

Honors College

Student Handbook



*Your Guide to Maximize Your Honors College
Experience*

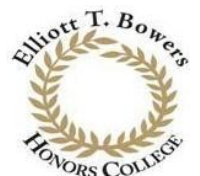


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Introduction

A Brief History

In the fall of 1987 the Academic Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate was charged with exploring the issue of restoring a full-fledged Honors program at SHSU from what had become a Senior Thesis option in the 1970's. In April 1988, after much research and deliberation, the Faculty Senate recommended the formation of an Honors Program. The SHSU administration, specifically Dr. Marks as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dr. Bowers as President, accepted the recommendation and charged the Honors and Advanced Placement Committee with working out a plan to implement the recommendation.

In 1989, with a new University President, Dr. Anisman, an Honors Program Committee was formed in order to speed the process of creating the program. In the Spring of 1990, Dr. Gary Bell, once the head of the Committee was appointed as coordinator of the Honors Program. By Fall of 1990, there were 25 freshmen in the SHSU Honors Program.

Our current system of organization came through trial and tribulation. In dedication to the President of the University that first started the gears turning, the Honors Program was coined "Elliott T. Bowers Honors Program." After Dr. Bell left to become Dean of the Texas Tech University Honors College, Dr. Richard Eglsaer took over the Bowers Honors Program. Dr. Glenn Sanford then directed the program through 2005. Dr. Gene Young became the Director of the Honors Program in January of 2006. The Honors Program was renamed "Elliott T. Bowers Honors College" in fall of 2009. Recently retired SHSU President Jim Gaertner stated, "Honors college status will enhance the university's ability to recruit high quality students and faculty and promote scholarship and research."

The Honors Experience

An Honors education is designed to serve as a supplement to and an enhancement of the regular college academic experience. Above all, its goal is to provide Honors students with a broader education than the requirements of their major and degree programs. A well-educated graduate will have had contact with an unusual variety of subjects. The Honors College provides such opportunities through a special seminars program, scheduling a number of different Honors courses, and opportunities to work one-on-one with professors.

The Honors College also attempts to meet the special needs of the more motivated scholar. To this end, the Honors College provides students with smaller classes that are smaller, more interactive, and more in depth. Honors courses are also designed to give students experiences that regular sections of these classes might not provide—that is, a hands-on education in a lab, one-on-one contact with honors professors, or projects that push the acquisition of knowledge a little further than in regular courses. The purpose of Honors classes is not to pile on more work, but rather to make learning as enjoyable as their professors have obviously found it and to motivate the individual student to seek more from his or her education. The Honors teachers make students want to learn as much as possible about their subject.

In addition to classroom experiences, the Honors College incorporates a multitude of co-curricular activities and opportunities. These include Spivey House, the special academic residence house that is reserved for Honors students, so that they can meet similarly motivated students who share some of the same values and interests. This house allows interaction between academically oriented students and provides a group that shares similar educational activities.

Other co-curricular activities include special lectures, such as the "Pizza with Profs"; excursions to various cultural events (i.e., ballet, symphony; opera and museum programs, and

athletic events in Houston, TX); and exposure to activities that are less accessible to the average college student.

Social involvement is another essential aspect of an Honors education. Allowing students to meet and share experiences with like-minded students is one of the goals of the College. In order to facilitate this side of the Honors experience, there is an Honors student organization, the Honors Student Advisory Committee (HSAC), which coordinates student activities and participates to a large degree in running the overall College. The Honors College Ambassadors also aid in the social connections between the students. The students learn to socially interact with other students, and community service requirements further expand the students' university experience.

Finally, the Honors College is experimental education. Seminars are constantly changing, new classes are being introduced, and the Honors College is continuing to put a special emphasis on interdisciplinary education. Because Honors students are naturally more curious about themselves and their environment, the College stresses innovation in learning techniques and unusually packaged academic presentations.

