

Honors College Task Force Report

Submitted February 13, 2009

Report to the Senate March 3, 2009



Charge

- Review the existing model and structure of Auburn University's Honors College;
- Look at models used at other peer institutions, aspirational peers, and land grant institutions;
- The ultimate goal is that 5% of each graduating class completes the Honors program.

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Task Force members

- **Bonnie MacEwan**, Dean of Libraries, Task Force Chair;
- **Prathima Agrawal**, Samuel Ginn Distinguished Professor of ECE and Director of Wireless Engineering Research and Education Center;
- **Conner Bailey**, Professor, Agriculture;
- **Jennifer Kerpelman**, Professor, Human Sciences;
- **Curt Lindner**, Distinguished University Professor, College of Sciences and Mathematics;
- **Steve Williams**, Professor, College of Architecture, Design and Construction; and
- **J. Emmett Winn**, Professor and Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts.

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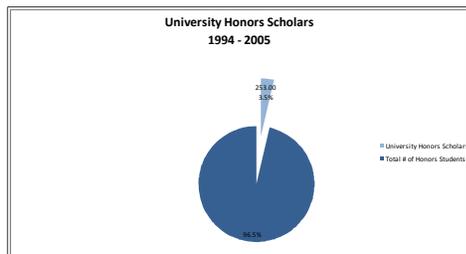
Information Gathering

- Gathered data from OIRA, the Honors College, peer institutions, and the National Council of Honors Colleges
- Listened to President Gogue, administrators, Honors College staff, faculty, students, development staff, and parents
- Visited the Honors College Student Center and the proposed residence hall space in The Village

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Our Challenge:



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Two models considered:

Model 1- Decentralize the program so that colleges/ departments are really the Honors program (give each unit ownership)

Model 2- Develop a stronger central focus of the Honors program with courses that are only for Honors students.

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Honors College Task Force Report

- Sorted our findings into a SWOT analysis
- Developed 11 areas of focus
- Proposed 10 recommendations

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Areas of Focus

- Address attrition, capacity and diversity.
- Increase curriculum flexibility.
- Strengthen administration.
- Enhance incentives.

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Recommendations

- Retain the current centralized administrative structure and staff of the Honors College with a commitment to strengthen advising capabilities.

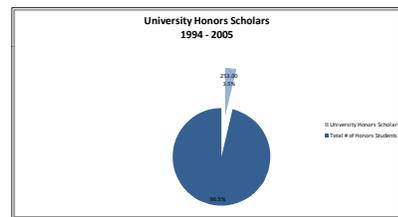


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Recommendations

- Collapse the current Junior and Senior Honors programs into a single flexible four-year program.



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Recommendations

- Replace the current emphasis on the core curriculum with interdisciplinary Honors-only courses and an enhanced menu of flexible study options.



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These options should be designed to fulfill critical experiences

- Meaningful and sustained mentoring relationships with faculty.
- Intellectual engagement with the world beyond the classroom.
- Supervised independent learning opportunities.
- Study abroad/cultural experiences.
- Undergraduate research/scholarship.
- Special Honors-Only Experiences.
- Honors Contract Courses.

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Recommendations

- Endorse the proposal for the Auburn Honors Fast-Track (AHFT), a degree option resulting in an Accelerated Bachelor's and Master's Degree Program to challenge and make effective use of the time and talents of our Honors College students.

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Recommendations

- Provide Honors housing and meeting space in Auburn University's new The Village.



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Recommendations

- Create an Honors Advisory Council (HAC).

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Honors College Enrollment by Term

		Honors College Enrollment by Term Auburn University 2002-2008				
		Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Total
African American	Male	2				2
	Female	4	2			6
Hispanic American	Male	8	2	1		11
	Female	9	2	2	1	14
Native American	Male		1			1
	Female	9				9
Asian American	Male	9	2	1	6	18
	Female	3	9	2	2	16
Caucasian American	Male	224	18	28	19	289
	Female	224	19	27	18	288
Unknown	Male	4	1		1	6
	Female	3	9	1	2	15
Nonresident Alien	Male					
	Female				1	1
Total	Male	260	30	30	28	348
	Female	267	40	30	22	359
New Total		627	70	60	50	807

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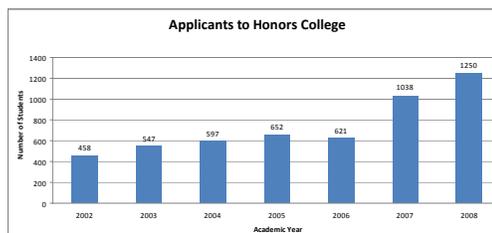
Recommendations

- Address resource problems by retaining current admissions requirements while raising requirements to remain in the program after the freshman year.

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Applicants to Honors College



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Recommendations

- Increase scholarship funding to outstanding students who opt for the Honors program.



Recommendations

- Strengthen the program to identify, encourage, and mentor students to apply for prestigious opportunities such as Rhodes and Fulbright Scholarships.



Recommendations

- Eliminate the expense of multiple Honors sections each semester and reallocate the funds to support the revised program.



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Thank you!!!!

Questions????

