



HONORS COLLEGE ADVISING FACTS

All students in the Honors College must be advised by Honors faculty/staff prior to advanced registration. The instructions below will guide Honors College students through the advisement and registration process. Please read them carefully before contacting the Honors College Office with questions.

Advanced Registration Requirements

- ◆ **To qualify for ADVANCED registration,** Honors College students are required to complete 10 hours of community service and attend at least one Honors Assembly each fall and spring semester.
- ◆ **For Excused Absences from the Honors Assembly,** due to conflicts with classes, illness, work, or death of a family member, absentee students must notify the Honors College Office.
- ◆ **Honors Advanced Registration** is typically several days prior to Regular Registration. Honors Advanced Registration will expedite your registration process and will help you reserve seats in courses you prefer.

Advisement Instructions

- ◆ **Access the DegreeWorks** tracking program on MySam to review your degree plan.
- ◆ **Look through the list of Honors course offerings** on the schedule of classes.
- ◆ **Review the complete online schedule** of classes for preferred classes.
- ◆ **Collate your prospective courses** with the Honors courses that you may select.
- ◆ **Map out a tentative schedule** incorporating at least one Honors course or contract each semester. (Honors courses are not available during summer sessions.)
- ◆ **If you are advised by someone else** in an academic department or different program **BEFORE** your Honors advisement session, bring the approved courses with you.
- ◆ **Arrange an Honors advisement appointment** by contacting the Honors College Office at 936-294-1477 or honors@shsu.edu.
- ◆ **Arrive on time for your appointment with your advisor.**
 - ◆ Dr. Kimberly Bell advises in the Honors College Office, AB4, and Room 201.
 - ◆ Dr. Maria Holmes advises in the Honors College office, AB4, and Room 201.
 - ◆ Dr. Tracy Bilsing advises in the Honors College Office, AB4, and Room 201.
- ◆ **Senior Thesis Advising** is arranged by contacting the Honors Dean, Dr. Kimberly Bell eng_kkb@shsu.edu or 936-294-1437.

Why Honors College Students Need Academic Advising

The purpose of advising is to guide Honors students through the process of completing the requirements for their undergraduate degree “With Honors” or “With Highest Honors.”

The typical degree plan has three basic components:

- ◆ General Education (core curriculum)
- ◆ Major Program Requirements
- ◆ Electives

The distribution of courses among these three components varies from college to college and from major to major. Within this framework, and not in addition to, students earn Honors credit hours by taking Honors core classes or Honors contract courses and Honors seminars. Advising helps each student:

- ◆ Select honors course work to reach their individual educational goals
- ◆ Navigate the university academic system easily and efficiently
- ◆ Make the most of the opportunities that SHSU has to offer

The Honors College advising policy is designed to introduce undergraduates to the fundamental knowledge, skills, and values that are essential to the study of academic disciplines, to encourage the pursuit of life-long learning, and to foster the development of educated members of the community and the world. This is achieved, in part, by requiring Honors students to successfully complete 24 hours of Honors credit, earning a grade of “B” or better, including at least two Honors seminars and six Honors courses or contracts. Usually, Honors students enroll in one or two Honors courses per long semester. [Honors courses are not available during the summer sessions.](#)

The Senior Honors Thesis is the culmination of an undergraduate Honors education, and the student receives the distinction of graduating “With Highest Honors.” The Senior Honors Thesis, a unique opportunity for those students who plan to enroll in graduate or professional school, requires an additional six hours of independent study conducted in close consultation with a faculty member.

The Honors College offers its students choice and versatility in designing their educational plans. To this end, Honors advisors assist students in making informed decisions about their academic and extracurricular opportunities that supplement their college level advising (i.e. advising in your major department or the SAM Center). Dr. Kimberly Bell, Honors College Dean, Dr. Maria Holmes, Associate Dean, and Dr. Tracy Bilsing, Assistant Dean, are available to meet with students for traditional advising, troubleshooting, or for students “who just want to talk.” They help students transition to the university, manage time effectively, select courses, and learn more about additional opportunities such as internships, study abroad programs, or national scholarships.

Honors Group Advising Sessions with Honors faculty and peer advisors are available each long semester. In addition, Honors students may schedule individual appointments to meet with an advisor during customary office hours by contacting the Honors College Office at [936-294-1477](tel:936-294-1477), or honors@shsu.edu.