with volcanos, glaciers, and oceans to explore and understand. Take geology now, so you can say you studied the Earth *on the Matanuska Glacier!*



## How do I figure out what to take?

**Step One:** Identify your 'graduation needs' – confirm this with your high school counselor.

**Step Two:** Figure out what math course(s) you will need and want. You may be required to take the APU Math Placement to determine the level of quantitative coursework required in order to advance your skills.

**Step Three:** Work with the Early Honors advisors to develop a two-semester schedule that meets your graduation needs, includes the Early Honors foundational courses, and gives you an opportunity to take university-level subjects of interest to you.

## The Schedule – What to Expect Across the Year

APU's academic semester is comprised of 'Block' and 'Session'. The Block runs for the first 4 weeks of the semester, where students take only one intensive course. The Session runs for the last 11 weeks of the semester, where students take 3-4 courses.



## A Sample Fall Semester Schedule – Credits and How the Courses Might be Arranged

### Course and Credits:

Fall Block	CRIT 13300	Critical Thinking	4 credits
Fall Session	WRIT 10100	Writing & Research I: Argumentation	4 credits
	MT 23000	Calculus & Analytic Geometry I	4 credits
	SC 16100	Principles of Biology I	4 credits
	DIG 10022	Digital Photography	2 credits

### The Weekly Routine:

BLOCK (4 wks)	SESSION (11 wks)				
M-T-W-R	M	T	W	R	F
9:00-1:00pm – CRIT 13300	MT 23000 7:50-9:00am	MT 23000 7:50-9:00am	MT 23000 7:50-9:00am	MT 23000 7:50-9:00am	DIG 10022 9:30-11:50am
	WRIT 10100 10:30am-12:50pm	SC 16100 10:30am-12:50pm w/Lab on T night	WRIT 10100 10:30am-12:50pm	SC 16100 10:30am-12:50pm	

## What else do I get besides courses with enrollment at APU?

You are a full-time student at APU, which means you have access to all of our facilities – Moseley Sport Center, the climbing wall, the Academic Support Center, amongst other places on campus. You can participate in any of our student clubs and organizations – including, photography, art, music ensemble, pre-med, and other groups. Your ID serves as a bus pass for the People Mover. And, you have access to a truly great library – the Consortium Library is not only a wonderful place to study, it has amazing resources for research!

## ASD High School Graduation Requirements & APU Courses – What Counts?

*Many Early Honors students come from Anchorage School District high schools. This is a list of the ASD graduation requirements. If you come from a school in a different district, the Early Honors advisors will assist in identifying the requirements you need to complete.*

### **Total Units to Graduate from ASD: 22.5**

All students must fulfill ASD graduation requirements prior to receiving a diploma.

3-4 credit courses at APU are equivalent to 1.0 ASD unit.

1-2 credit courses at APU are equivalent to .5 ASD unit

ASD Requirement	APU Sample Offerings that Equate
<p><b>Language Arts — 4 units</b> English 9-1, 9-2, English 10-1, 10-2, and one semester of Composition during grades 11 or 12 plus three semesters of electives in grades 10, 11, or 12.</p>	<p>Composition: WRIT 10100 Writing &amp; Research I: Argumentation Language Arts Electives: CRIT 13300 Critical Thinking COMM 100xx/209xx Communication Studies CRWR 20xxx Creative Writing HUM 100xx/206xx Humanities</p>
<p><b>Social Studies — 4 units</b> World History 9- 1 and 9- 2, U.S. History 10- 1 and 10 -2, one semester of Alaska Studies, one semester of Economics, one semester of United States Government, one semester of a Social Studies elective.</p>	<p>SS 20103 American Government &amp; Politics Social Studies Electives: LS 20300 Introduction to Social Sciences PY 10100 Introduction to Psychology PY 15000 Psychology of Adjustment BAM 26000/26500 Macro &amp; Micro Economics</p>
<p><b>Mathematics — 2.5 units</b> Five semesters of Mathematics electives. In order to satisfy the Algebra requirements, students must complete one of the following options: Algebra I, semester 1 and 2; or Algebra A, semester 1 and 2 AND Algebra B, semester 1 and 2 or Algebra Survey, semester 1 and 2; or Credit-by-Choice Challenge by Examination.</p>	<p>MT 10100 Intermediate Algebra MT 12100 Precalculus MT 23000 Calculus &amp; Analytic Geometry I MT 24000 Calculus &amp; Analytic Geometry II MT 35000 Multivariable Calculus MT 36000 Differential Equations and Applications</p>
<p><b>Sciences — 3 units</b> Three years (six semesters) of science credit are required. Two semesters must be life science. Two semesters must be physical science.</p>	<p>SC 16100 &amp; SC 16200 Principles of Biology I &amp; II SC 17000 &amp; SC 17100 Principles of Chemistry I &amp; II SC 27000 &amp; SC 27500 Physics I &amp; II SC 12000 Physical Geology</p>
<p><b>Electives — 7.5 units</b> Fifteen semester courses have not been specified so as to provide students an opportunity to pursue individual educational goals. Electives may include additional courses in Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, Technology, Fine Arts, World Languages, Physical Education and Career Technology.</p>	<p>Music – Piano, Voice, Guitar lessons Arts – Ceramics, Drawing, Studio Arts Digital Studio—Photography, Video, Audio Humanities &amp; Cultural Studies, Alaska Native Studies, Outdoor Studies, Marketing &amp; Business Religion Studies</p>
<p><b>PE/Health Education — 1.5 units</b> Three semesters of physical education graduation requirements can be fulfilled by passing the required Lifetime Personal Fitness course plus .5 credit from the lifetime activity courses (noted as such in course listings) plus .5 additional credit from any physical education class.</p>	<p>PE 10200 Fitness for Life (counts for LPF) Nordic Skiing Yoga Climbing Sea Kayaking</p>

