

# Scholarships and Recognition

Honors students put in extra time, effort, and curiosity, and we think that deserves to be recognized. Below is a quick overview of the scholarships, awards, and recognition available to students in the program. Full details are available in Section 4 of the Honors Program Handbook.

## Honors Scholarships

Active participation in the Honors Program makes students eligible for scholarships reserved specifically for Honors students, in addition to any other Lee College Foundation scholarships they may qualify for.

There is no separate Honors scholarship application. Students apply through the Lee College Foundation's general scholarship application at <https://www.lee.edu/foundation/scholarships-for-students/apply/index.php> and indicate on the form that they are an Honors Program student. The Program Coordinator then verifies each applicant's Honors eligibility before awards are finalized.

Students are eligible for Honors scholarships if they have completed, or are currently enrolled in, an Honors Seminar or Honors Course, and/or have completed an Honors Contract. Once eligible, students remain eligible in future terms, whether or not they are currently taking Honors coursework or plan to complete the full program. Some scholarships are open to all eligible Honors students, while others are reserved for students who have taken the Honors Seminar.

The Program Coordinator can also help students identify scholarship opportunities at the four-year institutions they plan to transfer to.

## Recognition

Every Honors course or contract a student completes is noted on their official transcript as it is earned. Students who complete the full program also receive a transcript notation marking them as completers of the Lee College Honors Program.

Students who actively participate in the program for at least one academic year are eligible for an Honors graduation cord, and students who complete the full program are eligible to receive a personalized, engraved Honors medallion.

Each year, the Honors Program celebrates its students at its own recognition ceremony, separate from both commencement and Presidential Honors Day. Cords, medallions, and special awards are presented there, and other outstanding Honors students may be recognized as well.

## The Dorothy Cooke Hayes Award

The Dorothy Cooke Hayes Award for Outstanding First-Year and Second-Year Honors Students recognizes students who have chosen to pursue, and excelled in, Honors coursework, and who have distinguished themselves in the Honors Program more broadly during their time at Lee College. Two awards are given each year, one to a first-year student and one to a second-year student. Recipients are nominated by

faculty who have taught them in Honors, and the award is traditionally presented by a representative of the Hayes family at the program's recognition ceremony.

## **2025-2026 Recipients**

### **Outstanding First-Year Honors Student**

**Jadyn “Elora” Bell.** Elora is an outstanding writer and a vital participant in the Honors seminar, *The Human Condition*. She completed both semesters of the course, producing excellent research papers and presentations in each, and will be presenting some of her work at the GCIC Symposium this spring. Elora is an original and critical thinker, as well as a diligent and hardworking student who is consistently committed to improving her writing. She is also a motivating presence among her peers — serving as a role model, sharing ideas generously, and contributing to a positive and collaborative environment. Beyond the classroom, Elora plays an active role in the Honors community. She is a regular presence in the Honors lounge, where she balances focused work with social engagement that helps build the program’s culture. She has participated in program field trips and transfer tours.

### **Outstanding Second-Year Honors Student**

**Layla Leeah.** Layla is an outstanding student who consistently follows through on what she begins, demonstrating strong commitment and reliability. An accomplished artist and excellent student worker, she is deeply engaged in the Art Department, participating in its extracurricular activities and offering a bright smile to those she works with. She has completed the Honors Medallion, representing 15 credit hours of Honors work, and has distinguished herself through thoughtful personal and academic contributions in the *Human Condition* seminars and other Honors courses. She has also presented her work at the GCIC Symposium, demonstrating both intellectual engagement and a willingness to share her ideas with a broader audience. Beyond the classroom, she has traveled with the program on field trips and extended academic trips, served as an active member of the Honors Student Council, and remains a friendly, warm presence who contributes meaningfully to the community around her.