Honors College

The mission of the Honors College is to provide enhanced educational opportunities for selected, motivated, enthusiastic, diverse, and inquisitive students and to foster the pursuit of excellence in undergraduate higher education. The underlying philosophy of the program is that well-educated individuals should understand broad, interdisciplinary perspectives while demonstrating expertise in their chosen field.

The Honors College is a community of highly talented and motivated students who want the excitement and stimulation of a comprehensive, urban university and the individual attention available in an Honors College. The Honors College is open to students from all academic disciplines. Members of the Honors College pursue a rigorous academic program which satisfies all requirements of their academic departments and colleges and goes beyond those requirements to provide the basis for outstanding achievement and appropriate recognition for that achievement. The Honors College offers small classes with greater opportunities for student participation, increased student-faculty contact, greater individual attention, lively discussions of important issues, special interdisciplinary seminars, community service opportunities, encouragement of study abroad, learning of foreign languages, and supervised research and internship experiences. All these activities are designed to challenge talented students.

Participation in the Honors College typically supplements, but does not replace, work in a major field. Credits earned in Honors College courses may be used to satisfy Core Curriculum requirements or specific degree requirements, when appropriate. Honors College advisors work with advisors in other colleges to assure that students meet all requirements of their major and Honors curriculum.

Students must submit an Honors application to be considered for admission to the Honors College either as an entering freshman or as a continuing UTSA or transfer student. In general, threshold application requirements for incoming freshmen are a composite SAT (critical reading and math only) of 1200 or above, a composite ACT score of 27 or above, and/or graduation in the top 10 percent of the high school class. However, the Honors College applies a holistic review approach to student admission, considering such factors as writing skills, student leadership, special skills and abilities, and special circumstances. Therefore, students whose SAT, ACT, or class rank do not meet the threshold requirement may still gain admission if they offer a compelling reason why they should be part of the program, just as students who meet those requirements are not guaranteed admission. For continuing UTSA students and transfer students, eligibility to apply is based on a college grade point average (GPA) of 3.4 or better on a minimum of 15 hours of college coursework (excluding dual credit). Although students are admitted throughout the year, high school and transfer students must submit their applications by February 15 to be considered for Honors Scholarships.

Students who wish to apply for admission to the Honors College should contact the Office of the Dean of the Honors College. Applications are reviewed and Honors students are selected by members of the Advisory Committee on Honors Education. Selection is based on grades, standardized test scores, letters of recommendation, and writing samples. Admission is competitive and contingent upon the pool of applicants for any given year. Admission information is available at http://honors.utsa.edu/.