



Owens Community College

Honors Program

Student Handbook

2018

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The Owens Community College Honors Program

Critical Thinking
Articulate Communication
Ethical Reasoning
Civic Engagement and Leadership

The Honors Program Mission

The mission of the Owens Community College Honors Program is to provide a challenging educational opportunity, above and beyond the standard curriculum, for exceptional students who strive for academic excellence.

The Honors Program Vision

The Honors Program offers students a wide variety of challenging courses in every department and program in the college. The Honors Program also encourages full access to the college's educational resources and faculties, challenging students to initiate, create and think critically. Special Honors courses and individualized studies are designed to foster intellectual inquiry and growth. The most inviting aspect of the Owens Honors Program is the way it brings together outstanding students and faculty in exciting learning encounters. The result is a dynamic environment that inspires students in unparalleled intellectual pursuits.

The Honors Program Student Learning Outcomes

By completing the Honors Program curriculum, the Honors Scholar also fulfills the program student learning outcomes. The Owens Community College Honors Program Student Learning Outcomes are

Critical Thinking

Honors Scholars will:

- Analyze spoken, written, or graphic texts.
- Identify the argument in a given text and articulate the disciplinary, historical, or cultural assumptions behind it.
- Apply knowledge creatively to solve problems and explain issues.

Articulate Communication

Honors Scholars will:

- Communicate ideas, facts, theories, and arguments effectively.
- Express ideas and concepts precisely and persuasively in multiple formats.
- Present ideas orally, in writing, and through appropriate technologies to a variety of audiences.

Ethical Reasoning

Honors Scholars will:

- Reflect on personal values and their influence on choices.
- Demonstrate a respect for human diversity and a critical awareness of their own assumptions, stereotypes, and biases when confronting difference.
- Communicate issues that are important to them.
- Identify and assess the personal, social, scientific, and/or historical influences that contribute to their perspectives on the above issues.

Civic Engagement and Leadership

Honors Scholars will:

- Contribute to the development and vitality of the community of scholars established by the Honors Program.
- Demonstrate the ability to lead teams and to be effective team members.
- Enhance classroom learning with related experiences in which they apply their knowledge and skills in a way that serves others in the community.

Honors Scholars FAQs

Who are Honors Scholars?

Students participating in the Honors Program are designated as **Honors Scholars**.

Honors Scholars are highly motivated students who wish to go beyond the minimum requirements for graduation from Owens Community College. They are enthusiastic students who are engaged both academically and civically.

Honors Scholars demonstrate the following:

- excellence in a given academic area, as demonstrated by grades
- intellectual curiosity—the desire to learn more than the minimum
- open-mindedness and a tolerance for diverse perspectives
- engagement and in-class participation
- willingness and ability to work independently
- initiative and responsibility
- dependability, attendance and punctuality

Why Become an Honors Scholar?

Just a few of the reasons to become an Honors Scholar are:

- Small, interactive core Honors Program Courses and meaningful student/faculty interaction in courses designated as Honors Option Courses.
- Individualized academic and career advisement from an Honors faculty mentor focused on student success.
- Enriching out-of-classroom activities.
- Campus leadership roles and eligibility for membership in a national honor society: Phi Theta Kappa if you have a 3.5 GPA or better.
- Participation in the annual Honors Symposium held each spring.
- Honors designation on diploma and transcript.
- Recognition as Honors Program Graduate at Commencement with the presentation of the Owens Honors Program Medallion.
- Enhanced preparation for entering baccalaureate and advanced programs.
- Recognition of academic excellence when applying to baccalaureate and advanced participation.
- Eligibility for scholarships at four-year institutions.
- Recognition of your outstanding achievement and leadership when seeking employment.

Who is Eligible to Become an Honors Scholar?