Student Expectations

There are a number of advantages and benefits that Honors students can expect from the Honors College. These are detailed below. In return, it is expected, in a general way, that participants will exhibit the intellectual curiosity and commitment to academic excellence that distinguishes an Honors student. The Honors student also seeks and values the educational breadth, alluded to above, in his or her education, a breadth that goes beyond simple career preparation. Honors students will almost naturally assume a leadership and service role on the university campus and in the surrounding community. Finally, given the special investment that the university has made in them, it is understood that College participants will exhibit maturity, good judgment, and a sense of responsibility in their interactions with people and property both on and off campus.

Part One: Honors Study

Admission

To be considered for admission to the Honors College as an incoming freshman, a student must meet **at least one** of the following criteria:

- Graduate in the top 10% of her or his high school class
- Have an SAT-I score of at least 1200 (verbal and math)

Or

- have a cumulative ACT score of at least 27

Current SHSU or transfer students wanting to apply must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.4.

All students wishing to be considered for admission must:

- Complete the application
- Submit two letters of recommendation, an essay, and list of activities
- Submit official transcripts documenting all academic work.

Application forms are available in the Honors Office, AB4, Room 201, or at www.shsu.edu/Honors

Application deadline for Fall semester is May 31 and for Spring semester, November 30.

Maintaining Good Standing in the Honors College

Once admitted, all students must maintain a minimum cumulative SHSU GPA of at least 3.25 at all times. If a student's cumulative SHSU GPA falls below a 3.25, he or she is placed on probation for the next semester and may be removed from the College if the deficiency persists. Students on probation are still full members of the Honors College.

College work completed at schools other than SHSU is **not** counted in computing the GPA.

If a student's semester GPA falls below 3.25 in the fall semester, he or she may not be able to renew residency at Spivey House in April for the following fall semester. If the GPA is 3.25 or higher when grades are released the following semester, the student may reserve a room at Spivey House. Students affected by this policy will be notified of their status early in the spring semester.

The Honors College is designed to accommodate full-time students. If students fall below 12 semester hours of work in any one semester, they are placed on probation for the following semester. They will also be asked to refund to the university their scholarship money for the semester in which they are not full-time. Enrollment of less than 12 semester hours in any two separate semesters is basis for removal from the Honors College. Individual exceptions from this policy are possible, but not likely, with approval from the full Honors Council.

When on probation, if the GPA of each subsequent semester is above 3.25 (even though the cumulative GPA still falls below that mark), students can remain in the College. Probationary status continues. If, while on probation, students fall below 3.25 in a semester, they may be removed from the College.

If a student has a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or greater, despite a semester GPA of below 3.25, they continue in the College and are not placed on probation. Any student who falls below a 2.25 cumulative GPA will lose membership and all rights and privileges of the Honors College immediately. A student may take a leave of absence from the College with the prior approval of the Honors College Dean.

Honors College Required Hours

Students entering the Honors College as beginning freshmen are required to follow the following conditions for sustained progress toward graduating "With Honors":

- Each student must have completed at least one (1) Honors course by the end of his or her freshmen year.
- Each student must have completed at least nine (9) hours of Honors courses by the end of their sophomore year, three (3) hours of which must have been an Honors seminar.
- Each student must have completed at least eighteen (18) hours of Honors credit by the end of his or her junior year (transfer students only exempted).
- To graduate with Honors, the student must have twenty-four (24) hours of Honors credit. Six (6) of these hours must be from Honors Seminars.

The following conditions are for Transfer or Current SHSU students:

- Transfer and current SHSU students entering the Honors College after freshman year will follow modified conditions based on their placement and previous credits earned prior to entering the Honors College.

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.”

Students earn Honors credit hours by taking Honors core classes, Honors upper-division courses, Honors contract courses, or Honors seminars. Advising helps each student select Honors course work to reach their individual educational goals, navigate the university academic system easily and efficiently, and make the most of the opportunities that SHSU has to offer.

