

# STUDENT HANDBOOK



**2011-2012**

## Welcome to Stony Brook University's Honors College!

The Honors College provides the small, supportive environment of a liberal arts college with the resources of a leading research university and medical center. We hope that you will take advantage of all Stony Brook has to offer, and to make many wonderful connections between your studies and your life as a student.

This handbook provides you with information about your responsibilities and benefits as a member of the Honors College. Please read it carefully as you will be expected to be familiar with and adhere to the policies as stated. When you are finished reading, if you have unanswered or additional questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We are here to provide direction and guidance to ensure your college years are productive and enjoyable.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Oliver Street, III in blue ink.

Oliver Street, III  
Director

Handwritten signature of Wendy Tang in blue ink.

Wendy Tang  
Faculty Director

## What Is Unique About the Honors College?

With approximately sixty students in each class year, the Honors College fosters close relationships among a cohort of dedicated scholars. Through the Honors College seminars, special events, alumni interaction, and access to research opportunities and senior faculty, you will immediately be engaged in the intellectual life of the University. The Honors College creates a culture that supports academic excellence, interdisciplinary interests, and lifelong success. We encourage not only the unity of a close-knit community but the thoughtful exchange of ideas. Some of the benefits of the Honors College are:

**Scholarship support:** All members of the Honors College receive some type of merit-based scholarship. The exact amount of that scholarship depends upon a variety of criteria.

**Honors College Curriculum:** A four-year, interdisciplinary curriculum of small seminars designed to help students expand their intellectual breadth and to develop skills in the expression of ideas, criticism, and analysis.

**Personalized guidance:** Students receive individualized guidance for all four years at Stony Brook.

**Cultural and Social Activities:** Field trips, guest lectures, special events, recreational activities. Honors College students can also use the Lounge as an informal place to gather for meetings, study groups, game nights, and other get-togethers.

**Opportunity to work closely with Faculty:** The Honors College seminars allow students to form intellectually stimulating relationships with faculty members who are among the most distinguished in their field. Research and creative activity are highly encouraged from the first semester, and the Honors College curriculum culminates in a year-long, faculty mentored senior thesis.

**Priority Housing and Registration:** Honors College students register earlier than other students in their class year, allowing for maximum course selection. Tabler Quad, home to music practice rooms, the black box theater, meeting space, and a café, is home to Toscanini Hall – the campus residence for most Honors College students.

Interaction with Alumni: One of the most enduring aspects of membership in the Honors College is the relationships made with other students. Continuing in this tradition, alumni of the Honors College who wish to share their insight and experience are available as resources to current students. We hope that this tradition continues with each graduating class.

## YOUR HONORS COLLEGE TEAM

### **Directors**

Your Honors College Directors are your advisors and are here to guide you through your studies at Stony Brook and help you navigate the University and make the most of the plentiful resources available. The Directors hold weekly walk-in hours to facilitate individualized advising. If you are unable to make the walk-in hours you may schedule an appointment by contacting Ms. Allison Aldrich ([Allison.Aldrich@stonybrook.edu](mailto:Allison.Aldrich@stonybrook.edu)) or (631) 632-4378.

### **Staff Assistant and Graduate Assistant**

The staff assistant and graduate assistant are here to support the Honors College in fulfilling its mission. Feel free to consult them for advice or assistance with anything Honors College related.

### **Big Siblings**

The Big Sibling Mentoring Program matches first-year students with an upperclass student who has demonstrated excellence in the classroom and an enthusiasm for sharing their knowledge of the University. Becoming a Big Sib is also an opportunity for upperclass students to take on a leadership role and make a significant difference in the lives of the students who are making the transition from high school to college.

### **Residence Hall Director**

The Residence Hall Director (RHD) of Toscanini aims to create an environment that supports the personal and academic development of Honors College students. The RHD welcomes ideas for programming and works with

the Directors of the Honors College to provide programming for both commuter and resident students at the Tabler Center for Arts, Culture, and Humanities.

## HONORS COLLEGE POLICIES & REGULATIONS

Honors College students have been selected from thousands of applicants nationwide for their potential as future leaders as well as the promise of academic excellence. With the privilege of being in the Honors College comes the responsibility of participating in a community that values cooperation, fellowship, and scholarship.

