

Honors Program Application Guide with Frequently Asked Questions

We strongly recommend that you prepare your essay responses and resume ahead of time by utilizing a word processing program. Then, upload the files into the appropriate places in the application. [A resume template is provided](#) and the [essay prompts are on #10 and #11 below](#).

1. **Eligibility for the UNK Honors Program Admittance:** All admitted UNK students who have demonstrated academic motivation, intellectual curiosity, and a strong commitment to personal growth are welcome to apply for Honors Program admittance.
2. **Eligibility for the UNK Honors Program Scholarships:** All UNK Honors Program *first-time freshmen* applicants who have gained admittance are reviewed for scholarships if the application is completed and submitted by **December 1**. All first-time freshman applicants who have not yet gained admittance to the Honors Program, should apply and complete both admittance and scholarship sections by **December 1**. All other applicants, (international, transfer, and current students) are not reviewed for scholarships in this application.
3. **Getting Started:** Select your status from the drop-down menu:
 - a. *First-Time Freshman:* You are graduating high school soon and have not been a full-time resident of a college or university.
 - b. *Transfer Student:* You are attending another college or university and are transferring (or are interested in transferring) to UNK.
 - c. *Currently Enrolled Student at UNK:* You are currently attending UNK. If you are a transfer student or international student who is currently taking classes at UNK, you should select this one.
 - d. *International Student, new to UNK:* You are not currently attending UNK, but are interested in attending UNK the following semester.
4. **NUID:** You need an NUID to apply. If you have been admitted to UNK, you should have received an NUID. If you have not been admitted to UNK, you must do so before applying to the UNK Honors Program.
5. **High School Transcript or Secondary School Transcript:** Although you can use your unofficial transcript for this submission as you might not have graduated yet, you must obtain this transcript from your student information system or guidance counselor. Do not submit screenshots of your grades from your online student information system.
6. **College Transcripts or Grade Check Form (only for Transfer or Current Students):** If you are in your very first semester of full-time residency at another university or college, [you will need to use the grade check form and upload it](#). If you are in your second semester or beyond at another university, you should upload your college transcript instead.

7. **ACT or SAT scores:** We accept unofficial scores and have [a tutorial on how to create a PDF of the unofficial scores from the ACT website](#). The SATs should be similar. If you are using a screenshot, make sure the screenshot includes your name (located at the top). You may also upload a copy of the official ACT/SAT report. We recommend using a scanner mode on your phone if you are taking pictures of the report.
8. **Size of class / rank in class:** This is optional. If your school does not report this, you can leave it blank.
9. **Resume:** You are required to submit a resume. [Please use the Honors Program resume format or a similar format](#). This format will help the Honors Program review committee.
10. **Admittance Essay Question:** This essay is required to be considered for admittance to the Honors Program. The 2025 admittance essay prompt is: “The Honors Program challenges students to go above and beyond by fostering intellectual curiosity. Looking back on your high school years, how have your ideas about learning, curiosity, or what it means to be ‘honors-worthy’ evolved? Describe not just what changed, but why—and what that says about who you are becoming.” Include your response to the above prompt in a well-structured essay (500 words is a suggested length). As a potential UNK Honors Program student, you should write an original essay, using your own thoughts and creativity. AI (artificial intelligence), or any essay prompt generator, should be used as a resource only. Make sure you write your essay offline using word processing software. You will be required to upload a DOC, DOCX, or PDF file.
11. **Scholarship Essay Question:** Scholarship applications are for *first-time freshmen* only. If transfer, current, or international students apply as a first-time freshman, your application will be discarded. The 2025 scholarship essay prompt is: “At this point in your life, describe two things that you don’t know. You can describe how this relates to your desire to join a program of study, something interesting about yourself, about serving others, etc.” Include your response to the above prompt in a well-structured essay (500 words is a suggested length). As a potential UNK Honors Program student, you should write an original essay, using your own thoughts and creativity. AI (artificial intelligence), or any essay prompt generator, should be used as a resource only. Make sure you write your essay offline using word processing software. You will be required to upload a DOC, DOCX, or PDF file.
12. **Letter of Recommendation (for scholarship applicants only):** For scholarship applicants only, we will ask you to submit the name and email address of a person who would provide a letter of recommendation for you. You might ask a high school teacher, counselor, or other relevant individual who can attest to your academic abilities and potential for success in the Honors Program to submit this recommendation letter. When you submit your application, your recommender will be sent instructions in an email from admissions@unk.edu. Make sure you speak with your recommender, in advance, so they are prepared to submit a letter by the December 1 deadline.

13. Submission Deadlines:

- a. Scholarship applications are due by December 1. Late submissions will not be considered.
- b. All applications seeking admittance must be received by April 1.

14. **Notification:** Applicants will be notified of their admittance status according to their application date (see below). If admitted, your admittance letter will provide instructions on the next steps. All scholarship statuses will be communicated on January 31.

Application received by:	Notified regarding admittance by:
Nov 1	Nov 15
Dec 1 (scholarship deadline)	Dec 15
Jan 1	Jan 31*
Feb 1	Feb 15
Mar 1	Mar 15
Apr 1	Apr 15

*All scholarship decisions will be made by January 31 and all applicants notified.

15. **Further questions:** For any further inquiries or assistance with the application process, please contact the Honors Program Office at honors@unk.edu or 308.865.8894.