Why join the honors program? SXU's undergraduate honors program provides students with the resources, curricular structure and faculty support to pursue their individual learning goals. Serving students across the University, the honors program facilitates study abroad opportunities, fieldwork and senior research/creative projects, and colloquia for shared learning, all of which foster excellent qualifications for graduate and professional school, and for employment opportunities.

Honors students enjoy:
• Social justice orientation in the Mercy tradition
• Small university program that affords more individual attention from faculty mentors and stronger peer bonding
• Annual undergraduate research conference at which seniors present their capstone projects
• Strong ties to the surrounding environment, including community and field-based learning
• Smaller student population, enabling easier access to leadership roles across the University

Opportunities Inside and Outside the Classroom
• Interdisciplinary study: Honors core courses are designed around a unifying theme, focusing upon such themes as “The Global Community,” “And Justice for All” and “The Idea of America.” The team-taught honors humanities course on the "And Justice for All" theme looked at the history of social justice movements in Chicago over the past century and a half, examining them in the context of theological understandings of justice.

• Innovative courses that reward independent learning: Recent honors fieldwork projects have included a study of wolf migration in Yellowstone National Park, teaching math and language skills to children in underserved Costa Rican villages, and assisting in the curating of exhibits at an art gallery showcasing works designed to provoke engagement in pressing social issues.

• Faculty-mentored research projects that prepare students for professional challenges: Recent honors capstone projects have included a study of eco-theology, a study of film adaptations of Nabokov's *Lolita*, research on the anti-inflammatory effects of black seeds (used for medicinal purposes in India), and a study of the barriers faced by non-native speakers in the American health care system.

• Opportunities to pursue enriching field experiences/community-based learning: As part of an honors humanities class examining social justice movements in Chicago, the class volunteered at the Chicago Food Depository. Students in an honors science course examined the threats worldwide to the purity of drinking water and tested water samples drawn from streams, lakes and reservoirs throughout Chicago and Wisconsin.

• Cocurricular activities that encourage students to explore what Chicago has to offer: The Honors Program Student Advisory Council organizes cultural and social activities for students and faculty, including film nights and visits to Chicago area museums.

For more information visit www.sxu.edu, Keyword: Honors.