To qualify for admission to the Owens Community College Honors Program, students must meet *at least one* of the following criteria:

- have a 3.2 high school GPA¹
- be admitted as a CCP student
- have a minimum of 3.2 college GPA
- have two recommendations from faculty (with a 3.0 GPA)

¹ Applicants to the Program who graduated from high school more than five years prior to applying must have completed six (6) credit hours at the college level and earned a GPA of 3.2 or higher

To become an Honors Scholar, a student must complete the online application, located at <https://www.owens.edu/honors/application.html>. Students enrolled in any academic program, either full- or part-time, are eligible. Invitations to potentially eligible students are sent out after they have completed six credit hours of coursework.

What are the Characteristics of all Honors Courses and Honors Options Courses?

1. All Honors Courses and Honors Options Courses include the Honors Program Student Learning Outcomes: critical thinking, articulate communication, ethical reasoning, and civic engagement/leadership.
2. Honors Courses and Honors Options Courses differ from “regular” courses in several ways. They explore the topic in more depth, and they require more critical thinking and analysis from the Honors Scholars. These courses usually require different teaching methods. They employ a greater variety of source materials. They also introduce Honors Scholars to the methods and standards of the discipline. Honors Courses should be more rigorous and are usually more enjoyable. Honors Scholars traditionally leave the Honors Program with a greater sense of accomplishment, greater confidence and a respect for the academic process.
3. Learning becomes a shared, dynamic process, shifting the classroom focus from the teacher to the Honors Scholar. The Honors Scholar assumes responsibility for his or her own learning. Challenging readings, especially primary sources and great works, are an integral part of the course. Close analysis and interpretation of these texts teach Honors Scholars to think critically and to develop the confidence to deal with the larger issues and challenges of today’s world.
4. Discourse is the heart of an Honors Course or an Honors Option. It arises from questions generated by reading and analyzing texts or problems. At first, questions may be posed by the instructor, but as Honors Scholars gain confidence, they develop their own strategies for inquiry and criticism. Directed inquiry is the first step in making Honors Scholars independent and responsible learners.

What is the Honors Program Portfolio?

Located on the Honors Program Blackboard site, the Honors Program Portfolio contains all of your Honors Course Projects (both core courses and Honors Options) as well as evidence of your civic engagement and/or leadership. You are responsible for uploading these documents to the Blackboard portfolio. Your portfolio will be proof that you have completed your Honors Program curriculum. For help uploading materials to the Portfolio please contact the Honors Advisor for your campus. (See page 12 for contact information.)

What is the Procedure for Submitting an Honors Option Contract?

1. The Contract: The instructor, working with the Honors Scholar, completes the Honors Option Contract (on the Honors Program website) and submits it. The Contract will include:
 - a. A working title of the Honors Option Project
 - b. A description of the Honors Option Projects
 - c. The requirements of the Honor Option Project including
 - 1) An essay of at least six to eight pages or the equivalent
 - 2) An oral presentation
2. The Honors Option contract will be submitted by the fourth week of classes (16-week semester) at the latest.

What Can I Use as Evidence of Civic Engagement and/or Leadership?

Examples that you can submit to your portfolio in Blackboard include:

- letter from faculty or administrator
- brochure mentioning your name
- symposium program
- newspaper article
- documentation of leadership role in a club, organization or Honor Society.

The Honors Program Curriculum

Requirements for Graduation as an Honors Scholar

Honors Scholars take a total of 15 credit hours of Honors courses:

- two required courses (HON 101 and HON 201) and
- nine credit hours of elective Honors courses (Honors Option Contracts).

The required courses count as Arts and Humanities electives. The remaining nine credit hours may be courses within the Honors Scholar's program of study.

Honors Scholars demonstrate civic engagement and/or leadership

Honors Scholars who complete their Honors Program Curriculum and

- earn A or B in all their Honors Program classes
- complete their Honors Portfolio by uploading their Honors Projects to Blackboard are eligible to receive the Honors Program medallion.

