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Mission Statement
The Honors Program of The University of Tampa aims to 1) attract excellent students to the university and 2) enhance their achievement by creating an intellectually stimulating environment, 3) foster their critical thinking skills, 4) increase their capacities as global citizens, and 5) help them become scholars and intellectuals.

Features of the Honors Program
Founded in 1982, the cornerstones of the Program include academic achievement, global perspective, and critical thinking. To foster its aims, the UT Honors Program offers special courses as well as Honors sections of select courses from the regular university curriculum.

The Honors Program also offers Pathways to Honors for new freshmen members; Honors Enrichment Tutorials; Honors Study Abroad Scholarships; the Honors Symposia series; conferences; field trips; special learning experiences at the University of Oxford in England; and an innovative curriculum.

The Honors Pledge
We, the students of the Honors Program at The University of Tampa, pledge to follow a life of the mind, to devote ourselves fully to intellectual growth and to take responsibility for our own education. We pledge to never stop pursuing the wonder-filled questions of the world, to never stop challenging the academic status quo, and to never choose expediency over excellence. We pledge to work with the faculty to establish an environment of academic integrity and mutual respect and to create and maintain an Honors community that fosters freedom of expression and discovery. By choosing to become a part of this community we each promise to uphold the principles recognized in this statement.
Admissions Requirements

Incoming freshmen and transferring sophomores are automatically considered for the Honors Program when they are accepted for admission to The University of Tampa and express interest in joining the Honors Program. To meet eligibility for the program, freshmen should have a 3.7 GPA (unweighted) or a 3.5 GPA and have completed rigorous AP, IB, AICE, Cambridge, and Dual Enrollment coursework. Transfer students should have a 3.5 GPA and/or very strong recommendations. Transfer students with sufficient credits (60+) to be categorized as a junior who will be remaining at UT for at least two years can be considered for the Honors Program. Acceptance into the Honors Program by Admissions results in students being “Honors Eligible.”

There is a required application for full enrollment as an Honors Student for all admitted Honors Eligible students upon completion of HON 102 and for transfer students after the completion of two semesters at UT. Application for full enrollment as an Honors Student for continuing students is highly competitive. Students must formally apply to the program (all Honors applications are online; see the link at the back of the Handbook). For first-year students completing HON 101 and HON 102, applications are due the Friday before classes end in the Spring Semester. For continuing students, applications are due the Friday before classes end in order to be considered for the Honors Program for the subsequent semester. Students may re-apply to the Honors Program after one semester if their application is denied.

To be eligible to make application for full enrollment as an Honors Student:

1. A first-year, non-transfer student (regardless of credit hours) must have successfully completed Pathways to Honors 101/102 with a grade of B or better in both HON 101 and HON 102, and must include a recommendation from at least one UT professor. If a student fails to complete HON 101 with a grade of B or better, but does complete HON 102 with a grade of A, AB or B, then an additional letter of
recommendation is required from a professor who has taught the student during the spring semester. Approval of the application, in all instances, is up to the discretion of the Honors Program Directors.

2. A newly admitted transfer student must apply to continue in Honors after their second semester at UT.

3. A continuing UT student who wishes to enroll in Honors who was not admitted as a freshman or transfer student must have a cumulative UT GPA of 3.5, cannot have more than 60 credit hours, and must formally apply to the program and be recommended by a UT faculty member.

Requirements for Maintaining “Good Standing” in Honors

Freshmen in the Honors Program are required to maintain a GPA of at least 3.25; beyond the freshman year, students must maintain a GPA of at least 3.50. Those who fail to maintain the requisite level of grades will be placed on probationary status for one semester. While on probationary status, students may continue to register for Honors courses and for Honors Enrichment Tutorials, but they are prohibited from applying for any Honors opportunities that involve monetary support. If they raise their grades to the required standard within the semester following probationary notice, they will return to good standing. Students who remain below the required level for more than one semester will be dismissed from the Honors Program. They may then reapply for admission to the program once they achieve a cumulative UT GPA of 3.5 or greater.

Honors Program students who joined the Honors Program before August 2019 are required to attend at least four (4) Honors Program symposia per academic year. Honors Program students who joined the Honors Program after August 2019 are required to complete at least 100 ACE Points per academic year to remain in good standing in the Honors Program.
Students do not have to be full-time (taking at least 12 credit hours) in order to remain in the Honors Program.

Students found responsible for an academic integrity violation will be dismissed from the Honors Program and will not be eligible to graduate with Honors Program Distinction.