- Honors College students must maintain a minimum 3.0 semester and cumulative GPA at the conclusion of each semester.
- Any student with a GPA below 3.0 you will be placed on academic probation. While on probation students must obtain a semester and cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher to avoid dismissal from the Honors College. Students on probation must also see the Directors of the Honors College to discuss any issues that may be contributing to their academic difficulty and to plan future academic schedules.
- All students are expected to make satisfactory progress towards completion of the Honors College curriculum. Failure to complete curricular requirements in a timely manner may result in probation or dismissal from the Honors College.
- All Honors College seminars must be completed with a grade of C or higher.
- All students must complete a senior thesis and successfully present the thesis to the Honors College Directors, the faculty mentor, and other members of the campus community.
- Failure to meet the standards of Academic Integrity may result in dismissal from the Honors College. Students are required to endorse an Honors College Academic Integrity Pledge, which can be found in this handbook. Student should consult and become familiar with the University's Academic Judiciary policies and procedures which can be found at: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/index.shtml>

## UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS & THE HONORS COLLEGE CURRICULUM

### **(1) University Requirements:**

Honors College students must satisfy the following University degree requirements, as outlined in the Undergraduate Bulletin:

- Credit Hour Requirement
- Liberal Arts and Sciences Requirement
- Residence Requirement
- Grade Point Average Requirement
- Major Requirement
- Upper-Division Credit Requirement
- Upper -Division Writing Requirement

Honors College students must also demonstrate basic competence in Entry Skills, which are often satisfied in high school. The Skills to be satisfied are:

1. Mathematics Competence
2. Basic Writing Competence
3. Elementary Foreign Language
4. American History Competence

Please see the online Undergraduate Bulletin for details and the most up to date information on University Degree Requirements and Entry Skills at: <http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/bulletin/current/>

### **(2) Honors College Interdisciplinary Seminars (3 credits each)**

For students in the Honors College the Diversified Education Curriculum (DEC) is replaced with the Honors College Curriculum, with the exception of DEC category K—American Pluralism. Course descriptions follow at the end of the handbook.

There are five interdisciplinary seminars required for graduation from the Honors College: HON 105, HON 106, HON 201, HON 301, and HON 401. Students must take HON 105 and HON 106 in their first year and each of the remaining seminars in the three subsequent years, in numerical order (e.g. HON 201, then HON 301, then HON 401). Students may only take one three-credit seminar in a given semester, and one seminar throughout the academic year beyond their first year. For Honors College credit these courses must be taken for a letter grade and must be passed with a grade of C or better; they can be retaken if necessary. Students who enter the Honors College after the fall of their first year at the University are required to take a modified course program. For instance, students entering as sophomores will take HON 201, HON 301, and HON 401; students entering as juniors will take HON 301 and HON 401.

HON 105: Modes of Knowledge (fall semester, first year)

HON 106: Modes of Being (spring semester, first year)

HON 201: The Arts and Society (fall or spring semester, second year)

HON 301: Science, Engineering, Medicine, and Society (fall or spring semester, third year)

HON 401: Global Issues (fall or spring semester, fourth year)

### **(B) Honors Topics Seminars (1 credit each)**

Informally known as “mini-courses” these courses seek to broaden the cultural background of students and use active or participatory forms of learning to create a more informal and exciting classroom experience. Students are required to take four topic seminars that must be completed during the first two years in the Honors College. Students may only take one topics seminar in a given semester. New topics are chosen for these courses every semester and students register for the topic seminar of their choice approximately one month prior to the start of the subsequent semester. For Honors College credit these courses must be taken for a letter grade and must be passed with a grade of C or better. Students who enter the Honors College after the fall of their first year are required to take a modified course program. For instance, students entering as sophomores will take two topics courses; students entering as juniors may be requested to take one topics course.

### **(C) Complementary Electives (3 credits each)**

Honors College students must take four additional courses with at least one course in each of the disciplinary domains other than that of their major (or one of their majors). Complementary electives are intended to round out the student's course of honors study. [The disciplinary domains are (a) mathematics, physical, natural, and health sciences, engineering and computer science (b) fine arts and humanities, and (c) social sciences.] One of these courses must be from DEC category K. Students are urged to take at least one of these courses in a foreign language at the intermediate level or higher or in the literature of a language other than English. The complementary elective courses must be taken for a letter grade and must be passed with a grade of C or higher. A course used to satisfy a University requirement [see (1) above] cannot also be used to satisfy a complementary elective requirement with the exception of the DEC K requirement. Students pursuing a Bachelor of Engineering degree may satisfy one complementary elective with AP/IB credit.