Honors advisors assist students in making informed decisions about the academic and extracurricular opportunities that supplement their college level advising. Dr. Gene Young, Honors Dean, Dr. Kimberly Bell, Associate Director, and Dr. Maria Holmes, Assistant Director, 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, travel abroad programs, or national scholarships. Academic advising appointments for advanced registration are scheduled each fall and each spring prior to advanced registration. 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.

All incoming students receive academic advising by the Honors College staff before registering for Honors classes. All students must be advised prior to early registration.

Honors Classes

Honors classes are designed to provide as broad an educational experience as possible, to be as interactive as possible, and to use a greater range of resources and presentations for students. All Honors classes are writing enhanced. In order to receive Honors credit for a course, students must earn a grade of “B” or higher.

In order to graduate with Honors, a student must complete at least 24 hours of Honors classes. At least 6 hours of these must come from any of the Honors seminars.

Below is a listing of all the honors courses that have been offered in recent years. Most of these courses will be offered once each year. Some of them, particularly the upper-division courses can be offered only occasionally.

Honors Seminars

HON 1331: *Honors Seminar I: Science*: This course will explore (a) the scientific facts and theories related to the origin of the universe, life, and intelligence; (b) the variety of possible implications of those facts and theories for humankind and human values. Credit 3.

HON 2331: *Honors Seminar II: Decision Making*: This course will include (a) an analysis and description of the development of humankind’s moral and social consciousness; (b) a description of the political, economic and religious responses to humankind’s physical and social environment; and (c) an emphasis, with discussion and analysis, on the future prospects of humankind. Credit 3.

HON 2375: *Honors Seminar IV: Fine Arts*: An investigation into the theories, meanings, purposes and practical experiences of the fine arts: dance, music, the visual arts, and theatre. It will include attendance at dance and music concerts,

theatre productions, and art exhibits. This course will be team taught by professors from each of the four disciplines named. Spring semester only. Credit 3.

HON 3331: *Honors Seminar III: Business*: This course is designed to deal with contemporary social, economic, political, and international issues. The course content will by necessity change every semester that it is offered, but will provide important background information and perspective on current debates and events. Credit 3.

HON 3332: *Humanities Seminar*: The specific content of this course may change from semester to semester, but the emphasis will always be some treatment of the humanities. Recent topics include the culture of American music, the social context of Darwinian evolutionary theory, the history of war, and ethnic cultures in America. Credit 3.

HON 3332: *Journeys Seminar*: This is a new concept in seminars. Each week, outstanding faculty and outside guests, such as Distinguished Teaching or Research Faculty, will present the stories of their academic and personal journeys. Currently, this seminar is offered in the fall semester. Credit 3.

HON 4375: *Difficult Dialogues Seminar*: This course is offered each semester, with rotating topics. Recent topics include animal rights, race in America, health care, and the environment. Faculty from the sciences and humanities will participate. Credit 3.

Integrated Science

These courses are designed to provide non-science majors with a multidisciplinary science experience that meets the baccalaureate lab-science requirements. They can be taken in nonconsecutive semesters, and there are no prerequisites. Honors students are not required to take these courses to satisfy their lab science credit. They may also choose to take either one or both. Science majors may take the courses for Honors credit, but they will not substitute for other courses listed in science degree plans. If students have concerns about whether they will receive certain credit for this course, they should contact the Honors Office.

HON 1361: *Integrated Science I: Physics, Geology and Geography*: This course is designed to provide non-science major honor students with a multi-disciplinary science experience that meets the baccalaureate lab-science requirements. Specifically, this course will introduce students to basic concepts in the fields of physics, geology, and geography. This course must be taken concurrently with GEL 113. Credit 3.

GEL 1103: *Physical Geology Laboratory*: This lab must be taken concurrently with HON 1361, Integrated Science I. This laboratory experience involves the study of rocks, minerals, and map interpretations. Credit 1.