Requirements for Graduation with “Honors Program Distinction”

To graduate with Honors Program Distinction from The University of Tampa, a UT Honors Program student must have a grade point average at The University of Tampa of at least 3.5 at the time of graduation and must have completed the required number of Honors Program courses or other Honors experiences for credit as indicated below. Additionally, Honors Program students who joined the Honors Program before August 2019 are required to attend at least four (4) Honors Program symposia per academic year. Honors Program students who joined the Honors Program after August 2019 are required to complete at least 100 ACE Points per academic year to remain in good standing in the Honors Program.

Students Who Enter the Program as Freshmen:
Pathways to Honors courses (two semesters of one credit each), and five additional Honors courses or special Honors experiences for credit (Honors Enrichment Tutorials, Honors Independent Studies, Honors Study Abroad credits, or Oxford semester) are required. It is recommended that during their freshman and sophomore years, students complete a minimum of two regular, semester-long Honors classes for at least three credits each and then fulfill the junior requirements.

Students Who Enter as Sophomores:
Five Honors courses or special Honors experiences for credit (see above) are required. At least two of the Honors Program courses must be regular
semester-long Honors courses completed for at least three credits each, in addition to the junior requirements.

**Students Who Enter as Juniors:**
Students will be allowed to join the Honors Program as Juniors only if they are transfer students from another university and will be enrolled at UT for at least two years. Special attention will be given to transfer students who were actively engaged in their previous university’s Honors Program and can provide evidence of their participation. Continuing UT students are not allowed to join the Honors Program as Juniors. Transfer students who join the Honors Program as Juniors must complete five Honors courses or special Honors experiences. At least one of the Honors Program courses must be a regular semester-long Honors course completed for at least three credits. The other four courses can be any of the following:

- regular Honors courses
- Honors Enrichment Tutorials
- Honors independent study courses
- Honors Education Abroad courses
- Honors Oxford Semester courses
- Honors Senior Thesis

Particularly for students with heavy majors or those planning on graduate school, the junior portion of Honors is designed to lead the student toward graduate level research, with students being introduced to such research through Honors Enrichment Tutorials, continuing through research-oriented independent study, and culminating in a senior research project. Many Honors undergraduates have made presentations at conferences or have been published as undergraduates. Students not intending to attend graduate school are enriched through closer contact with faculty, the ability to pursue questions one-on-one, and a greater understanding of professionalism in their field. In order to fulfill Honors Program requirements, all Honors courses must be taken for a grade,
must be passed with at least a D, and cannot be taken pass/fail.

**ACE Points**

As of the 2019-2020 academic year, Honors Program students are required to earn ACE points. ACE stands for Academics, Engagement, and Community. Every academic year, students must earn at least 100 ACE points. At a minimum, students must earn 40 points in Academics and 20 points in Engagement. Students can choose between Academics, Engagement, and Community to earn the remaining 40 points. The point total resets every academic year.

**Academics**

Academics refers primarily to attendance at Honors Symposia. Students earn 10 points for each symposium they attend. Students can also earn points for presenting at a conference, writing a thesis, or receiving a research grant. Students who earn 100 points in Academics in a single year will earn the Scholarship Badge, which they will receive at the Honors Graduation Ceremony.

**Engagement**

Engagement refers to attending Honors social events or activities or participating in an Honors excursion. For each event, activity, or excursion, students will earn 10 points. Students can also earn engagement points for taking a leadership role in the Honors Executive Council. Students who earn 100 points in Engagement in a single year will earn the Leadership Badge, which they will receive at the Honors Graduation Ceremony.

**Community**

Community refers to volunteering in the community. Because the Honors Program only offers between two and four opportunities for service each academic year, students are not required to earn a minimum number of
Community points. However, students can volunteer through PEACE and can earn Community points that way. Students who earn 100 Community points in a single year will earn the Service Badge, which they will receive at the Honors Graduation Ceremony.

**Pathways to Honors**

All entering Honors freshmen are required to take HON 101/HON 102: Pathways to Honors for a grade. Pathways to Honors is designed to acquaint students with the Honors Program, to encourage critical thinking, and to experience scholarship and research first hand. The focus is on active learning, particularly through outside-the-classroom experiences, such as research and inquiry projects and the Honors Symposia series. HON 101 and HON 102 are taken for one credit hour each and do not count toward the five Honors course requirements for graduation. Failing either HON 101 or HON 102 will result in automatic dismissal from the Honors Program. Students are required to remain in the same section of HON 102 (i.e., with the same professor) unless that section of HON 102: (a) conflicts with a course required for their major, or (b) they have a university commitment that conflicts with the time for the course (e.g., practice for a sport).

