Prospective Freshmen & Transfer Students

WHAT IS HOSPITALITY?

Hospitality is HEART.
Kind hearts. Service-focused hearts.
Thoughtful hearts. Hearts of Gold.
Add sparks of Creativity and Business Savvy.
THIS is Hospitality.
At Hilton College, we LOVE our pineapples and so does our industry. The pineapple motif has become ubiquitous to hospitality and symbolizes the warm and welcoming spirit of the entire industry. Though commonplace today, this once exotic fruit was an expensive and rare commodity, traveling far and wide to earn the title “King of Fruit.” Its juicy hospitality roots reach back as far back as the early 1500s, when Europe’s royal houses paid as much as $8,000 (in today’s money) for just one pineapple to adorn the center of their lavish banquet tables. With its spiky crown, this tropical sensation became the embodiment of wealth and privilege and an obsession for those who coveted both its scarcity and sweet meat. During the 17th century, American colonists began importing this “must-have” from the Caribbean. Trade routes were slow and perilous and, with no refrigeration, presenting a whole—or even partial—fresh pineapple became the ultimate gesture of hospitality and friendship. Throughout the 18th and early 19th centuries, those who wanted to extend this sentiment, but couldn’t afford to, began embellishing their homes and businesses with depictions of pineapples. From inn signs and carved bed posts to tableware, linens and wallpaper, the pineapple flourished in its welcoming role, as it does still today. As a student here, you, too, can BE A PINEAPPLE—just stand tall, wear a crown and stay sweet on the inside! We ARE hospitality and we welcome you!
Many of us are “people people”—we like making people happy. A career in hospitality fills your heart by creating experiences and memories that bring joy to others. As much as you give, you’ll gain even more in return. We also love being part of an industry that makes people feel welcome—and that’s how you’ll feel as a student here. But you don’t have to be an extrovert to succeed at this College or in this industry. Hospitality doesn’t put you in a box. This is an industry that rewards passion, individuality and creativity. Plus, there’s so many different career paths you can take! Hospitality is global. It’s dynamic. And as the world is changing, so is this industry. As the next generation of hospitality leaders, we have the power to reimagine all that hospitality is and can be—and that’s inspiring!

One of our roles as ambassadors is to give tours to you and your parents and to answer your questions from our firsthand experiences. A comment we hear a lot is, “This sounds like a fun major, but is it a career?” There is a misconception, especially among some parents, that hospitality means waiting tables and working in other entry-level jobs with no room for growth. This may be one aspect of the industry, but with a bachelor’s degree in Global Hospitality Leadership from Hilton College, your career will quickly advance. This degree provides a strong foundation for success in any sector of the industry. And depending on what academic track you choose—Foodservice Management, Lodging Management, Project Management & Analytics or Wine & Beverage Studies—you’ll learn about the operations side, as well as things like accounting, HR, technology, revenue management, law and more.

Additionally, the experience you’ll gain through your professional development hours will make you more marketable to future employers. Sure, some of these hours might be working as a server or cleaning rooms as part of a rotational internship in our Hilton hotel. But these work experiences will also help you build your resume and make you a more valued and well-versed leader who is better equipped to manage your own teams because you’ve learned what it takes to do these important service jobs.

At Hilton College, you’ll also find an INCREDIBLE sense of community—and that’s not just a talking point! The professors, staff and your classmates are always here for you. And that’s the greatest part about being a student here—you walk in and you belong. Students come from around the state, around the country and around the globe. There are more than 30 countries representing our student body, making us the most diverse hospitality program in the world. Learning is so much more fun and interesting because of this diversity of backgrounds, cultures and perspectives.

And the classes? Our professors are the BEST. Not only have they worked in the industry, but they take a personal interest in you and your success.

We also have hospitality-related student organizations, so you can get involved right away. Plus, there are lots of great networking opportunities, which is key to you finding a variety of jobs and internships that will help you figure out what you really want to do. With the people you’ll meet and the hands-on experiences you’ll have along the way, we don’t doubt for a second that you’ll discover your own perfect career path.

If hospitality is your calling or your heart is ready to find its passion, then Hilton College is where you need to be. We look forward to welcoming you and answering your questions!

