The University of Arkansas offers outstanding students in the Honors College the opportunity to be identified as Honors Graduate Fellows and to begin work on a master’s program while in the senior year of the undergraduate degree.

Acceptance as an Honors Graduate Fellow is based upon the discretion of the selection committee and the admissions criteria for the academic program of study. The student must apply to be a fellow and must also work with the target graduate academic department/program. This department/program must support the student’s application to begin graduate course work in his/her senior year and must approve courses that will ultimately be used in the graduate program. The Honors Graduate Fellows Selection Committee considers the quality of the applications based on such factors as the cumulative grade point average, the score on the standardized examination required for the specific degree program, a writing sample, the student’s personal statement, as well as relevant examples of academic ability and leadership. To receive serious consideration by the admissions committee, a student should have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 at the time of application and follow a three-step process: 1) student application; 2) graduate department/program support; 3) Honors Graduate Fellows Selection Committee acceptance. It is expected that the student will complete the honors requirements for the undergraduate degree, including the successful completion of an undergraduate research or creative project.

Honors Graduate Fellows will earn the baccalaureate degree having completed, in the senior year, up to twelve hours of graduate credit which will not be counted toward the undergraduate degree. These are courses that will have been pre-approved by the target degree program. Therefore, any graduate-level course that is needed to meet a requirement for the undergraduate degree, including the requirement for minimum total hours needed for the bachelor’s degree, cannot be considered for retroactive graduate credit. Students must meet the admissions, degree and graduation requirements of the individual graduate degree program in which they will be seeking a degree, and must abide by the rules of the program/department and the Graduate School. The twelve hours of credit which will be applied to the graduate program must meet the requirements for retroactive graduate credit. The retroactive graduate credit policy may be found in the Graduate Catalog under the section on admission.

Students accepted as Honors Graduate Fellows may find that their undergraduate scholarships and fellowships will cover the cost of these courses. Students should check with their sponsors about this possibility.