**Honors Courses**

Each semester, the UT faculty create and offer twenty or more courses exclusively for Honors students. Enrollment in Honors courses is typically limited to seventeen students per classroom. These courses are rigorous and span the full spectrum of the many fields of study available at the University of Tampa. Many of these courses provide credit hours for UT’s Baccalaureate Experience. Failing an Honors course will result in automatic dismissal from the Honors Program. Honors course offerings are available on-line at [www.ut.edu](http://www.ut.edu) and SpartanWeb.

**Honors Enrichment Tutorials**

Honors Enrichment Tutorials offer students in the Honors Program the
opportunity to transform a regular class into an Honors class by creating a unique and individual class project and then working one-on-one with the professor in that class. Tutorials should primarily be arranged by juniors or seniors, or by students who have successfully completed three regular Honors courses. Only full-time faculty at the university may oversee tutorials. Tutorials are can be contracted in classes at any level (i.e., 100 through 400 level courses). Tutorials can only be contracted in 3+ credit hour courses or independent studies. Tutorials cannot be done over the summer or in winter or May terms. The Honors Program Director approves all tutorials and determines if Honors credit is to be awarded. Tutorial forms must be completed prior to the end of the third week of classes for the fall and spring semesters. Narrative evaluations must be received from instructors prior to the last day of classes. In order to fulfill Honors Program requirements, all Honors Enrichment Tutorials must be undertaken in courses taken for a grade. Honors Enrichment Tutorials will not be approved if they are undertaken in conjunction with any course that is taken pass/fail.

**Oxford Study Abroad Program**

Honors Program juniors or seniors in good standing are eligible to compete for the Oxford Study Abroad Program. The students selected to enroll for a term at Oxford University in England earn 14 credit hours and Honors course credits while studying under the unique Oxford tutorial system, in which Oxford faculty teach students one-on-one. Six UT Honors Program students per year are selected to participate. The deadline is October 14 for those wishing to attend Oxford in the subsequent spring term; the deadline is the Friday before Spring Break for those wishing to attend Oxford in the subsequent fall term. Students will be selected by the Faculty Honors Committee on the criteria listed below. The Honors Program subsidizes the Oxford semester so that payment of your tuition to UT covers the Oxford tuition. For more information on the financial arrangement of the Oxford Study Abroad Program contact the Honors Program Office.
The criteria used by the Honors Committee for evaluating Oxford Study Abroad Program participants are as follows:

- Junior or senior in the Honors Program
- Record of prior involvement in the Honors Program
- Quality and clarity of the written essay
- Effective oral communication skills during the interview
- Professional demeanor of the applicant
- Demonstrated familiarity with the Oxford Study Abroad Program
- Uniqueness of the tutorials to be undertaken; the experience at Oxford should be one that can not be found at UT
- Perceived aptitude for intense tutorial learning
- Perceived commitment to scholarly development
- Cumulative GPA is not a deciding factor in the selection process as all applicants must have a 3.5 or higher

**Timothy M. Smith Inspiration Through Exploration Award**

The Timothy M. Smith Inspiration Through Exploration Award will be presented annually to one Honors Program student. The selected student will receive $2,500 to be used for a summer travel opportunity. The annual award has been established to honor the life of Timothy M. Smith. Although a lawyer by trade, Tim's true passion was traveling the world and writing about his many experiences. The award is funded by the family of Timothy M. Smith.

Any University of Tampa undergraduate Honors Program student in good standing is eligible to apply for the award. The application deadline is February 1 prior to summer travel. To be considered, candidates must submit an original nonfiction essay, a short essay on why the candidate believes they will benefit from the award, and a summary of how and where the candidate would travel if selected. Travel must be completed prior to completing coursework required for graduation. Each year's recipient must submit an essay detailing their experiences during their summer journey and will be expected to present an Honors Symposium on their experience. For more information on the Timothy M. Smith
Inspirations Through Exploration Award, visit www.inspirationthroughexploration.com.

**Honors Study Abroad Scholarships**

Honors Program students are strongly encouraged to study abroad to enhance their academic experience. To facilitate such opportunities, the Honors Program offers Honors Study Abroad Scholarships, which are financial awards given to deserving Honors students whose field of study will directly and significantly benefit from an Honors Study Abroad experience. The amount of the award will vary based on the need of the student and the number of applications received. The award can be applied toward any faculty-led study abroad opportunity. Applications are due at least two months before the onset of the study abroad experience.

