E Pluribus Honorem: Benefits of an Honors College Experience at OSU and U of A

Session (G)
June 15, 2017

Kaleena Chiddick, Oregon State University
Kelly Pjesky-Rempfer, Oregon State University
Justin Strohmeyer, Oregon State University
Sung Ahn, University of Arizona
Naomi Schoenholz, University of Arizona
Agenda

- Introductions
- History of Honors Colleges in the U.S.
- Overview of Honors College at Oregon State University
- Overview of Honors College at University of Arizona
- Questions and Discussion
Introductions

- Who are we?
  - Regional Admission Advisors throughout California

- Who’s in the room?
  - High School/Community College Counselors
  - Independent Counselors
  - Community Based Organizations
  - Admission Professionals
History of Honors Colleges in the US

- How did they get started?
  - Honors Degrees existed at Oxford and Cambridge as far back as 1830 – “cum laude”
  - World War II and Sputnik
  - “Higher education as what we aspire for”

- Why Honors Colleges at Public Research Institutions?
  - Students live and study with similarly motivated classmates
  - Individualized attention at a larger school
  - Increased opportunities for interdisciplinary studies
  - Lower tuition compared to private schools
  - Graduate sooner
THE HONORS COLLEGE ENGAGES STUDENTS IN UNIQUE CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR EXPERIENCES DESIGNED TO HELP THEM EXPLORE THE MANY OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY OSU AS A WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH INSTITUTE. THE HC EXPERIENCE IS DEFINED BY:

- AN HONORS CURRICULUM, FEATURING SMALL CLASSES WITH ENGAGED LEARNING LED BY OSU'S TALENTED AND DEDICATED FACULTY;

- A RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCE AND CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMMING, WHICH PROVIDE GLOBAL, LEADERSHIP, AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- A MEANINGFUL AND IMPACTFUL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH/SCHOLARSHIP EXPERIENCE
THE HONORS COLLEGE (HC) IS A SMALL DEGREE-GRANTING COLLEGE AT OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 1000 STUDENTS ENROLLED ALL WORKING TOWARD AN HONORS BACCALAUREATE DEGREE IN THEIR ACADEMIC MAJOR. THE HC OFFERS THE BENEFITS OF SMALL CLASSES, A RESIDENCE HALL OPTION, STUDENT LEARNING CENTERS AND PERSONAL ADVISING WITH THE RESEARCH AND INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES OF OSU.

DEMAND FOR ENTRANCE INTO THE HC IS HIGH AND COMPETITION STRONG. WE EVALUATE APPLICANTS NOT ONLY ON THEIR ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS, BUT ALSO ON THEIR LEVEL OF WRITING, WHILE CONSIDERING COURSEWORK, EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, AND CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY. THE HC WELCOMES STUDENTS FROM DIVERSE ACADEMIC, CULTURAL AND GEOGRAPHIC BACKGROUNDS.
Requirements

First year students applying to the HC for fall 2016 admission will apply by filling out the Honors College application section of the OSU undergraduate application for admission. First Year applicant minimum criteria to be considered for HC admission

• 3.75 cumulative un-weighted high school GPA or
• 1300 on the new SAT* or
• 27 on the ACT
  • Early round application deadline: Applications received by midnight on November 1st
  • Primary round application deadline: Applications received by midnight on February 1st

Applicants also provide a written response to a HC essay question (450-500 words each), and submit a list of Extracurricular Activities, Leadership Positions, and Awards. The essay responses have the same weight as GPA (and test scores for first year applicants), so special consideration should be given to this component of the application.
FAQs

Acceptance rate? The 2016 HC acceptance rate was 59% for first year students, 86% for current OSU students and 76% for transfer students. Overall the acceptance rate was 60% in 2016.

Requirements to stay in UHC after acceptance? All Honors College students must maintain a 3.25 cumulative OSU GPA and make satisfactory progress toward completing honors degree requirements to remain enrolled in the HC. Progress in three key areas—GPA, coursework, and thesis—are reviewed every fall, winter, and spring term.
Curriculum

• Honors College students graduate with an Honors Baccalaureate degree. There are two different tracks.
  • Honors Scholar: requires 30 HC credits. It is generally followed by students who enter the HC their first year.
  • Honors Associate: requires 15 HC credits. It is typically for students who enter the HC after their second year.

• The Honors Baccalaureate degree is jointly awarded by the HC and the student's major(s). Honors College students select HC courses to complement their academic major.
Honors College Benefits and Outcomes

A TIGHT-KNIT COMMUNITY OF ENGAGED STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF

UNIQUE HONORS CLASSES, TYPICALLY LIMITED TO 12 OR 20 STUDENTS

ACCESS TO STUDENT LEARNING CENTERS, HONORS STUDENT LOUNGE AND A THEMED LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY

LEADERSHIP INVOLVEMENT, TRIPS AND EVENTS THROUGH THE OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (UHCSA)
- LUNCH WITH THE DEANS
- FACULTY STUDENT MIXERS
- HONORS ADVISORS
- FACULTY LED PRE-COLLEGE STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

OVER 90% OF HC GRADUATES WHO APPLY TO LAW, MEDICAL, OR GRADUATE SCHOOLS ARE ACCEPTED
Honors College Success Stories

**ARIANNA KAHLER-QUESADA, BIOCHEMISTRY AND BIOPHYSICS**
- Conducts research on kidney disease and bone health in the skeletal biology lab
- LSAMP scholar and peer mentor for minority students in science degree programs through LSAMP and OSU STEM leaders
- Member of the OSU symphony orchestra
- Summer research intern in Italy

**CASSIDY HUUN, COLLEGE OF SCIENCE**
- Currently in medical school at OHSU

**D’ANNA FOSTER, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND EXERCISE SPORTS SCIENCE**
- 2015 winner of the OSUAA Young Alumni Award
- Former OSU gymnast, lives in Portland and is manager of direct to consumer strategy at Nike
HONORS WILDCATS

- Belong to a supportive community of like-minded peers
- Have access to all the resources of a large, research-intensive university
- An intellectually-challenging learning environment
- Valuable benefits
- New Honors building (2019) – Residence, Dining, Classrooms
HONORS BENEFITS

- Priority registration
- Honors Residence Halls
- Honors study abroad, research, and internship opportunities
  - Honors Alternative Spring Break
- Honors Classes, Seminars, GE Courses
- Health and Human Values Minor
- Common Reading Program
- Honors Clubs and Organizations
- Honors-specific scholarships
- PATH (Partnership Through Honors)
APPLYING TO THE HONORS COLLEGE

DIRECTLY FROM HIGH SCHOOL

• Complete the UA Application
• Complete the Honors College Application
• Priority Deadline: **November 19, 2017**
• Admissions Decisions: Week of January 5, 2018

SELF-NOMINATION

• 3.5 GPA after 12 units
• At least 3 semesters remaining before graduation

CRITERIA

• Unweighted High School GPA/Test Scores
• High School Curriculum Rigor
• Activities Resume
• Short Answer Essay Questions
• Recommendation Letter

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Minimum 3.5 Cumulative UA GPA, Senior Thesis/Capstone Project
FAST FACTS

3.86
Unweighted Average GPA

1336
Mean SAT (Old SAT CR+M)

29.9
Mean ACT

14%
Percentage of UA Freshmen In Honors College

47
States Represented

24
Countries Represented

60/40
Female/Male Student Ratio

20%
1st Generation College Students
Questions?

Kaleena Chiddick, Oregon State University
Kelly Pjesky-Rempfer, Oregon State University
Justin Strohmeyer, Oregon State University
Sung Ahn, University of Arizona
Naomi Schoenholz, University of Arizona