The Honors College Handbook - 2014

Congratulations on your acceptance into the Honors College!

The Honors experience will provide you with a unique and challenging set of opportunities, both in and out of the classroom. This handbook is designed to answer basic questions about your responsibilities and privileges as an Honors student. If you have additional questions, the Honors staff will be happy to discuss them with you.

This handbook is updated every year, prior to the start of the Fall Semester. All Honors College students are responsible for reading through the handbook each year and following the policies and procedures as they are listed. In certain instances, a student may be “grandfathered” regarding a particular policy if that policy received a substantial change after the student’s first year in the Honors College.

Refer to this handbook each semester before advising to ensure you are aware of your responsibilities. Follow up with a staff member about any questions you have regarding Honors College requirements.

RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, BENEFITS, OPPORTUNITIES

Membership in good standing with the Honors College confers the following rights and privileges:

- Special and generally smaller classes;
- Increased access to and interaction with professors and administrators;
- Access to Honors staff members who take a personal interest in your campus experience and can provide information and assist you with advising and problem-solving;
- Exposure to an interdisciplinary approach to human knowledge and learning;
• Access to information about education, travel, scholarships, and intellectual opportunities across the nation and around the world;
• Advice and support for applications to competitive and prestigious national scholarship programs including: Rhodes, Marshall, Fulbright, Truman, Goldwater, Udall, and others;
• Eligibility for paid undergraduate research opportunities through the Undergraduate Research Scholars Program;
• Access to specially designated Honors campus housing, as space is available;
• Special benefits at the University library, including extended borrowing privileges and access to special study areas;
• Access to the Student Forum at McClellan Hall, which includes a study area, computer lab, lounge with TV/VCR/DVD, and a small kitchen;
• When eligible, access to special programs and/or admission criteria at the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center and School of Law;
• Participation in various Honors-sponsored special and social events at little or no cost;
• First-day registration for classes to enable students to take advantage of academic opportunities, including Honors sections of courses;
• Ability to take a leave of absence from the College when studying abroad, completing internships, or participating in other activities that remove a student temporarily from the campus and that complement the Honors experience;
• Peer support through the First-Year Experience (FYE) Mentor Program.

THE HONORS PHILOSOPHY
The Honors experience is a special one, offering both outstanding academic and extracurricular opportunities. These opportunities are designed for those students who are intellectually curious, capable, and interested in making the most of their time at the University. The members of the Honors College staff are dedicated to assisting students in achieving their academic and personal goals.
By the same token, we anticipate that students who associate with the Honors College will embrace the opportunity to explore the world in which they live, to challenge themselves to develop their critical thinking skills, and to go beyond the acquisition of vocational skills to foster a true educational experience containing breadth as well as depth. It is in this spirit that we seek to form a partnership with each of our students, in which Honors faculty and staff members provide entry to a world of opportunity. Honors students reciprocate by exploring, defining, and pursuing opportunity in a way that will maximize their academic and personal growth.

**EXPECTATIONS OF HONORS STUDENTS**

Our expectations of you stem from our philosophy and our desire to assist you in achieving your individual goals. Expectations we have for you are outlined below:

- Taking responsibility for your educational success, personal success, and for your actions, including seeking help for problems sooner rather than later;
- Demonstrating maturity and appropriate behavior; Participation in Honors advising;
- Fulfilling (or exceeding) the requirements for Honors College membership and graduation, including meeting Honors GPA requirements and satisfactory progress in Honors coursework;
- Maintaining current contact information.

**APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR**

Responsibilities come with membership in the Honors College and from the special investment the University is making in you. We expect you will exhibit the intellectual curiosity, as well as the commitment to academic excellence that distinguishes Honors students. We also expect you will exhibit maturity, good judgment, and a sense of responsibility in your interactions with people and property, both on and off campus. Failure to do this could mean separation from the Honors College, in addition to any other disciplinary action the University might take.

If the Honors College receives information indicating one of its students may have behaved in an inappropriate way, the student may be asked to meet with a member of the Honors College staff to discuss the situation. Examples of inappropriate behavior range from less serious (giving an RSVP that you will be attending an Honors event and then not attending
that event) to more serious (plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty or criminal offenses).

If a student’s actions 1) negatively impact, or have the reasonable potential to negatively impact the Honors College or its members, or 2) constitute a violation of the law or University policy in a way that relates to a right or privilege associated with enrollment in the Honors College, the student may be subject to loss or restriction of Honors rights and privileges or be separated from the Honors College. A student will have the opportunity to meet with a member of the Honors College staff before any action is taken.

In short, we expect that Honors students have the ability to exercise good decision-making practices and to be mindful of the corresponding responsibilities that accompany the benefits of being members of the Honors College. The vast majority of Honors students are successful both in and out of the classroom because they use good judgment in making their decisions, including considering the consequences of decisions before acting upon them.

**HONORS ADVISING**

All Honors students are required to be advised by a staff member in the Honors College prior to registration each semester. This advisement is in addition to the advisement received from the department of your major. Generally, your Honors advising should occur after your departmental advising. Honors advisement helps ensure you are making progress toward completion of your Honors requirements, as well as helping to ensure you have access to the latest information about available courses and other opportunities. If you fail to follow your advisor’s guidance and discover you are lacking requirements to graduate with an Honors designation, it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain overrides or other exceptions.

**COLLEGE’S REQUIREMENTS**

To remain in the Honors College, students must adhere to various requirements. These are outlined in the sections which follow. Any student failing to adhere to the requirements and not having an applicable exception approved through the Honors College is subject to immediate removal from the College.

**HONORS GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)**

All Honors students must maintain a minimum pure (not adjusted) GPA of 3.250 in order to remain in the College. Only college work
completed at Texas Tech University (or in a program under its auspices) is counted in computing your pure GPA. In addition, a student’s pure GPA does not reflect grade replacements. Rather, in determining a student’s pure GPA, BOTH the original grade and the replacement grade are used to calculate the average. (N.B. The pure GPA is also the method by which Texas Tech University calculates Latin Honors - cum laude, magna cum laude, summa cum laude. Therefore, the Honors College is not the only entity on campus that uses this method of computation.)

If your pure GPA falls below 3.250, you will be placed on Honors Probation for the next long semester (fall or spring). While on probation, you retain most rights and privileges associated with membership in the College, although you are not eligible to participate in programs or activities requiring students to be in good standing with the Honors College. While on probation, if each subsequent semester’s GPA is 3.250 or above, you may remain in the College on probation, even if your pure GPA is below 3.250. If your grades fall below 3.250 in a semester’s work while you are on probation, you will be separated from the College. Some students’ grades may fall below the required 3.250 GPA in a particular semester, but as long as a student’s pure GPA is 3.250 or above, the student may continue in the College without probation. Any student whose grades fall below a 2.250 pure GPA will be separated from the College immediately, without a probationary period. Any student separated from the College as a result of inadequate GPA may petition the Associate Dean responsible for student concerns to remain in the College or to re-enter once the pure GPA has returned to the minimum requirement. The Associate Dean will decide if circumstances warrant the student’s continuation in the College and may impose specific conditions for the student’s continuation. A student failing to adhere to the conditions set by the Associate Dean will be separated from the College.

meetings.