**National, Regional, and State Honors Council Conferences**

Honors students in good standing are eligible to attend conferences at the state, regional, and national level. These conferences are sponsored by associations of Honors colleges known as Honors Councils. All conference-related expenses are paid by the Honors Program Office. Students must apply to attend, though just a few students will be selected to attend each year. Application involves submitting an abstract to present scholarship and research at the conference, either as a podium, poster, or panel presentation. Deadlines, dates, and details can be found on the Honors Program website.

**Honors Student Conference Travel**

In lieu of taking numerous students to national, regional, or state honors council conferences, students are encouraged to present their research at a conference with their faculty advisor. The Honors Program will help cover the travel costs for Honors students to present at conferences with their faculty advisors.
Harvard National Model United Nations conference

The UT Honors Program, in conjunction with UT’s Political Science department, sponsors Model United Nations activities each year that culminate in sending a delegation of participants to Boston, Massachusetts. The Harvard National Model United Nations conference usually takes place in February. The UT Honors Program will cover the costs of registration, travel, and accommodations for the students who are selected for the UT delegation. These students, in turn, must accept the obligation to participate fully and to the best of their abilities in the Harvard National Model United Nations Conference. Guidelines and instructions for application are available on the Honors Program website. Enrollment into PSCH212: Decision Making in the UN-Honors, a 7-week, two credit-hour Honors course, is mandatory for participation in the Harvard National Model United Nations conference. Students can take PSCH212 up to two times (2 credits each time for 4 credit hours total), though it only counts for a single honors course if taken two times.

Honors Symposium Series

The Honors Program seeks to stimulate intellectual thought and discussion on campus and in the Tampa Bay community by sponsoring a variety of symposia every fall and spring semester. This interdisciplinary program covers a wide range of topics with its aim to highlight contemporary, debatable issues; social justice and civic reform; and original research and innovation. The symposia presenters include university faculty, guest experts, and professionals at both our university and within the greater academic community, both nationally and internationally.

All symposia are free and open to the public. A detailed listing of the time, place, topics, and presenters in the Honors Symposia series is available on the Honors website.

Students will receive credit for attending symposia only if they arrive within 15 minutes of the beginning of the symposium and stay until there
are no more than 5 minutes of the symposium remaining. Students who arrive more than 15 minutes after the beginning of the symposium or leave early will not receive credit for attending the symposium.

**Honors Housing**

Dorms (Mackay Hall) and floors in dorms are set-aside specifically for Honors students in order to create a residence life experience that is conducive to study and learning. The area coordinators of these floors provide residence life experiences that are geared to Honors students’ needs. Contact the Director of Residence Life to request placement on one of the Honors floors.

**Honors Websites**

The UT Honors Program has three primary websites. For general information about the Honors Program at UT, see here: [https://www.ut.edu/honors/](https://www.ut.edu/honors/)

For information on recent events and important links for Honors Students, see the Honors blog here: [https://uthonors.com/](https://uthonors.com/)

**Honors Staff, Contact Information and Room Locations**

**Office of the Co-Director:**
Dr. Kacy D. Tillman: Plant Hall Room 242; phone 813-257-1706.
E-mail address: ktillman@ut.edu.

**Office of the Co-Director:**
Dr. Ryan T. Cragun: Plant Hall Room 309; phone 813-257-3803.
E-mail address: rcragun@ut.edu.

**Office of the Staff Assistant:**
Carla Sykes: Plant Hall Room 307, phone 813-257-3545.
Email address: csykes@ut.edu or honors@ut.edu.

*Honors Lounge: Plant Hall 310*

The Honors Lounge has three computers, a printer, desks and tables, coffee maker, a microwave oven, and a refrigerator. It is a great place to relax between classes or after classes and meet friends and colleagues in the Honors Program. There is a coded entry for access to the study/lounge. The code may be obtained in the Honors Program office, Plant Hall 307.

*Honors Conference Room: Plant Hall 305*

This room can be reserved and utilized for Honors Program students. Please see the staff assistant to reserve this room.

**The Honors Council**

The Honors Council represents all Honors Program students, helps the Directors develop new aspects of the Program, assesses Program strengths and areas for improvement, and initiates and oversees extracurricular activities for the Program. The Honors Council elects its own President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Student Government Representative annually in March. These individuals compose the Executive Board.

**Revisions to the Handbook**

Changes may be made to this handbook throughout the academic year. However, Honors Program policies and graduation requirements that are detailed in the Honors Handbook when a student joins the Honors Program will be the policies and requirements that apply to the student. The latest copy of the handbook can be found on the Honors Program website.
For more information, visit the UT Honors Program website:

https://www.ut.edu/honors/

For all Honors Applications, go here:

https://honorsprogram.submitable.com/submit

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