HON 1362: *Integrated Science II: Chemistry and Biology*: This course is designed to provide non-science major honor students with a multi-disciplinary science experience that meets the baccalaureate lab-science requirements. Specifically, this course will introduce students to basic concepts in the fields of chemistry and biology. This course must be taken concurrently with CHM 115. Credit 3.

CHEM 1106: *Inorganic and Environmental Chemistry Laboratory*:

This lab must be taken concurrently with HON 1362, Integrated Science II. Credit 1.

Biol 1311: *General Botany Honors*:

General principles of botany are presented. Emphasis is placed on morphology, taxonomy, genetics, physiology, and ecology of plants in an evolutionary and ecological context.

BIOL 1313: *General Zoology Honors:*

General principles of zoology are presented in an evolutionary context. Emphasis placed on the anatomy, behavior, and ecology of animals. Students are introduced to evolutionary and ecological principles of biology. Credit 3.

English

ENGL 1301: *Composition I:* Students with high marks in English on the SAT/ACT exams may qualify to enroll in this class, an accelerated class for students with superior skills in English. Students earning an A or B in ENG 1301 will receive credit (but not honors hours) for ENG 1302 and automatically become eligible for sophomore English. Credit 3-6.

ENGL 2331: *Readings in Literature of the Western World:* Readings in the classical, medieval, and modern masterpieces of the western world. Written assignments are based on themes and concepts found in the works studied. Open to all students. Required of English majors and minors. Suggested for all majors in the College of Arts and Sciences. Prerequisite: ENG 1301 and 1302. Credit 3.

History

HIST 1301: *United States History to 1876:* The colonial origins of the United States and growth of the Republic to 1876. Credit 3.

HIST 1302: *United States History since 1876:* Continuing survey of the United States to the present. Credit 3.

Kinesiology

KINE 2333: *Honors Fitness for Living:* This course is designed to provide Honors students with an in depth and current exploration of the sub-disciplines within Kinesiology. The content will branch off to include the historical, sociological, psychological, and biomechanical aspects of physical activity and sport and their impact on society. Field trips are planned to support selected content. The culminating experience will require students present a data-based research project focusing on some aspect of the course's content. This class will substitute for KINE 2115, which is required for all students. Credit 3.

Mathematics

MATH 1332: *College Mathematics:* This course is designed to meet the objectives of Component area 2 of the core curriculum for non-business and non-science related majors. Topics may include sets, counting principles, probability, logic, linear algebra, linear programming, mathematics of finance, geometry, and calculus. Applications are emphasized. Prerequisites: Two years of high school algebra and high school geometry. Credit 3.

Political Science

POLS 2301: *Principles of American Government — National and State:* This course deals with the origin, development, and Constitution of the American governmental system, citizenship and civil rights, suffrage, the national party system, the national executive, organization of congress, national judiciary, federal-state relations, and the Constitution of the State of Texas. This course meets the legislative requirement for a course on the Constitutions of the United States and Texas. Credit 3.

POLS 2302: *American Public Policy:* This is a study of national and state policy. Both the policy process and the substance of selected policies will be examined. Topics may include foreign policy, civil liberties, health care, social issues, economic problems, environmental policy, and/or others.
Prerequisite: POL 261. Credit 3.

Psychology

PSYC 1301: *Introduction to Psychology:*
This course is designed to be a broad survey of the field of psychology covering such topics as learning, perception, personality, development, psychopathology, etc. It covers both the theoretical basis and the empirical content of these areas.
Credit 3.

Thesis

Students are given the option of completing a two semester, 6-hour thesis in order to graduate with “Highest Honors.” The thesis should be completed within the student’s major under the supervision of an advisor in that department. In order to receive Honors credit, a thesis contract must be completed and approved by the Honors Director at the beginning of the first semester of research. The usual procedure, after thesis approval, is registration in HONR 4375 for two consecutive semesters. Students who need further information about doing an Honors thesis should make an appointment with Dr. Young.

