

THE BASICS: THE WTCC HONORS PROGRAM

THE FACULTY VERSION

THIS GUIDE WALKS THROUGH:

- STUDENTS' PROGRESS FLOWCHART FOR HONORS
- BREAKDOWN OF TYPICAL HONORS SEMESTER
- SAMPLE DATES FOR SEMESTER MILESTONES
- ROLE OF THE FACULTY ADVISER
- GETTING PLUGGED-IN

FLOWCHART OF HONORS PROGRESS FROM APPLICATION TO GRADUATION

1. **ONLINE APPLICATION:** Students fill out online application at honorsprogram.waketech.edu. Requirements: 3.3 GPA, 2 Letters of Rec, Online Essay
2. **APPLICATION REVIEW:** Directors confirm GPA, evaluate essays and letters once application packets confirmed.
3. **APPLICATION DENIED:** Directors make contact to let the student know, personally, and make recommendations for improvement on their application for future attempts.

OR

APPLICATION ACCEPTED: Directors contact student with key information including meeting times, how honors courses work, and general details on the program. (See welcome letter)

AFTER APPLICATION IS ACCEPTED

4. **GETTING SETTLED:** Student schedule is evaluated for potential honors courses, and contact is made to line up an adviser. Student is also added to Blackboard course shell for announcements.
 5. **1ST SEMESTER HONORS** Students tend to take just 1 honors option, complete 6-8 hrs community service on top of their honors coursework, and present their work.
 6. **COMPLETING THE PROGRAM** Each successful honors course completed gives transcript notation. Accumulation of three completions yields recognition at graduation.
 7. **VETERAN HONORS STUDENTS** Generally handle (facilitated by director-generated course list) their own adviser lineup, and complete 1- 2 additional honors courses. Tend to be our best advertisers!
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GENERAL DATES TO CONSIDER

GENERAL DATES

- Kickoff meetings are usually a few weeks into the semester, and closing meetings are typically 1-3 weeks before exam season.
- The first meeting of every semester celebrates achievement, the second involves presentations on projects.
- - Contracts tend to be due in the 2nd month of the semester, with project presentations happening late in the fourth month.

DUE DATES AND PAPERWORK

- Honors students handle all honors paperwork and assignments (not you) save for development of the contract
- All paperwork and submissions are electronic (so they may ask for an e-signature- just sign it in word
- Feel free to contact Ian or Justin if your honors student is slipping or needs a push.



THE 3 C'S OF A TYPICAL HONORS STUDENT SEMESTER

- **CONTACT:** Active honors students will either align their schedule with a provided list of honors instructors/courses or will make contact (with or without assistance from the directors). Students active in the program need to complete 1 or more honors course options per semester. In the initial talks and brainstorming, students bring in their interests, hobbies, and future direction to help shape the potential project. First-time honors students are recommended to tackle one honors course to get a feel for the program and to maximize their experience on their first honors option course.
- **CONTRACT:** An agreement between instructor and student detailing a multi-part project building to an end-of-semester presentation. Milestones of the project can build in oral exams, research, written/media-based/web-based deliverables, building a program or model, interviews, and more. They key is to keep it creative (not busy work) and to tie in student interest and direction. Required contract components are 6-8 hrs of community service and a poster presentation component at the close the semester.
- **COMPLETION:** Completing the honors contract (and all related paperwork on the Blackboard Honors site), **making an A or B in the honors course**, completing the community service requirement, presenting to their peers and faculty/administration, and attending both honors meetings every semester results in maintaining their honors privileges (including priority registration and a dedicated honors study space in the library, among others) and transcript notation. Completion of > 3 honors option courses collectively grants graduation recognition.

Contact

Contract

Completion

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE FACULTY IN ALL OF THIS?

- **FLEXIBILITY IN WORKING WITH STUDENTS:** With the application process accepting new honors students going into the semester past drop/add week, it can be a surprise when a professor has a student come in requesting honors coursework. We keep the application window open as long as possible to encourage growth, allow for latecomers, and to promote student success. Flexibility in rolling with the punches, standing up to these unexpected challenges, and providing a creative twist to the coursework for our honors students has been a distinguishing mark of the excellence we have in our honors advisers.
- **CREATIVITY IN GENERATING CONTRACTS:** Honors students and faculty don't tie themselves up in honors contracts to support more busy work. There are always questions in lecture we don't get to dig deep enough in. The creative honors adviser will work alongside a student to tailor an honors project that stretches the interdisciplinary boundaries to align with student interest and direction. Students really shine when their projects are something they feel strongly about!
- **MENTORSHIP:** It's not the role of faculty to complete and submit honors paperwork and to poke and prod honors students! Honors students take care of that themselves. Honors advisers step in to provide perspective in their field of study, knowledge of the college process, and insight on project completion and project management. These honors students are eager to work and learn- it's the advisers job to curate this interest into a deliverable project that allows the student to realize their potential. Mentorship in not just the course subject, but in sharing how you got to where you are, is key to honors advising!

Flexible advising

Creative content

Completion-oriented

HOW DO FACULTY GET INVOLVED WITH THE WTCC HONORS PROGRAM?

Advising and Mentoring:

- Every semester, emails go out calling for interest from faculty in advising for the coming semester. This is prime time to get on the list of instructors and courses sent out to honors students. Remember the focus of the program is college transfer courses.
- Plug the program in courses you're interested in advising in, and specify you're up for mentoring (but mention if there is a cap- typically 1-3).
- Let Ian and Justin know of your interest (see our contact information below)!

Advertising and Support

- Advertise the program (and the 3.3 GPA requirement) at the start of the semester in your classes!
- Share your mentoring experience with fellow faculty! Bring new advisors and mentors on board!
- Attend our meetings to support achievement and support presentations!

Main Campus Contact

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