A former president of King, Dr. R. T. L. Liston, once described King as “a place of the mind.” The mind is, however, more than an isolated component of the human being. It helps to shape and is itself shaped by both the spiritual and physical worlds. The Jack E. Snider Honors Program challenges participants to think deeply so as to live fully.

Although students accepted into the Honors Program will be expected to participate fully in the life of the campus, the Program offers special opportunities to develop the life of the mind:

- To meet and study under members of the faculty and outside guests, who themselves demonstrate a passionate commitment to the life of the mind
- To participate in seminars that will examine ideas from a variety of academic disciplines
- To take selected courses that stimulate thinking and allow for creative response
- To engage in independent research
- To serve both the campus and the larger community

To be invited to join the Honors Program, students must have a 3.5 GPA in high school or at another college or university, and have achieved a score of 1260 on the SAT or a 28 on the ACT. Students who do not meet these criteria may still apply to join the Program through the Admissions Office. By an interview or formal essay such students must demonstrate intellectual curiosity, a collegial spirit, and a desire to learn and grow.