Academic Plan 2012-2017

Section I. As a small new unit, the Honors College has limited its goals to three.

Raise funding for direct student support in scholarships and undergraduate research funding. We will seek external support to endow more scholarships, to increase the funding for our current Student Undergraduate Research Fund and to support Study Abroad and domestic travel related to courses. We hope to increase our available funds to students from the current $20k/year to approximately $50k/year. (relates to University Goal 3.)

Increase prestige of the college We will continue to work with admissions to recruit high achieving students as well as to tighten standards on our current students; through outreach efforts we will increase our regional and national reputation as a research-oriented honors college. We are preparing students to compete for nationally recognized graduate opportunities ranging from admission to law school to applying for the Truman Scholar award. This goal will be assessed by the decreasing percentage of Honors students with low GPA, increasing number of applications to national award competitions and the acceptances of our students into graduate and professional school as well as other employment data. (relates to University Goal 3)

Build a community of scholars. The heart of the Honors College mission is to build collaborations across campus. Our most important example of this is the many relationships between undergraduates and their faculty mentors in writing theses, but our programs also bring faculty together from across campus. The Honors College staff includes the co-chair of the Common Experience and plays a unique role in bringing this university program into contact with a broad range of faculty. We will graduate 100 students per year with a broad variety of majors and colleges represented. (relates to University Goal 1)

Section II. Below is how the Honors College will address university initiatives.

International Initiatives – We are working to make faculty aware that Study Abroad options can include HON courses. Increase student funding for Study Abroad options.

Research and Creative/Scholarly Initiatives – In addition to current efforts such as the Undergraduate Research Conference, Honors Contract course, Independent Study, and Honors Thesis, we have added a Student Undergraduate Research Fund that is accepting grants from all across campus. We also have a group of Honors students who are pursuing the creation of an online peer-reviewed undergraduate research journal.

HSI Initiatives – Honors College will continue to offer diverse programming in our Coffee Forum including our Dia de los Muertos altar and celebration and to take advantage of minority recruiting initiatives in collaboration with the Office of Admissions. We are actively recruiting more HON courses that highlight Hispanic themes and will offer departmental Honors courses of SPAN 2310 and 2320 in the next academic year.
**Distance Learning Initiatives** – One Honors course in discussion for possible addition as a hybrid course (HON 3396B/TH 3355/TH 5354 Screenwriting). The Honors College is offering our first course at the Round Rock campus in Spring 2013.