Requirements for Graduating as an Honors Program Scholar

To graduate as an Honors Scholar, a student must:

1. Earn a cumulative GPA of 3.5.
2. Earn a grade of A or B in Honors 101 (Critical Thinking Seminar) and Honors 201 (Interpretations Seminar).
3. Earn a grade of A or B in nine credit hours of Honors Options Courses or designated Honors Sections
4. Complete an Honors Portfolio by:
 - Submitting to the Honors Program Blackboard site final projects from at least five Honors Courses.
 - Submitting to the Honors Program Blackboard site evidence of civic engagement and/or leadership (either within the classroom setting or outside the classroom).
5. Complete OCC graduation requirements.

Honors Program Advisors are available to meet with students individually to help them apply for the program, chart their coursework, and find ways to take advantage of the many opportunities available through the Honors Program. (Please see page 10 for contact information.)

Honors Courses

The Owens Honors curriculum is flexible and innovative, allowing a great deal of latitude in creating interesting and academically rigorous experiences. Honors Program Courses take one of two forms:

1. Core Courses: There are two core Honors Courses, HON 101 (Critical Thinking Seminar) and HON 201 (Interpretations Seminar). These courses are an integral part of the transfer agreements with UT and BGSU and are required. They are the only classes with the HON prefix and may only be taken by students admitted to the Honors Program. **These courses do not need to be taken sequentially: HON 201 may be taking prior to or at the same time as HON 101.**

Important note: As of Fall 2018, HON 201 may be used to fulfill ENG 112 (Composition II.)

2. Honors Option Courses: Most Owens courses can be made into Honors Option Courses. In these courses a student in the Honors Program and the instructor agree on an Honors Option Contract (see details below). The instructor, working with the student, completes an online Honors Option Contract that details the scope of the project (see Honors Program website, “Forms”). The Honors Option Contract must be submitted by the date designated on the contract form, located at <https://www.owens.edu/honors/forms.html>.

All Honors Option Contracts must meet the following minimum criteria:

1. Honors Option Coursework should be based on research, writing, and presentation. The research paper should be at least six pages beyond non-honors student assignments. It should demonstrate a command of the vocabulary and concepts of the subject, critical analysis and synthesis skill, problem solving, and mastery of the English language. The topic of each Project should be unique; in other words, there should be no “blanket contracts” given to multiple Scholars in the same course section. Note: Usually, the Project is in the form of an essay, but depending upon the academic discipline in which the Project is done, other artifacts are possible, e.g., a photographic portfolio, a musical composition, a welding project, etc. Still, if doing a non-traditional Project, it should probably include an essay of some sort.
2. Honors coursework should meet at least **three of the four** Honors Program Student Learning Outcomes: **critical thinking, articulate communication, ethical reasoning, and civic engagement/leadership.**
3. Each student prepares a presentation to be given in class, at the Honors Symposium, or at some other approved venue. Presentations must also be completed in online courses. The type of presentation in online courses is at the discretion of the faculty member, but must be stated in the Honors Option Contract. This may take any number of forms. If special equipment is required, the instructor will make the arrangements.
4. Honors Scholars are expected to interact, participate fully, and be role models to other students in the class.
5. Instructions for the Honors Options are found in the section “Honors Courses” on page 8.

Reminder:

An Honors Scholar must earn an A or B in an Honors Course or an Honors Option Course in order to receive Honors Credit. If the grade is lower than B, it will appear on the student’s transcript, but without the Honors designation.

For all Honors Courses and Honors Options Contracts, the Honors Scholar must submit the final project of the course to the Honors Program Blackboard site. The projects submitted constitute the Scholar’s Honors Portfolio.

Course of Study Plan

All Honors Scholars are required to submit to the Honors Program a tentative completion schedule of the various Honors Program requirements when they apply to the Program. We want Scholars to complete the Program; as such, it is helpful for Scholars to establish realistic action plans for completing the Program requirements. Your Honors Advisers are more than happy to assist in this effort.

The following form does not have to be submitted; however, it is provided so that Scholars and potential Scholars may map out how they plan to complete the Honors Program requirements.