Yours in hospitality,
Conrad N. Hilton College Ambassadors
Hospitality is at the heart of every successful business, making your career possibilities limitless. And with our specialized business degree – a Bachelor of Science in Global Hospitality Leadership – you’ll be part of the next generation of leaders who can effect change in this dynamic industry known for creating meaningful experiences. Opportunities are yours for the taking in all sectors of hospitality, which is as diverse as it is global.

As a student here, you’ll make unmatched industry connections, which includes an extensive alumni network that loves to hire our graduates. We’ll also help you navigate and explore this industry through internships and career fairs. You’ll quickly realize that Hilton College grads are highly sought after by multinational companies that come to our campus looking for top talent – they know our quality leadership experiences are immediately applicable to their business. And, with so many career options, our students often have more than one job offer upon graduation.

Featured here are just some of the many and varied career paths you can take.
Hilton College was founded in 1969 by hotel icon Conrad N. Hilton, who built one of the world’s most recognizable and successful hospitality brands. The Hilton name means something – in the industry AND on your diploma. We are proud of that fact, and you will be, too!

Today, the Conrad N. Hilton College of Global Hospitality Leadership is a world leader in hospitality education and has produced nearly 10,000 graduates who work in hospitality leadership positions around the globe. Our alumni are a testament to the power of our hospitality degree and the strength of our industry partnerships.

To that point, more than 90 percent of our students have jobs upon graduation. But our program also helps instill in our graduates the confidence and leadership skills needed to realize their own aspirations, whether it be starting their own businesses and employing others or taking that leap of faith to discover their own special niche in the industry. Collectively, our graduates will reshape the hospitality landscape, and we can’t wait to see what they’ll do next!
HILTON UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

We have our own hotel! In fact, we are the only hospitality program in the world where you can work – and take classes – in an internationally branded full-service hotel. Nearly 70 percent of the employees at our Hilton University of Houston are students. Our Hilton hotel also offers rotational internships, giving you real-world experience in guest services, hotel operations, housekeeping, banquets, sales and events, or revenue management. Recently, we added a new five-story, 70-room tower, expanding our total number of guest rooms to 150. Everything about the hotel of tomorrow.

As a student here, you’ll benefit from our first-class facilities.

OUR FACILITIES

ERIC’S CLUB CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Our newly renovated Eric’s Club Center for Student Success is a “one-stop shop” with all the resources you’ll need to succeed throughout your college career. From application to graduation and academic advising through career counseling, our staff in Recruitment & Enrollment, Undergraduate Academic Services and Career Development has you covered. And a concierge desk at the center’s entrance will make these student success resources even more convenient to access.

COUGAR GROUNDS®

One of the biggest perks of being a student here is hanging out at our student-run coffeehouse, Cougar Grounds. In fact, since our “Cougar-istas” started serving up the BEST gourmet coffee, smoothies and deluxe teas in 2008, the quality and originality of our menu has become so popular campus-wide that Cougar Grounds outgrew its original home. Recently, our coffeehouse relocated, doubled in size and now occupies a premium spot next to our new Eric’s Club Center for Student Success. With the hip vibe of an independent, urban coffeehouse, Cougar Grounds offers single origin coffee from local roasters and, of course, vegan options. It also serves as a design lab for our students. Now, for the first time, instructors can broadcast live events from the kitchen to multiple venues, including our hotel ballrooms. This technology also allows our instructors to broadcast more demonstrations to any number of places concurrently for any variety of special events, including cooking demos from guest chefs. Bon appétit!

SPECF’S BEVERAGE & FOOD APPRECIATION LAB

Only a few universities in the country have dedicated facilities to research and evaluate wine – our “Spec’s Wine Lab” is the only one of its kind between the U.S. coasts. With seating for up to 65, our lab features individual sinks, natural light and back-lit white boards to evaluate a wine’s color, as well as wine-holding stations so wines stay in the correct order for tastings. Its multi-purpose design also allows for sensory evaluation of food and other beverages, like distilled spirits and coffee. Hilton College is a leader in Beverage Management and if this is what you want to study, our Spec’s Wine Lab provides the ideal setting in which to learn. Our Wine Appreciation classes, industry training, special event tastings, and cooking demonstrations are also held here. Cheers!

