

REQUIREMENTS

High school seniors must meet these criteria:

- **Test Scores:** 25 or higher on the ACT exam (1100 or higher on SAT exam).
- **Grade Point Average:** 3.5 or higher.
- **Recommendations:** Two letters of recommendation which attest to the student's maturity, commitment, and potential from teachers or counselors.
- **Extracurricular and Leadership:** Evidence of performance/participation in extracurricular activities.
- **Statement:** A statement of personal goals and objectives.

These criteria are evaluated by the Insignis Program Review Board which makes final determinations about membership.

(Current Aquinas students who wish to enter the Insignis program may do so in one of two ways: They may be nominated by Aquinas College faculty members or they may apply directly to the director of the Insignis program. Current students who wish to apply must have a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.5. For further information, please see the Insignis director.)

To receive the Insignis designation on their College transcripts, Insignis students must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Successfully complete honors work in 18 credit hours, including IN 350.
2. Successfully complete a senior independent study project or undergraduate assistantship.
3. Maintain a 3.5 cumulative grade point average.
4. Complete at least 15 hours of volunteer activity during each semester while enrolled at Aquinas. (Guidelines available from Insignis director.)

Participants are also expected to attend the regularly scheduled meetings and the annual symposium.



A PROGRAM FOR
HONORS STUDENTS



Makes all the difference in the world.

Grand Rapids, Michigan

1 (800) 678-9593

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INSIGNIS PROGRAM

The Aquinas College Insignis Program for Honors Students, founded in 1985, is specifically designed for students of proven ability who want to develop their potential beyond the regular curriculum. Insignis students are self-motivators who expect the best from themselves and are willing to work to achieve it.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

To graduate with Insignis honors, a student must complete honors work in a minimum of 15% of the course work required for graduation, or in 18 credit hours. Most students will complete Honors I&E (3 credits), Honors Humanities (6 credits), and perform honors work in one additional class in the major or complete departmental honors work (if available). Additionally, each student is required to complete both IN 350, the junior Insignis seminar designed by the Insignis students themselves and taught by a student-selected instructor, and a senior project or assistantship. In this independent study project or undergraduate assistantship, students work closely with a faculty mentor in their major field either to probe deeply into specialized areas of their major or to assist a professor in professional research. They may contract for 3-6 credit hours for this senior level requirement.

Participation in the Insignis program does *not* add to the total number of credit hours a student needs to graduate.

PERSONAL ENRICHMENT

Insignis is more than just an academic program. In keeping with the mission of Aquinas College, Insignis members are also encouraged to develop the emotional and spiritual sides of their personalities. Special workshops and meetings designed to meet the unique needs of honors students are offered regularly. Students may also participate in a full range of cultural activities, such as attending the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra or Civic Theatre, to balance their intellectual development and to help them lead well-rounded lives.

In regular meetings, members are able to discuss matters of concern with one another in a relaxed, informal atmosphere. An annual retreat in the fall sets the tone for what's to come and the year ends with a Symposium to recognize outstanding achievements of Insignis members.

Because a commitment to serving others is considered a basic part of a well-rounded education, Insignis students are also expected to spend some part of their time each semester in volunteer service.

ADVANTAGES

Incoming freshmen receive academic advising from the director of the Insignis program. During their years at Aquinas, members may also take advantage of priority registration through the academic advising center.

Evidence of honors work on a college under-graduate transcript can increase chances of graduate school placement and may also be attractive to future employers.

OPPORTUNITIES

The Insignis program is affiliated with both the Michigan Honors Association and the Mid-East Honors Association. Insignis students regularly attend the annual conferences of these organizations with the director of the program.

Throughout the year, special trips and activities are made available to Insignis students at little or no cost. In the past, these have included trips to the Chicago Art Institute, the Detroit Institute of Arts, and the Stratford (Ontario) Shakespeare Festival.