



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) - New Conservatory Honors Program

Sections in this document: *General Questions, Honors Program Questions, Conservatory Fellow Program Questions, AMSE Artist Program Questions, 8th Class Tuition Waiver Questions, Where Can I Get More Information.*

GENERAL QUESTIONS

When will the new model be implemented?

The Major/Minor model will be in place through the remainder of the 2018-19 school year. Current seniors who meet the requirements will graduate this year with a Conservatory Major or Minor distinction.

Is there anything I need to do now?

For the majority of students, no action is required. Since enrollment in the new model is passive, current freshman, sophomore and junior students will be automatically transitioned into the new model as a Conservatory Honors participant beginning in the 2019-20 school year.

Students who would like to stay under the Major/Minor model through graduation in 2020, 2021, or 2022 must contact the Conservatory office at conservatory@vcs.net by **March 1, 2019**.

Current senior students who meet the requirements will continue in and graduate in May 2019 under the current Major/Minor structure and are not required to do anything at this time.

No new application or action is necessary for those transitioning to the new model, except for students interested in pursuing AMSE Artist Honors status. The application for AMSE Artist Honors can be found on the VCS website under Conservatory or AMSE.

Why are you changing from the current Major/Minor model?

We received a significant amount of feedback and found that the major/minor terminology led to confusion among some college admissions professionals, external counselors, and potential applicant families. "Major" and "Minor" are not terms typically used in a high school, and our wording was clouding the water rather than helping our students. In addition, the old model added stress to students' schedules who were taking extra courses just so they could be eligible to apply for a program.

What are some advantages for students transitioning to the new model rather than finishing out their years at VCHS under the old major/minor model?

By switching to the new model and completing the requirements, students earn the distinction of "Honors," which has more meaning to college admissions professionals and external counselors than the major/minor nomenclature currently in use. This "Honors" distinction will be noted on students' official transcripts and can be used during the college admission process.

The new model reduces the number of Conservatory classes required for the Honors program to three.

HONORS PROGRAM QUESTIONS

I'm currently participating as a Conservatory Minor. Under the Honors Program, if I switch, what will my Conservatory extracurriculars be?

For most disciplines (Music, Visual Arts, and Media Arts), the requirements for extracurriculars are the same for each discipline as they are now. There are several changes to the requirements for Theatre and Dance. The information sheets will be sent to you and posted online as soon as they are approved.

I can't decide between keeping my Major or switching to the new Honors Program. What should I do?

It depends on what you want to appear on her transcript. People have different feelings about it. Some feel that they've worked so hard for almost 4 years to get the Major status listed, that they want the Major diploma and Conservatory Music Major to appear on their transcript.

Some people feel it's more advantageous when applying to colleges that their transcript and applications state "Conservatory Honors Program" because they think the word Honors means more than "Major." And to many college admissions people, it does, according to Diana Fairchild, our head counselor. So it's up to the individual.

An example: If you stay with your current program, your transcript will state in the notes:

"Conservatory Music Major," once you complete those previous requirements by senior year.

If you switch to the Honors Program, the transcript will state in the notes:

"Conservatory Music Honors."

What do you recommend for a current 9th or 10th grader?

Again, with a few exceptions, there is no difference in the extra-curricular requirements. We are encouraging most 9th and 10th graders, especially minors, to go with the new Conservatory Honors Program rather than Minor.

CONSERVATORY HONORS FELLOW QUESTIONS

How do we apply for the Honors Fellowship?

The application is in SlideRoom at vcs.slideroom.com. An audition video or portfolio submission is required.

How many Conservatory Honors Fellows will be chosen? Will they be from all of the disciplines?

The program is highly selective and fewer than 15 of our highest-achieving visual and performing artists may be chosen in any given year from the applicants. Some of these maybe freshman or sophomores, some might be juniors and seniors. Again, there will be a selection process announced, and not all students who want to fulfill the Fellow requirements will be named Honors Fellow. The same applies to AMSE Honors Fellows.

Can you apply for the Conservatory Fellowship more than once?

Yes.

What happens if I'm not selected for Honors Fellow?

If you are not selected, you will automatically be added to the Honors Program. No additional application will be needed.

AMSE ARTIST PROGRAM QUESTIONS

Can you clarify participation options for students who are active in both AMSE and the Conservatory?

In order to encourage students to pursue a broad range of interests, the AMSE Institute and the Conservatory will continue to collaborate on these new models and will work closely together to ensure their success. Students have several participation options:

AMSE Member + Conservatory Member

AMSE Honors + Conservatory Member
AMSE Fellow + Conservatory Member

Conservatory Honors + AMSE Member
Conservatory Fellow + AMSE Member

For students pursuing AMSE Honors + Conservatory Honors, a new AMSE Artist Honors track is now available. Please see the requirements below:

AMSE Artist Honors Graduation Requirements

SE Artist Honors Requirements	Number
Conservatory Declaration of Area of Emphasis	✓
Years of Science	3
Years of Math	4
Courses	2
Discipline Specific Conservatory Courses	3
Discipline Specific Conservatory Extra-Curriculars (Shows, private lessons, etc)	4
AMSE Program	1
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In regards to the new AMSE Artist Honors model, how do I apply?

Current and new students interested in pursuing AMSE Artist Honors status must complete a separate application. The application for AMSE Artist Honors can be found at vcs.slideroom.com

Can I keep my AMSE Major but still apply to AMSE Honors?

Students cannot be both AMSE Major and Honors.

Can I sign up for both the AMSE Honors Program and the Conservatory Honors Program?

No. For honors in both, you need to apply to be an AMSE Artist and complete the above requirements.

There is no option for student to be AMSE Fellow + Conservatory Honors?

Students CAN be a fellow in one and in the Honors program in the other.

8th CLASS TUITION WAIVER QUESTIONS

Can I still get my 8th class tuition waiver that was offered to majors and minors?

VCHS administration has decided to eliminate the Conservatory/AMSE fee waiver for the 8th class for all Honors Program students, including incoming students. Given that both the Conservatory and AMSE have reduced their requirements, eight classes is no longer needed to fulfill the requirements for honors.

We have decided to “grandfather” students on the current plan, who can demonstrate that they need the 8th class to fulfill the major or minor requirements. Contact Mrs. Diana Fairchild, Head Academic Counselor (dfairchild@vcs.net) if you think you might qualify.

Consideration will also be granted to students selected for an elite performance class, because this requires enrollment in two music ensemble classes.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Updates will be posted in coming months on the VCS website at: vcs.net

For Conservatory, go to: *Conservatory of the Arts* at the top
>Conservatory Application Process

For AMSE, go to: *AMSE Institute* at the top
>AMSE Requirements

Updates will be made on these pages as more information is made available.