SYSCO STUDENT KITCHEN

After an “extreme makeover” in 2019, our student instruction kitchen lab debuted as the Sysco Student Kitchen. This renovation is pretty amazing! The space features four state-of-the-art cooking stations, giving it the functionality of an exhibition kitchen, and top-of-the-line commercial appliances. Monitors above each station allow students to receive lectures simultaneously – and remotely – from anywhere in the world. Overhead cameras can also broadcast live events from the kitchen to multiple venues, including our hotel ballrooms. This technology also allows our instructors to broadcast more demonstrations to any number of places concurrently for any variety of special events, including cooking demos from guest chefs. Bon appétit!

MSSAD FAMILY LIBRARY RESEARCH CENTER & HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY ARCHIVES

The Massad Family Library Research Center offers contemporary study space, six computer workstations and three private group-study rooms equipped with the latest technology. There is also an adjoining computer lab and a wealth of hospitality-related resources, including an extensive array of cookbooks from around the world. Large graphic panels of the library’s name and images of Conrad Hilton are also incorporated into the space to striking effect. The Hospitality Industry Archives, the largest repository of hospitality collections, students can also view collections by appointment.
Are you a foodie who loves trying out new restaurants? Curious about banquets, catering and sales? Perhaps on-site foodservice operations for sports and entertainment venues, schools, hospitals or airlines piques your interest? Maybe you picture yourself starting your own coffeehouse or bakery, operating a food truck, managing your favorite franchise, or one day opening a restaurant with your own spin on a new dining concept. The foodservice industry offers an unlimited “menu” of career possibilities! And, of course, hands-on learning is a major ingredient in all of these classes. You’ll gain valuable real-world experience from time spent in both our Sysco Student Kitchen, where you’ll learn both the technical and management skills needed in a commercial kitchen setting, as well as in our Spec’s Wine Lab, designed specifically for beverage tasting.

**DEGREE TRACKS**

One of the many benefits of our degree tracks is that they are designed to help us prepare our students for opportunities that don’t yet exist, using technologies that have yet to be implemented or invented, to solve the industry challenges and disruptions that have not yet occurred. No matter which of our four tracks you choose, all aim to equip you with the knowledge and skills you’ll need to lead the hospitality industry of tomorrow.

**FOODSERVICE MANAGEMENT**

Are you a foodie who loves trying out new restaurants? Curious about banquets, catering and sales? Perhaps on-site foodservice operations for sports and entertainment venues, schools, hospitals or airlines piques your interest? Maybe you picture yourself starting your own coffeehouse or bakery, operating a food truck, managing your favorite franchise, or one day opening a restaurant with your own spin on a new dining concept. The foodservice industry offers an unlimited “menu” of career possibilities! And, of course, hands-on learning is a major ingredient in all of these classes. You’ll gain valuable real-world experience from time spent in both our Sysco Student Kitchen, where you’ll learn both the technical and management skills needed in a commercial kitchen setting, as well as in our Spec’s Wine Lab, designed specifically for beverage tasting.

**UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE OPTIONS**

- **Bachelor of Science in Global Hospitality Leadership (GHL)** – This specialized business degree combines traditional business courses in accounting, economics and law with social sciences, hospitality marketing, human resources and communications. You’ll choose a concentration track to create a personalized degree plan and complete 1,000 hours of industry-related work experience.

- **Dual BS/MS** – We call this our “4+1 degree” because you can earn BOTH your bachelor’s and master’s degrees in just 5 years! You must be a Hilton College junior to apply. If accepted, you can complete 12 hours toward your MS as an undergrad and finish the remaining credits for your MS as a grad student in just one additional calendar year.

- **Minor in Beverage Management and Marketing** – This minor is designed to give you the expertise you’ll need to pursue a career in the multi-billion-dollar wine, beer and spirits industry. To earn this minor, you must complete 16 credit hours – 10 required hours and a choice of electives for 6 credit hours.