Other Class Benefits

Honors students who score above a 700 on the verbal section of the SAT are exempt from freshman composition (both ENGL 1301 and ENGL 1302). Students who receive either an “A” or “B” in the Honors section of ENG 1301 will automatically get credit for ENGL 1302. This grade, however, will not contribute to the student’s GPA twice. They will only get GPA credit for ENG 1301.

All Honors students are allowed to take up to 12 hours of classes for Pass/Fail credit. This must be agreed upon by the student and professor at the beginning of the semester and will not affect the student’s GPA. All coursework must be completed, but instead of receiving a letter grade, either a pass or fail will appear on the transcript. This opportunity is designed to encourage students to take classes they are interested in outside their major.

Contracting

Students have the option of contracting courses in order to receive Honors credit. To do so, students will typically select a regular course, meet with the professor early in the semester (or before), and develop a contract to conduct independent work such as engage in a unique writing project, assume tutorial responsibility, participate in an expanded lab regimen, assist in research or teaching a class, or complete extended reading assignments. The additional expectations for the course are left entirely to the discretion of the professor. The basic objective of Honors contracting is that students have an Honors experience in the course, and that they have an unusual, more participatory, and more intense educational experience.

Contracting is encouraged for all students, but is particularly beneficial to transfer students or those entering the Honors College at the sophomore level. These students have often completed their core class requirements and have difficulty finding Honors courses that fit their degree plan. Contracting allows them to receive Honors credit for upper level courses within their major and minor.

The contract formalizes in writing the agreement between the instructor and the student, and must be on file with the Honors Office no later than the 12th class day. It must be signed by the professor, the department chair, and the student at the outset of the course and is subject to review by the Honors College Dean.

At the end of the semester, the student will sign a completed contract form with the professor. It should be noted that Honors credit is earned only if the student meets the professor's criteria for such credit, and only if the course grade is an "A" or "B".

The student's transcript will be annotated to distinguish that the class was taken for Honors credit. It has been established by the Honors Council that only one 200 level class shall be taken on a contract basis in a typical Honors student career at the university. Under most circumstances, 100 level courses are not available for contracting.

Graduation With Honors

To qualify for graduation “With Honors,” a student must be a participant in the Honors College, maintain a cumulative SHSU GPA of 3.25, and complete at least 24 hours in specific Honors courses, including at least two of the Honors interdisciplinary seminars.

[College course credit accumulated through advanced placement or through proficiency testing (CLEP tests) shall not be used for either acquiring “H” credit or for computing an overall GPA.]

To graduate “With Highest Honors,” a student must, in addition, complete a 6-hour senior project or a senior thesis in an approved discipline under the direction of a faculty member of his/her choice. This is optional.

Those wishing to graduate with Honors must fill out an Honors College Graduation Declaration form. This form will aid in the graduation process, and it will allow the Honors College to keep a better connection with alumni.

The following privileges apply to those who have met the minimum requirements as established by the College:

- Being honored at the Bowers Medallion Ceremony.
- Individual recognition as graduated “With Honors” or “With Highest Honors.”
- Presentation of a special Honors medallion, provided by the Honors College, to be worn over the graduation robe.
- Transcript annotation of graduating “With Honors” or “With Highest Honors.”

Advanced Registration

To qualify for ADVANCED registration, Honors College students are required to complete at least 10 hours of community service and receive honors advising in either the group or individual setting. The community service performed in one semester validates advanced registration in the following semester.

Community Service

While community service is not required to remain in good standing with the College, HSAC has determined that 10 hours of community service are required for advanced registration. In order to receive credit and participate in advanced registration, students must complete community service forms signed by the activity coordinator, and turn them in to the Honors Office before the last class day of the semester. These forms are available outside the Honors Office Room, AB4 201.