### **(D) Senior Thesis (6 credits)**

All Honors College students must complete a six credit capstone research or creative project, submit an individually authored thesis (to the project supervisor and to the Honors College) and must present the results of the project at the Honors College Symposium. Rules and regulations for completion of this project will be discussed, at length, during the junior year.

### **(3) Major Requirements**

Honors College students may major and/or minor in any undergraduate program offered by the University. Students should consult the Undergraduate Bulletin for information about major and minor requirements in the field or fields in which you plan to concentrate. Students often ask whether it is wise to double major (to major in two departments). Generally speaking we advise students to major in one subject and minor in the other, or take as many courses as they want in the other, because this arrangement provides more flexibility in scheduling. There are certain circumstances, however, in which double

majoring may be wise and efficient; this is a subject students ought to discuss with the Honors College faculty and staff.

## HONORS COLLEGE SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

### **HON 105: Modes of Knowledge**

An examination of the structure and content of knowledge, as well as the ways in which various kinds of knowledge are constituted. The course will examine some classical epistemological and ethical texts and will also consider the ways in which modern epistemological theories, as well as knowledge forms characteristic of the natural sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities have altered and/or affected our understanding of the nature of knowledge. (Fall only)

### **HON 106: Modes of Being**

This course will examine many different modes of being, aspects of the ways in which people think of themselves and behave in the world. These modes of being will be examined through analysis of literary works and through texts that derive from the various social sciences. (Spring only)

### **HON 201: The Arts and Society**

An exploration of the interconnections between art and society, using the biographies and autobiographies of notable visual artists, performers and composers—when appropriate, but also using other appropriate texts that focus on art works by anonymous creators, such as the architects and sculptors who designed and created medieval cathedrals or the anonymous lyricists and composers who created the songs and dances of traditional cultures. Close examination of the works themselves will be an integral part of the course, generally involving several field trips. (Fall/Spring)

### **HON 301: Science, Engineering, Medicine and Society**

An examination of the mutual relations between science, technology, medicine and society: how the sciences and various technologies affect society and, at the same time, are affected by it. This examination will be conducted through the perspectives of disciplines outside the sciences—such as history, philosophy, sociology and economics—in combination with the natural sciences, applied sciences, clinical medicine and engineering. (Fall/Spring)

### **HON 401: Global Issues**

Using historical, geographical, sociological, political and economic perspectives students examine global issues. This examination may be either topical or regional; may be oriented either toward the past, the present or the future. (Fall/Spring)

(Taken from the Course Catalog)

## SENIOR HONORS PROJECT

Every student must do a one year, six-credit senior honors project. Students will complete this requirement in their last two semesters at Stony Brook. Students generally register for HON 495-496, but other arrangements sometimes need to be made in consultation with the Honors College staff.

The senior project must be a substantial research or creative project. This will involve library research, compilation of an artistic portfolio, creation of a musical composition, laboratory research, or any other effort that requires the development of scholarly or creative talent and discipline. Students in CEAS may use their senior design project as their Honors College project. Special arrangements for this must be discussed in advance with the Directors of the Honors College during the semester before the project begins. By University regulation a three-credit course is equivalent to, roughly, 160 hours of work, and students should keep this in mind in gauging the size of the project they intend to undertake.

Every project must have a faculty supervisor. This faculty member must be a full-time tenured or tenure-track member of the Stony Brook faculty who is not on leave, or planning to go on leave, during the two semesters of the project. Adjunct faculty members, graduate students or post-doctoral fellows will not be allowed to supervise projects. The student and the supervisor must jointly file a letter of intent at the end of the semester before the project begins.

Every senior honors project must culminate in a single-authored written thesis and an oral presentation at the Honors College Symposium (generally held a week or two before the end of the semester in which projects are completed). One goal of the Honors College education is to graduate students who can communicate well, and this requirement (that the thesis be single-authored) is intended to help you fulfill that goal. The length of the thesis will depend on the nature of the project. The supervisor and the Honors College Directors will read the thesis and together will determine the grade based upon the thesis and the oral presentation.

Some students may want to use their senior honors projects for departmental honors. Each department has a different way of coordinating this with the Honors College so be sure to discuss this with the Directors of the Honors College in advance.