**“I chose the 4+1 degree program not only because it’s a great value, but because I thought it was a really smart thing to do. Any other master’s degree would take two to three years to complete. This is such an efficient use of my time and I’ll gain so much more knowledge... I’ll be 22 when I graduate with my master’s, and this will really give me a competitive edge. How can you beat that?”**

– Grace García (BS ’21, MS ’22)

Hilton College offers a comprehensive and current curriculum that is immediately applicable to the industry. Our academic advisors will assist you to customize a degree plan that matches your career goals and can guide you to a wide range of electives.
**LODGING MANAGEMENT**

Do you aspire to be the general manager of an international hotel? Interested in directing the sales efforts of a resort property, or running a country club, casino or spa? What about a career in hotel revenue management, or acquisitions and development? Maybe you dream about opening your own bed & breakfast, planning events, or leading a team in convention services? Lodging management encompasses this and so much more! Sustainability and innovative practices are core themes explored in all of our lodging offerings. Classes like Hotel Supply Chain and Distribution Management; and Hotel Renovation Design and Pre-Opening are just two examples of related electives. And, with the addition of our new hotel tower, you’ll have on-site opportunities to gain even more hands-on lodging experience.

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT & ANALYTICS**

Are you good at organization? How are your communication skills? Do you have an aptitude for technology and numbers? These skills provide an ideal foundation for amazing opportunities in business and data analytics, revenue and project management, and industry consulting. And with data-driven decisions critical to ALL business, there is no telling where the knowledge and experience you’ll gain from this rigorous track can take you! Hilton College is one of only two hospitality programs in the country that offers this course of study. You’ll learn about project management and the various phases of planning and implementation for things like hotel development, branding and new technology. You’ll also learn how to extract, analyze and interpret company- and consumer-generated data, create hospitality metrics for decision-making and service innovation, and grow professionally from hands-on experience applying business analytics to real-life business problems. By using such tools and applications as MS Excel and Power BI, web crawling and data collection in social media, predictive modeling through machine learning in XLMiner, text mining in Webcloud, Google Trends, Instagram business analytics and Tableau’s visualization analytics, you’ll develop an in-depth understanding of these tools and techniques and how to apply them. For the lab component of our Practical Project Development class, you’ll be paired with one of our industry partners where you can showcase all you’ve learned by presenting your analysis and solution to their specific business problem.

**WINE & BEVERAGE STUDIES**

Eager to uncork your passion for wine? Maybe you see yourself as the next big thing in the craft brewery scene. Interested in being a sommelier or managing a wine cellar or tasting room? What about directing the beverage operations for restaurants, hotels or retail? Have you fantasized about opening your own bar, or one day launching your own spirits company? If you’re a natural-born salesperson, beverage marketing, sales or distribution could be your calling. For those thirsty for opportunity, careers are always on tap in the BOOMING beverage industry. The glass is always full on the non-alcoholic side of this industry, too – everything from coffee, tea and water to juices, smoothies and energy drinks. Beverage laws are perpetually changing, so you’ll also learn about the legal aspects of this business. To participate in our tasting and alcohol production classes, you’ll have to wait until you are the legal drinking age of 21. And YES, you really do get course credits for tasting wine and making beer!
For those of you considering graduate school and like to plan ahead, we do offer a variety of degrees that will take your career to the next level.

- Master of Science (M.S.) in Hospitality Management
- Joint M.S./Master of Business Administration (MBA) in partnership with UH’s Bauer College of Business.
- MS in Global Hospitality Business in partnership with Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne and the School of Hotel and Tourism Management at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. This first-of-its-kind degree will give you unparalleled professional immersion through business projects and field trips across three continents.
- Executive Master of Hospitality Management (MHM)
- Ph.D. in Hospitality Administration
For more than 50 years, experiential learning has been the cornerstone of our hospitality program. No textbook or lecture can ever be as authentic as our immersive hands-on experiences. That’s when the real learning sinks in – and it’s so much more fun!

For example, in addition to our traditional classes, you won’t just read about the beverage industry – you’ll brew beer in our beverage lab and learn how to pair wine with food in our Wine Appreciation class. You won’t just listen to a lecture about how to plan an event, you’ll produce one. And you won’t just watch a cooking demo, you’ll prepare your own dish in our student kitchen.

Our classrooms are everywhere. And new opportunities are forever unfolding. Here are just a few of the kinds of hands-on experiences you can expect to have as a student here.

