



# Auburn University Honors College

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UNIVERSITY

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# About the Honors College

The broad goal of the HC at Auburn University is to provide a challenging academic experience for each student to give them broad experience within the core disciplines while engaging them in Auburn's land grant mission.

# Background

- Professor in Materials Science Engineering
- 25 years faculty experience in the Big10 – research, teaching, service, HC education (5 yrs Assoc Dean)
- Broad NPS background – Marshall, Gates-Cambridge, NSF Grad Fellowship, Goldwater

# HC entrance requirements

- As an entering freshmen
  - Minimum ACT/SAT score = 29/1290
  - Average ACT score = 32.6
- Students having a  $>3.4$  GPA may also enter the HC at any time after their 1<sup>st</sup> semester

# About the Honors College

- 1,958 HC students (~10%, steady)
- 41% of Honors students have a minor (29%)
- 93.9% of Honors students are retained at one year (87.8%)
- HC 4-year graduation rate is 57.6% (39.8%)
- HC 5-year graduation rate is 81% (62.6%)

# About the Honors College

- 60% attend graduate/professional school
- 60/40 in-state/out-of-state
- EGR, COSAM, CLA, BUS – most popular

# About the Honors College

- The number of Honors Classes taken prior to graduation has minimal effect on a student's GPA (3.73).
- Students taking 10-15 Honors courses had similar GPAs (3.69) in comparison to those taking 1-5 (3.73) and 6-9 (3.75) courses.

# New Honors College Curriculum

Renewed focus on challenging students to:

- Excel in academics
- Engage in undergraduate research
- Study abroad/away
- Examine how their education meets Auburn's Land Grant Mission



# New Honors College Curriculum

- 4-year, flexible, 30-credit program
- 138 H-sections in 2013-14
- Graduate courses
  - Now open to HC students
  - Count towards the 30 HC credits
  - Up to 12 credits can be used towards the Master's Degree

# New Honors College Curriculum

- H seminar courses, H study abroad courses, H research seminar courses
- H research study abroad/away courses
- Senior year experience
  - Research/thesis
  - 3 graduate courses in their major
  - Completion of capstone course at H-level

# National Prestigious Scholars

- Rhodes Scholars – 1 winner & 6 finalists since 2009 (4 in AU's history)
- Mitchell Scholar – 1 winner
- Gates-Cambridge – 3 winners (1 finalist)
- Fulbrights – 9 winners & 8 finalists (est. 25 in AU history)

# HC scholarships & programs

- Scholarships
  - Research – 12 new HC UG Research Awards
  - Academic – merit and need
- Study Abroad – Germany, Costa Rica, Greece/Turkey
  - New (2014) - EuroScholars, Univ Oxford
  - Future - Rome, Asia

# Faculty engagement with the HC

- Teaching an Honors-section
- Honors contracts
- Honors study abroad
- Honors seminar speakers
- UG research mentors
- HC faculty advisory council

# The HC value to Auburn University

- Recruiting the best and brightest students
  - Builds national reputation through NPS
  - Builds graduate school enrollment
- Incubator for teaching/learning success
- Like success on the football field, HC grads build our academic reputation in the boardroom, increasing the value of an AU degree

# How can you contribute?

- Teach an Honors course
- Be a research mentor/study abroad leader
- HC faculty advisory council
- NPS
  - Serve on practice interviews
  - Sponsor a student – UG research

# Thank you...Questions?



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