

Honours or honors?

What is American honours-education, and what can we learn from it?

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Summary

Honours-education is a widespread phenomenon in the United States today, with 59% of all undergraduate institutions nationwide offering honours-education in some shape or form. It is therefore of interest to investigate how American honours programs and colleges have come to be such widespread institutions when working towards the development of honours-education here in Europe. This report will explore the development and definition of honours-education in the United States, investigate the characteristics and commonalities across various American honours institutions and discuss our findings.

Our report is therefore split up in two main parts. After introducing the background for our report, we will have a closer look at the numbers behind American honours education in terms of size, admission, sector and so on. Then we will discuss the qualitative properties of the study-programs and colleges in question, before ending with some reflections on future developments and the role of our findings.