Scholarship Opportunities

Elliott T. Bowers

The Bowers Scholarships are made possible by the \$2.5 million Elliott T. Bowers Scholarship Endowment. The scholarships are awarded each semester to all honors students on Status One. The scholarships start out at \$200 per semester during the first year and graduate to as much as \$500 for each semester of the senior year. In order to receive this scholarship, students must fill out the ScholarX scholarship application at the following website:

<https://shsu.scholarships.nelnet.net/>

Richard A. Cording Scholars

The Richard A. Cording Scholars is a competitive scholarship awarded to incoming Honors College students of exceptionally high academic merit. The award is \$1,000 per year, renewable for two years.

Augusta Lawrence

The Augusta Lawrence Scholarship is awarded to junior and senior Honors students who have demonstrated personal integrity, character, and leadership, and who have an academic mastery of the English language. The annual award is \$1,000 for the academic year.

Academic Scholarship Program

Competitive scholarships are available for beginning freshmen who excel in academic achievement and leadership. Applicants from outside of Texas who receive a competitive scholarship of at least \$1,000 are eligible for a waiver of the out-of-state tuition and fees.

The President's Endowed Scholarships

The President's Endowed Scholarships are awarded to exceptional students of good character who have achieved outstanding academic success and demonstrated leadership. Applicants must score at least 1340 on the SAT, or 30 on the ACT, and graduate in the top 10% of their high school class. The award is \$1,000 per semester for up to four years.

The University Scholars Scholarship

The University Scholars scholarships are awarded to students who have achieved outstanding academic success and demonstrated leadership. Applicants must score at least 1200 on the SAT, or 27 on the ACT, and graduate in the top 20% of their high school class. The award is \$1,000 for the academic year.

Additional Academic Scholarships

Additional university-wide academic scholarships are available through the Academic Scholarship Office. Honors students are encouraged to apply each year. Each semester, many thousands of dollars of additional scholarships are awarded to honors students; in fact, honors students are natural recipients of these additional academic scholarships.

The academic scholarship application must now be filled out online at the ScholarX website: <https://shsu.scholarships.nelnet.net/>

Part two: Honors community

Communication

Each semester students must inform the Honors Office of any changes in their campus address and a permanent address must be maintained on file. Failure to do so will bar them from early registration.

All students need to inform the Honors Office of changes in their email address. Additionally, students must sign up for the listserv at the following website:

<http://lists.sbsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/shsuHonors>.

Students are frequently contacted by email about HSAC events, scholarship opportunities, and other important aspects of the program. Students are responsible for routinely

checking their email for pertinent communication with the Honors College.

Housing

Students are granted access to Honors housing (Spivey House) on a first come, first served basis. Specific benefits of Spivey House include:

- 24 Hour academic environment
- Computer lab with printers available 24 hours (Spivey is the only dorm on campus with its own computer lab)
- A study room with a table and chairs
- Large TV room for study breaks
- Laundry room with coke and candy machine
- Kitchen area with stove, refrigerator, and microwave

Students who live in Spivey House also enjoy the opportunity to live and study with classmates and students who share a dedication to academic success.

All Honors Students, including non-Spivey residents, are welcomed and encouraged to take advantage of Spivey House's facilities.

There are also Honors rooms available in the academic wing of Raven Village.

Honors Facilities

In addition to Spivey House, the Honors College provides students with other environments conducive to studying.

Reading Room

The Honors reading room is located on the third floor of the Newton Gresham Library. This room includes the Adams book collection, and has comfortable chairs, a large table, and a wipe board that provides a good atmosphere for study groups. Access to this room is restricted to Honors students. The keypad combination is available in the Honors Office and in the "Honors Documents" section of the Honors Blackboard page.

Honors Lab

The Honors Computer Lab, Room 101, is located on the first floor of the ABIV building downstairs from the Honors College Office, and contains 10 computers and workstations for 20 students. The Lab is restricted to Honors students and is available for independent study throughout the day. The keypad combination is available in the Honors Office and in the "Honors Documents" section of the Honors Blackboard page.