**ASD accepts Chemistry I, Chemistry II, Biology I, Biology II, Physics I, Physics II, Calculus I, Calculus II, and Multivariable Calculus as weighed GPA courses.**

## ASD High School Graduation Requirements – What do you need?

*USE this worksheet to plan for scheduling and course options at APU. If you come from a district other than Anchorage, the Early Honor advisors will help you develop a similar worksheet to assist with advising and course choices.*

### **Total Units to Graduate from ASD: 22.5**

All students must fulfill ASD graduation requirements prior to receiving a diploma.

3-4 credit courses at APU are equivalent to 1.0 ASD unit.

1-2 credit courses at APU are equivalent to .5 ASD unit

**UNITS earned to date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**UNITS needed to graduate:** \_\_\_\_\_

ASD Requirement	NEEDS / WILL TAKE	UNITS
<b>Language Arts — 4 units</b> English 9-1, 9-2, English 10-1, 10-2, and one semester of Composition during grades 11 or 12 plus three semesters of electives in grades 10, 11, or 12.	<b>NEED:</b>	
	<b>WILL TAKE:</b>	
	Composition: WRIT 10100 Writing & Research I: Argumentation Language Arts Electives: CRIT 13300 Critical Thinking	1 unit   1 unit
<b>Social Studies — 4 units</b> World History 9- 1 and 9- 2, U.S. History 10- 1 and 10 -2, one semester of Alaska Studies, one semester of Economics, one semester of United States Government, one semester of a Social Studies elective.	<b>NEED:</b>	
	<b>WILL TAKE:</b>	
<b>Mathematics — 2.5 units</b> Five semesters of Mathematics electives. In order to satisfy the Algebra requirements, students must complete one of the following options: Algebra I, semester 1 and 2; or Algebra A, semester 1 and 2 AND Algebra B, semester 1 and 2 or Algebra Survey, semester 1 and 2; or Credit-by-Choice Challenge by Examination.	<b>NEED:</b>	
	<b>WILL TAKE:</b>	
<b>Sciences — 3 units</b> Three years (six semesters) of science credit are required. Two semesters must be life science. Two semesters must be physical science.	<b>NEED:</b>	
	<b>WILL TAKE:</b>	

ASD Requirement	NEEDS / WILL TAKE	UNITS
<b>Electives — 7.5 units</b> Fifteen semester courses have not been specified so as to provide students an opportunity to pursue individual educational goals. Electives may include additional courses in Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, Technology, Fine Arts, World Languages, Physical Education and Career Technology.	<b>NEED:</b>	
	<b>WILL TAKE:</b>	
<b>PE/Health Education — 1.5 units</b> Three semesters of physical education graduation requirements can be fulfilled by passing the required Lifetime Personal Fitness course plus .5 credit from the lifetime activity courses (noted as such in course listings) plus .5 additional credit from any physical education class.	<b>NEED:</b>	
	<b>WILL TAKE:</b>	

**Your College Needs and the ‘College Decision Project’**

In your first class, ‘Critical Thinking,’ you will get a start on your college application process. You will employ critical thinking skills to identify universities where you can thrive and realize your educational goals.