**Owens Community College Honors Program
Course Plan**

Your Plan: Name _____

Campus: _____ Toledo or _____ Findlay²

Semester and Year	Honors Courses	Completed (X) In Progress (P)

If you have completed a course or contract, please indicate with an X.

If you are presently taking a course, please indicate with a P.

Sample Strategies for Completion by Semester

Four Semester Plan

Sem	Plan A:	Plan B:	Plan C:
1	1 Honors Contract ³	Core Course	1 Contract
2	Core Course ⁴ 1 Contract	Core Course	2 Core Courses
3	Core Course	2 Contracts	1 Contract
4	2 Contracts	1 Contract	1 Contract

Three Semester Plan

Sem	Plan D:	Plan E:	Plan F:
1	1 Contract 1 Core Course	1 Contract	1 Contract 1 Core Course
2	1 Core Course 1 Contract	2 Core Courses	2 Contracts
3	1 Contract	2 Contracts	1 Core Course

Two Semester Plan

Sem	Plan G	Plan H	Plan I
1	2 Core Courses 1 Contract	1 Core Course 2 Contracts	1 Core Course 1 Contract
2	2 Contracts	1 Core Course 1 Contract	1 Core Course 2 Contracts

² Note that Findlay offers Hon 101 in fall and Hon 201 in spring of each academic year.

³ 3 Honors Option Contracts are required for Honors graduation. Some students have chosen to perform more than three.

⁴ Honors Core Courses are Honors 101 (Critical Thinking Seminar) and Honors 201 (Interpretations Seminar)

Honors Student Induction Ceremony

Students who commence their Honors Program studies after fall 2014 are expected to attend the Honors Student Induction Ceremony. The purpose of the Induction Ceremony is to formally welcome Honors Scholars into the Program and to familiarize them with the curriculum and expectations of the Honors Program. There will be separate Induction ceremonies on the Toledo and Findlay campuses. Students who are unable to attend the Induction Ceremony may meet individually with the Honors Program Advisor on their campus to receive the pertinent information covered during the Induction Ceremony.

The Honors Symposium

Each spring the Honors Program invites all students who have completed Honors Courses or Honors Option Contracts in the previous academic year to present their project(s) at this annual event. This event is held in April, and the campus and community are invited to attend.

Presenting at the symposium may be used to satisfy the Civic Engagement and/or Leadership requirement of the Program (see p. 4 of this document). Also, presenting at the Symposium is a great resume builder and provides useful public speaking experience. The Honors Program Advisers are more than happy to help interest students prepare their presentations.

Inactivation from the Honors Program

Recently admitted students who complete no Honors coursework within two semesters of being accepted into the Program (exclusive of summer) will be removed from the Program. After being accepted into the Program, Honors Scholars are expected to work toward completion of the Honors Program requirements. Students who have done no Honors Program coursework for two consecutive semesters, exclusive of summer, will have to reapply to the Program.

Special Features of the Owens Honors Program

The program has established articulation agreements with the University of Toledo, Bowling Green State University and Eastern Michigan University that allow students who complete the program to integrate seamlessly into the honors programs of these institutions and be eligible for scholarships. Honors courses and individualized studies are designed to foster intellectual inquiry and growth by providing a dynamic environment that inspires rewarding intellectual pursuits. The program also facilitates student access to the College's educational resources and provides an opportunity for outstanding students and faculty to engage in exciting learning experiences.

Advisors

Honors Program Advisors are available to meet with students individually to help them apply for the Honors Program, chart their coursework, and find ways to take advantage of all the opportunities available through the Honors Program.

Contact Information

Honors Program Director: Dr. Russ Bodi, Founders Hall, Toledo Campus,
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Toledo Honors Program Advisor: Cory Hoover, Founders Hall
cory_hoover@owens.edu. Phone 567-661-7096

Findlay Honors Program Advisor: Timothy Rice, Education Center 121R
timothy_rice@owens.edu. Phone 567-429-3673

Web Address: www.owens.edu/honors