Honors Lounge

Located on the first floor of ABIV, the Honors Lounge is a multi-purpose area designed for Honors students and faculty to meet, hold classes, watch videos, relax during the day, and host special events. There is complimentary coffee, a microwave, and a refrigerator for Honors students' use only.

Honors Council

The Honors College is governed by the Honors Council, which sets policy, plans activities, secures support, and makes judgments on individual matters as necessity dictates. The Honors Council consists of 12 faculty members and the Honors Dean and Directors. These

faculty

members along with two student representatives make up the committees that determine new entries into the Honors College.

These are the current members and their respective departments:

Kimberly Bell, English
 Frank Fair, Philosophy
 Bill Hyman, Kinesiology
 Patrick Lewis, Biological Sciences
 Brian Loft, Mathematics
 Holly Miller, Criminal Justice
 Valerie Muehsam, Economics
 Janet Mullings, Criminal Justice
 Sheryl Murphy-Manley, Music
 Stacy Ulbig, Political Science
 Pamela Zelbst, Management

Honors Student Advisory Committee (HSAC)

The Honors Student Advisory Committee is the official student organization. The Honors College, governed by HSAC, is an officially recognized student organization. HSAC officers (president, vice-president, secretary, and historian) are elected by the honors students, usually in May for the following year. HSAC is responsible for planning and coordinating various Honors College events:

Cultural Outings

Each semester, the Honors College sponsors a cultural outing, the destination of which is voted on by honors students. In the past, these weekend activities have included trips to museums, the opera, the theater, the zoo, sports events, the Renaissance Festival, etc. Students usually pay a nominal \$5 for their ticket. The College covers the remaining cost of the ticket and a meal.

Pizza with Profs

Each semester, "Pizza with Profs" are held in the Honors Lounge. Free pizza is provided for all students and a professor is invited to speak informally about his or her discipline.

Ice Cream Social

Each spring, the Honors College also sponsors an ice cream social in order to honor our graduating seniors. This event provides students with another opportunity to meet with professors as well as higher administrative faculty.

Alumni Homecoming Weekend

Honors alumni will be welcomed back to Sam Houston to enjoy the Homecoming festivities with Honors students. The Honors students will coordinate the Homecoming activities.

Parents' Weekend

On the Saturday of Parents' Weekend each fall, the Honors College sponsors a luncheon for students and their parents. This gives parents an opportunity to meet

with the Honors faculty and staff.

Honors Ambassadors

The Honors Ambassadors are an elite group of enthusiastic and involved Honors students who represent the highest ideals of the university. Through leadership and service, the Ambassadors sponsor special events that support and enhance the Honors community at SHSU.

The purpose of the Ambassadors is to serve as official representatives of the Honors College at such events as Saturdays at Sam, the High School Honors Dinner, Summer Orientation, and Let's Talk. They also mentor new students, organize the Undergraduate Research Symposium, and assist in recruiting Honors students. Many of the Ambassadors also have leadership positions in other organizations throughout the campus.

Selection is by application, essay, and interviews. Honors students who demonstrate leadership, scholarship, and service to SHSU are encouraged to apply.

Conferences

Students have opportunities to travel around the country as representatives of the SHSU Honors College at various Honors conferences. In the spring, student papers from all disciplines are accepted to be presented at the regional Great Plains Honors Council Conference.

Undergraduate Research Symposium

In 2008 the Honors Student Ambassadors began the Undergraduate Research Symposium. The goal was two fold: to share research with fellow students and to gain experience in preparation for future conferences.

Today, the primary purpose of the Undergraduate Research Symposium is to continue to provide a forum where undergraduate students throughout the University may present their research to others in a professional environment, gain expertise in their field, and receive feedback from other scholars and members of the academic community. Through the excellence of the URS, the Honors College has become one of the focal points of undergraduate research at Sam Houston State University.

Phone Numbers and Useful Information

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Honors Website: <http://Honors.shsu.edu>