

**Old Town High School**

**Honors Diploma Program**

**Purpose:**

* To provide a program that values and rewards academic rigor and effort
* To build incentives and rewards for high academic achievement into our school’s culture so that more students will be challenged academically and supported in “reaching their maximum potential”

**Selection Criteria/Process:**

* All incoming freshmen students and any current freshmen or sophomore students can apply for the Honors Diploma Program.
* All applicants may be interviewed by the Honors Committee.  To be accepted they and their parents or guardians must agree to successfully complete all of the requirements for the Honors Program.

**Program Description and Requirements (summary):**

The Old Town High School Honors Diploma was created to recognize sustained academic achievement of extraordinary distinction, and to encourage students to take full advantage of the rich offerings at Old Town High School. In order to graduate with an Honors Diploma, students must:

* Successfully apply to join the Honors Diploma Cohort
* Succeed in a highly challenging sequence of courses:
	+ Two college-level courses (Advanced Placement courses, for example)
	+ An additional eight Honors or college-level courses
	+ These courses shall be taken over a minimum of seven semesters
* Complete four years each of Math, Science, English, and Social Studies
* Complete the third year of a foreign language
* Complete an approved Service Project
* Complete a Senior Exhibition Project of superior quality
* Maintain a 90% overall average in required courses
* Maintain a 90% overall average in honors courses-must earn at least an 85%(unweighted grade) in each course
* Participate in nine Honors Seminars and complete a reflection paper for each seminar

**\***Courses taken outside of Old Town High School must be approved by the Honors Diploma Committee.

**\***Students shall maintain an honorable academic career, free of cheating and plagiarism.

**\***Detailed requirements can be found at the Honors Diploma Program webpage.

**Rewards/Incentives:**

Students who successfully complete the requirements of the Honors Program will:

* Participate in Honors Program seminars and Honors cohort field trips.
* Receive an honors award and/or honors cords at graduation.
* Have their transcripts stamped to designate them as recipients of an Old Town High School Honors Diploma.
* Receive automatic invitations to join highly challenging programs:
	+ Automatic invitation to join the University of Maine’s Honors College upon acceptance to UM
	+ Automatic invitation to join the University of Southern Maine’s Honors Program upon acceptance to USM.