Because the world is our classroom, you’ll gain the competitive advantage you need to lead.
CLASS TRIPS – Immerse yourself in the beauty and tastes of the vineyards and wineries of Napa and Sonoma with behind-the-scenes VIP access through our California Wine Experience; tour the high-roller suites and back-of-house operations and meet executives at major casino resorts on the Las Vegas strip with our Gaming and Casino Management class; indulge in culinary tours and attend the annual National Restaurant Association Show in Chicago for an inside look at the restaurant industry; take a bite of the Big Apple with private hotel tours and learn more about the lodging industry at the HX: Hotel Experience from the massive trade floor of the Javits Convention Center in New York City; and discover destination barbecue joints and wineries during our spring break road trip to the Texas Hill Country for the Texas Food and Wine Experience… You get the idea!

INTERNSHIPS – Where do you want to go? What kind of new experience do you want? Just ask! We work with employers in town, across the country and at hospitality destinations throughout the world to help you find your ideal internship opportunity that will build your resume and advance your career. There are also rotational internships available at our Hilton hotel.

GOURMET NIGHT – Interview to be part of the team that plans and executes our signature student-run dinner for some 300 guests. This is an incredible hands-on learning experience that will showcase your talents in the kitchen, event planning, marketing, beverage management and service direction. If you aren’t selected for the class, we encourage you to volunteer to help our student managers produce this event. It’s a great learning experience for everyone!

THE YOUNG HOTELIERS SUMMIT (YHS) – Each spring, two students are selected to travel to this prestigious gathering at École Hôtelière de Lausanne in Switzerland to represent Hilton College and serve with other delegates from 40 hospitality schools around the world. The summit includes keynote speeches, panels, workshops and networking opportunities, culminating in the YHS Challenge. Teams have 10 hours to create a pitch and provide a solution to a sponsoring company’s industry issue. To quote past attendees, “it’s a mind-blowing, once-in-a-lifetime global experience!”

CITY-WIDE EVENTS – If it’s happening in Houston, you could be involved! For example, when Super Bowl LI, Taste of the NFL and the NCAA Final Four Men’s Basketball Tournament came to town, special classes were created for student participation in event planning and staffing. Opportunities abound in the nation’s fourth largest city with an abundance of community-wide events at sporting, cultural and event venues alike.

THE CULINARY INSTITUTE OF AMERICA EXPERIENCE – Many aspiring chefs come to Hilton College to learn about the business and operational side of the restaurant industry, either before or after they complete a culinary program elsewhere. If you’d like a taste of the culinary world, our newest offering provides an immersive hands-on experience with the premier leader of culinary education — The Culinary Institute of America (CIA) in Hyde Park, New York. EXCLUSIVE to Hilton College, this 3-week concentrated culinary experience, held each June, affords 10-18 undergraduates the extraordinary opportunity to learn from chef instructors in the CIA’s incomparable student kitchens. You’ll stay in the dormitories overlooking the Hudson River on the strikingly beautiful campus, enjoy amazing meals in the renowned dining halls, and can spend your weekends exploring New York City — just a two-hour train ride away. Upon completion of the program, you’ll earn 6 elective credits toward your bachelor’s degree. You never know where this kind of invaluable industry experience will lead!
Participation in our industry-focused student organizations is one of the best ways for you to network, gain valuable leadership skills, make lifelong friends and give back to the community. And it’s fun! These organizations can also be your gateway to internships, jobs and scholarships. Each semester, we hold a Student Organization Fair, where you can meet student officers and learn more about the activities of each chapter. Join one, two or more groups and GET INVOLVED. The connections you’ll make will open doors!

- Club Managers Association of America
- Conrad N. Hilton College Ambassadors
- Eta Sigma Delta International Hospitality Management Society
- Graduate Student Association
- Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals – Cougar Chapter
- Hotel & Lodging Association of Greater Houston – UH Chapter
- National Association for Catering and Events – UH Student Chapter
- National Society of Minorities in Hospitality – Cougar Chapter
- Texas Restaurant Association – Cougar Chapter

If you want an international experience, we’ve got you! Hilton College has partnerships with universities in Australia, France, Hong Kong, South Korea and Peru. Sessions range from two weeks to a full semester and cover a variety of courses designed to give you a better understanding of the global hospitality industry and expose you to different cultures. It’s these kinds of experiences that will make you stand out among other applicants vying for the same position, not to mention the incredible personal and educational benefits you’ll gain from any of our study-abroad opportunities. Talk to our director of International Programs to learn more!