## **HON 495, 496: Senior Honors Project**

A two semester, six credit, research or creative project to be arranged with and approved by the Honors College and a faculty mentor. The faculty mentor must be a tenured or tenure-track faculty member. The Directors of the Honors College and the selected faculty member will provide ongoing project supervision. With the approval of the Honors College, students may substitute an appropriate, credit bearing departmental honors project or they may, with the approval of the department, submit their Honors College Senior Project for departmental honors. In no case, however, may they submit the same project for academic credit under two different sets of course numbers and/or designators. At the end of the first term a progress report will be expected; at the end of the second term the student must make an oral presentation at the Honors College Symposium and must submit an appropriate thesis. Students receive only one grade for the completion of this sequence.

### **Senior Thesis Timeline**

**Beginning of junior year:** Start thinking about a suitable and attractive project, and talk with the Honors College Directors about the project. Begin contacting potential thesis mentors.

**Beginning of second semester, junior year:** The Honors College will hold a meeting with all juniors to explain the process of submitting the letter of intent. All juniors must attend this meeting.

**Mid-Spring, junior year:** Letter of intent must be submitted to the Honors College.

**End of Spring, junior year:** Attend at least one oral presentation during the Honors College Senior Symposium.

**Beginning of first semester, senior year:** Meet with thesis mentor regularly and develop a concrete plan.

**End of first month, first semester, senior year:** Submit one page synopsis of concrete plan to thesis mentor and the Honors College.

**End of first semester, senior year:** Student submits progress report with a one page synopsis of the work completed during the previous semester and work to be done during the following semester.

**Mid-Spring, second semester, senior year:** Submit first draft to thesis mentor.

**Just before the end of the second semester, senior year:** Final draft submitted to thesis mentor and the Honors College. Student presents at Honors College Senior Symposium.

## ADVISING

The Directors of the Honors College and the faculty members of the Honors College Advisory Committee all function as academic advisors for Honors College students. Each entering first-year student must meet with the Director of the Honors College within the first two months of classes for a first-year appointment, and at least once every semester (for the first two years) in order to decide on a course schedule for the following semester. Juniors and seniors in the Honors College generally receive advising from faculty and staff in the departments in which they have chosen to major in addition to Honors College advising. Students may make an appointment to see the Directors of the Honors College as often as they would like or may drop-in during weekly office hours. To schedule an appointment, students should see Ms. Allison Aldrich in N3071 of the Melville Library. Office hours for the Directors will be posted on Blackboard.

Students interested in careers in law, in medicine, or in other health professions should make certain to speak with one of the specialized advisors in these fields as soon as their career decisions have been made. All students can benefit from the services of the Career Center where they can find information on career exploration, networking, and service learning. Students interested in careers in the academic world should consult with members of the departments in which they plan to pursue careers.

As Stony Brook University undergraduates you can also make use of the facilities of the Academic Advising Center, but Honors College students need to be aware that the advisors in this office are not familiar with Honors College requirements.

While experience does typically bring wisdom, Honors College students are cautioned not to rely too heavily on information received from other students in making course and career decisions. One of the privileges of being a member of the Honors College is access to advice from many people with expertise and wide experience; take advantage of these opportunities.

## TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Familiarize yourself with the academic calendar:

[www.stonybrook.edu/registrar/calendar](http://www.stonybrook.edu/registrar/calendar) and with University policies as well as major requirements:

[www.stonybrook.edu/ugbulletin](http://www.stonybrook.edu/ugbulletin)

Bookmark these sites and write important dates in your calendar.

Talk to faculty. Go to office hours. Ask questions. Relationships with faculty are one of the most rewarding aspects of college life.

Ask questions. See your advisor, talk to your Big Sib, and consult a faculty mentor. We are here to support your success.

Visit the Career Center – for resume workshops, practice interviews, internships, community service projects, and much more. The Center is located at the end of the Zebra Path, in the Melville Library.

Get involved! A club, lab research, a volunteer experience, alternate spring break...there are endless opportunities at Stony Brook.