- **You’ll identify your individual college needs :** Where in the state, country or world do you want to go? What do you want to study? What do you want from the social side of college?
- **You’ll come up with a long list of potential schools.** Then you’ll rank these against your needs and personal interests.
- **Next, you’ll do research:** For those schools that make it to the top of your list, you’ll read all about them, to see what they say about themselves and what others say.
- **You’ll re-rank your choices based on your research.**
- **You’ll create a ‘decision making rubric’ to analyze the finalists,** and to ensure you are working forward having made good decisions for your future education.
- **You’ll develop a timeline** of due dates to meet requirements for applications, recommendations, personal essays, and tests.

Your ‘Critical Thinking’ course will culminate at the end of Fall Block, but you will continue to work with the Early Honors advisors to follow your timeline, move through the application process, and gain admission to the college of your choice.



## More FAQ's



### Can I still participate in athletics at my high school?

We make every possible effort to ensure that Early Honors students can get classes at APU and still participate in afternoon sports and other high school activities. Sometimes things come up that we can't control, but we try to make adjustments on a case-by-case basis.

### Will the credits for my APU courses transfer to another university?

Yes. APU is a regionally-accredited university, which means the credits you earn here will transfer to other accredited institutions. Some universities will have qualifications: they may take all your credits, but the courses may not count as 'requirements'; some schools restrict transfer of credits if the courses taken also fulfilled high school requirements; some schools may ask for syllabi to document exactly what you studied in your APU courses. We recommend that you keep a file with all your syllabi and major assignments in case you need to provide documentation for you next college.

### If I don't want to take the Travel Course, are there other January block options?

Yes. There are always other interesting offerings in January block. In the block for 2015, APU will have courses focused on mass communications, mythology, winter ecology, and snow-boarding!

### Why are 'Critical Thinking' and 'Argumentation' required?

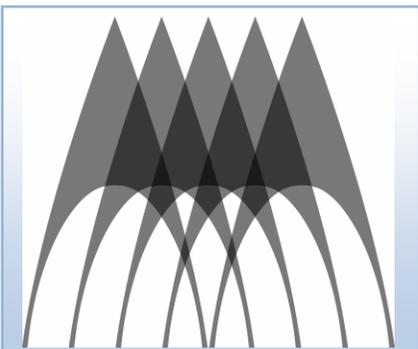
With the Early Honors Program, you are getting courses that can count for both high school and college, but the program is more than just 'dual credit.' In the program's required courses you will transform from a good high school student to a questioning, reasoning, inquiring, and capable college student. These are the courses that make the difference. The focus on critical thinking and argumentation is what makes Early Honors a 'program' rather than simply a list of classes.

### Can I continue with my college education at APU after the Early Honors Program?

Yes. We encourage you to find the university that meets your needs, interests, and educational goals. In your first class at APU, you will employ critical thinking skills to identify colleges where you can thrive, and then you begin the process of developing applications to those colleges. If APU fits the bill for you, you can continue at APU with a head start on the completion of your bachelor's degree.

## *Early Honors Calendar 2016-17*

<b>Admission &amp; Fall Registration</b>	
May 1	Application & Scholarship Application Deadline
May 1 – Aug 12	REGISTRATION: As soon as applicants are fully admitted, priority registration for APU classes can take place working with the Early Honors advisors
<b>Orientation</b>	
Aug 17	Program Orientation
Aug 19	Move-in Day for Campus Residents
Aug 29-20	Campus Orientation
<b>Fall Semester '16</b>	
Aug 22	Fall Block courses begin
Sept 21	Fall Session courses begin
Nov 1	Midterm & Finalize Schedule for Spring Semester
Nov 23-24-25	Thanksgiving Holiday – No Classes
Nov 29-30	Senior Project Presentations
Dec 9	Last Day of Classes for Fall Semester
<b>Spring Semester '17</b>	
Jan 9	Spring Block courses begin
Jan 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Feb 6	Spring Session courses begin
Mar 10	Midterm
Mar 13-17	Spring Break
Apr 18-19	Senior Project Presentations
Apr 28	Last Day of Classes for Spring Semester
Apr 30	Early Honors Recognition Celebration



## *The Early Honors Program* **Alaska Pacific University**

Advisor: Caitlin Poindexter (564-8329) [cpoindexter@alaskapacific.edu](mailto:cpoindexter@alaskapacific.edu)

Admissions: Amy Potter (564-8300) [apotter@alaskapacific.edu](mailto:apotter@alaskapacific.edu)

Liberal Studies Department Chairperson:

Dr. Esther Beth Sullivan (564-8355) [sullivan@alaskapacific.edu](mailto:sullivan@alaskapacific.edu)