Additionally, the University of Houston’s Learning Abroad Office can connect you to programs in more than 100 countries across Central America, Europe, Asia and Africa. The Semester at Sea program is also available through this office. Learn more at uh.edu/learningabroad/
Hilton College offers numerous options for scholarships and financial aid. Ranging from a minimum of $1,000 up to $10,000, our scholarships are based on factors like:

- GPA
- Community involvement
- Career goals
- Leadership skills
- Involvement in student and industry organizations

You can apply for Hilton College scholarships from October 1 to January 31. And the best part? You only need to complete one application. We'll take a look at what you've submitted and find the scholarship(s) that fits you best, if eligible. Funds are limited, so we encourage you to complete the scholarship application process early!

**Scholarship priority deadlines:**
- Freshmen: November 1
- Transfer students: November 1

The hospitality industry supports our students through scholarships as well, which is another great reason to get involved in at least one of our student organizations!

We encourage you to apply online at uh.edu/hilton-college/students/scholarships/

---

**Fill out one scholarship application and we’ll do the rest!**

Hilton College offers numerous options for scholarships and financial aid. Ranging from a minimum of $1,000 up to $10,000, our scholarships are based on factors like:

- GPA
- Community involvement
- Career goals
- Leadership skills
- Involvement in student and industry organizations

You can apply for Hilton College scholarships from October 1 to January 31. And the best part? You only need to complete one application. We’ll take a look at what you’ve submitted and find the scholarship(s) that fits you best, if eligible. Funds are limited, so we encourage you to complete the scholarship application process early!

**Scholarship priority deadlines:**
- Freshmen: November 1
- Transfer students: November 1

The hospitality industry supports our students through scholarships as well, which is another great reason to get involved in at least one of our student organizations!

We encourage you to apply online at uh.edu/hilton-college/students/scholarships/
STEPS TO APPLY

Apply TODAY and let us help you discover YOUR place in our industry!

1. Apply online to the University of Houston (main campus) at goapplytexas.org/ or commonapp.org/ A separate application is NOT required to apply to Hilton College. Simply apply as a freshman or transfer student to UH. When prompted to choose a preferred major, select “Global Hospitality Leadership.”

2. Submit a $75, nonrefundable application fee ($90 for international students) online or with a check or money order made payable to: University of Houston. You may qualify for an application fee waiver, which you can submit in your my.uh.edu self-service portal.

3. Send your high school and college transcripts either electronically or by mail to the UH Office of Admissions. You can also self-report your high school transcript (grades and class rank) in your my.uh.edu self-service portal.

4. If applicable, direct your SAT or ACT score(s) to be sent straight from the testing agency to the University of Houston. Our SAT code is 6870; our ACT code is 4236.

Applications for incoming freshmen students are accepted from August 1 to June 3*. Applications for incoming transfer students are accepted from August 1 to June 24*. For more information on domestic and international admissions, visit uh.edu/admissions/

*Application deadlines are subject to change.

STUDENT CULTURE STATEMENT

WE — THE STUDENTS OF HILTON COLLEGE — are a community of passionate and engaged leaders.

WE REPRESENT THE BEST in hospitality education and strive for excellence in our academics, professional endeavors and industry associations.

WE EMBRACE the spirit of hospitality through service and involvement. In our culture, respect is essential.

WE ARE MINDFUL AND CONSIDERATE of our hotel, its guests, operations and events.

AS EMERGING LEADERS, we hold ourselves to a higher standard.

WE ARE AN OPEN AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT that values Academic Integrity... Compliance... Professionalism... Punctuality... Commitment.

WE TAKE GREAT PRIDE in being an integral part of the Hilton College and University of Houston community.

THIS IS OUR CULTURE.

— Written by the Dean’s Undergraduate Advisory Council
FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

- HiltonCollegeUH
- @HiltonCollegeUH
- Hilton College
- @HiltonCollegeUH

Visit our website – uh.edu/ghl

WE ARE HOSPITALITY

SCHEDULE A TOUR
Contact us at helloGHL@central.uh.edu to learn more!