## Get Help for Free!

Take Advantage of these Stony Brook departments that offer trained staff with proven records to help YOU improve your academic performance!

| Service                            | Courses  | Type of Help   | Location & Approximate Hours*  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Academic Advising – Honors College |  | Advising for students in the Honors College                                  | UAA North Suite, N-3071 Melville Library, x2-4378<br>Consult office hours schedule or call for appt.<br><a href="http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/honorscollege">www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/honorscollege</a>   |
| Academic Advising—CEAS             |  | Advising for students in the College of Engineering & Applied Sciences       | <b>CEAS Undergraduate Student Office, 127 Engineering, x2-8381, M-Fri 10AM – 4PM</b><br><a href="http://www.ceas.sunysb.edu/fas.asp">http://www.ceas.sunysb.edu/fas.asp</a>  |
| AMS Help Room                      | AMS 102, 151, 161, 201,210   | Walk-in questions  | 010, Harriman, Mon-Fri 9AM–5PM Consult Bulletin Board in AMS Office<br><a href="http://www.ams.sunysb.edu/index.shtml">http://www.ams.sunysb.edu/index.shtml</a>   |
| Biology Learning Center            | Any BIO course, particularly intro courses                             | Walk-in questions, Learning resources  | G10 Biology Learning Labs, Consult posted schedule<br><a href="http://www.stonybrook.edu/ugbiology">http://www.stonybrook.edu/ugbiology</a>  |
| Business Learning Center           | Any BUS course   | Walk-in questions  | 301 Harriman, Consult posted schedule  |
| Career Center                      |  | Walk-in and appointment hours; Career exploration, internships, majors, etc. | W-0550 Melville Library; x2-6810; Consult website for schedule<br><a href="http://www.career.sunysb.edu">www.career.sunysb.edu</a>   |
| Chemistry Help Rooms               | CHE 129,131,132  | Walk-in questions  | Room 439, 447, 571 Chemistry, Consult posted schedule  |
| Mathematics Learning Center        | Any Course   | Walk-in questions, Review sessions, Learning resources                       | S-240A Math Tower (Basement), Mon-Wed 10AM-9PM, Thu 10AM-6PM, Fri 10AM-2PM   |
| Physics Help Rooms                 | Any PHY Course   | Walk-in questions  | A129 & A131 Physics, Mon-Thu 8AM-10PM; Fri 8AM-5PM Consult posted schedule   |
| Residential Tutoring Centers       | Selected Courses in AMS, BIO, CHE, CSE, ECO, MAP, MAT, PHY, PSY, & WRT | Walk-in questions, study groups, individual tutoring, exam review sessions   | ITS Center (Gray College), M&W 8-11pm<br>Stimson College Penthouse Lounge, Tu&Th 8-11pm<br>Tabler Center, Classroom 107, Tu&Th 8-11pm<br><a href="http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/res/rtc/index.shtml">http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/res/rtc/index.shtml</a> |
| Spanish Writing Center             | Spanish Writing Projects, Grammar, Usage                               | Individual consulting  | N-3065 Melville Library, Mon-Thur 11AM-4PM   |
| Writing Center                     | Any Writing Project  | Individual consulting  | 2009, Humanities Building, Call 632-7405 for schedule. Go to <a href="http://www.stonybrook.edu/writingcenter">www.stonybrook.edu/writingcenter</a> to make appointment.   |

For information on services available for other courses, ask the instructor.

\*Hours are approximate. For more detailed and up-to-date hours, consult the schedules posted by the relevant office. (Rev.06/07/10)



**HONORS COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY PLEDGE**  
(to be signed by each Honors College student)

As an Honors College student I value my intellectual development as well as my academic success. When grades are achieved through dishonest means, everyone in the academic community suffers and the intellectual development of the person who was dishonest is compromised. I understand that intellectual honesty is the foundation for all academic and scholarly work not just in the Honors College, not just in the University, but in the whole academic community-- national and international.

I have thought carefully about what the phrase, *intellectual honesty* means. I pledge not to submit for a class work that is not *authentically my own*. I will not cheat on an examination or plagiarize on a paper or depend excessively on a collaborator. I will report other people's ideas and discoveries with appropriate attribution. I understand that material derived from electronic media is as much subject to the rules of plagiarism and attribution as material, which is communicated on paper. I will not falsify official records of academic work, assessment or attendance—either mine or someone else's. If I have any questions about any specific matter of academic integrity I will consult the instructor in the course or the pamphlet, *Policies and Procedures Governing Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty*.

I understand that an Honors College student who is found responsible for any form of academic dishonesty may be dismissed from the Honors College. I also understand that my failure to know the rules governing academic dishonesty will not be considered sufficient grounds for remaining in the Honors College.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_