

**Honors College  
Academic Plan 2012-2017**

**I. Introduction**



State your department/school/college mission statement.

The Honors College’s mission is to provide undergraduate students across campus the opportunity to take challenging, interdisciplinary courses with the opportunity to design their own courses of study through honors contract courses, independent study classes, and the honors thesis. In addition, by providing faculty the opportunity to propose and teach interdisciplinary courses not offered in their departments, the mission of the Honors College serves faculty development as well as students. And by providing space, programming and courses tied to the Common Experience theme, the Honors College serves as a nexus for interchange across the community.

Outline briefly your “vision” for the 2012-2017 planning cycle.

The dramatic growth of the Honors College in the past five years has brought a diversity of students and faculty together to expand and deepen the academic offerings we provide. In 2012-2017, we will become a center for undergraduate research with awards of \$50000/year. We will intensify Honors community outreach efforts as well as opportunities for service learning in Honors classes and through Honors student organizations. Honors courses will grow to 35 courses with an enrollment of 500 students per semester. To enable Honors student engagement, a student development specialist will assist Honors faculty in advising and student programming beginning with the recruitment of high ability students from high schools and local community colleges, through applications to graduate school and final thesis projects. With the rapid growth at Texas State and high turnover in advising staff, we will also need to expend considerable resources in engaging and educating the university community to ensure that all undergraduates are aware of our programs.

Using University goals and initiatives as a guide, list and briefly describe your top five priorities for the 2012-2017 planning cycle and indicate the university initiative/goal to which the unit's initiative is linked.

As a small unit, the Honors College has chosen to limit ourselves to three equally important priorities.

- **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. Honors College curriculum will be continually updated and made to comply with all academic processes including the implementation of a new core curriculum at Texas State. (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. The Honors College will ensure integration with all units across campus by involving and educating faculty from all departments and colleges who work with undergraduates and by providing advisors with the necessary information to support our students. (relates to University Goal 1)

Based on unit goals, list the number of new (not replacement) faculty lines you plan to request in the 2012-2013 academic year and in the remaining 2-5 years.

The Honors College will continue to offer no tenure or tenure-track positions. We are requesting an additional senior lecturer and a visiting professor position that could be staffed by a member of the university faculty.

Based on unit initiatives outlined in your plan, estimate the total amount of new funding that your unit will realistically need in the 2012-2013 academic year and in the remaining 2-5 years.

Year 1 - \$85,573

Year 2-5 - \$517,000

State the facilities (e.g. offices, research and lab space, classrooms) that will be required for anticipated growth and new initiatives.

Increases in the number of Honors classes will require an additional classroom in Lampasas and additional staff will require restructuring our office spaces. Also, the building lacks sufficient toilets (especially female). In general, the square footage in Lampasas is poorly utilized. However, renovations in a 100-year-old building are costly. A long-term plan will be developed by 2013 so that potential funding sources can be identified. Preliminary discussions and a request for this have already begun with FSS Planning and Facilities.



## II. Process



Describe, in a brief paragraph, the process used to develop your plan, including the nature and extent of faculty involvement.

Input from Honors staff was used to formulate a draft of a plan. This was circulated to all active Honors faculty as well as the Honors Program Committee. Faculty and staff were invited to comment at two open forums. An open house was held for students to comment on the plan as well.

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**III. Program Maintenance**

Maintenance Need	Reason for Need	Cost	Result of Funding
Senior Lecturer <u>(x2)</u>	Increased courses taught by Honors and an increasing administrative burden on our current faculty.	\$ <del>3876</del> ,000/year	Additional sections of HON 4390A and HON 4390B <del>will be</del> needed to raise the number of Honors graduates from ~50 per year to ~100 per year. <u>Also, there is a significant increase in workload due to assessment.</u>
Additional adjunct salary funding	Increased number of courses	Additional \$14,000/year in years 3-5	Current course offerings is approximately 28-29 courses per semester with a target of 35 courses per semester by 2017. This is required to maintain sufficient offerings as the number of students grows.
Additional adjunct salary funding	Increase in buyout per course from \$3500 to \$4000 in 2015	Additional \$99,000 total for 2015-2017	Departments and schools will be more willing to release faculty to teach Honors courses.

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**IV. Planning Categories**

Dept.	Initiative	1 yr	2-5 years	New Resources Required	Cost	Source of Resources	Assessment Criteria	University Initiative
<b>University Goal 1: Promote academic quality by building and supporting a distinguished faculty.</b>								
Honors College	Increase number of Honors courses and improve diversity of classes	X	X	Additional adjunct salary funding	\$84,000 for all years	Internal	Course enrollment and class surveys	3.3
Honors College	Bring a Phi Beta Kappa chapter to campus	X		Summer salary for 2012, travel funds	\$32,573 total	Internal	Grant will be submitted to the PBK national office.	1.5
Honors College	Add Honors Fellow position		X	Funding for adjunct reimbursement	\$46,000 for three years	Internal	Additional scholarly activity and teaching in Honors	
<b>Goal 2: Provide opportunities for a public university education and contribute to economic and cultural development.</b>								
Honors College	Increase scholarship and student travel support for study abroad and conference attending	X	X	Additional staff to allow time for fundraising	Included in other items		Amount of funding generated and awarded	2.3
<b>Goal 3: Provide a premier student-centered, educational experience that fosters retention and success.</b>								
Honors College	Add a student development specialist	X	X	Funding for salary	\$38k/year	Internal	Increased graduation rate in the Honors College	3.2
Honors College	Increase Student Undergraduate Research funding	X	X	Additional staff to allow time for fundraising	Included in other items		Amount of funding generated and awarded	3.3
Honors College	Encourage the establishment of a student-led undergraduate research journal	X	X	Half-time salary for graduate student	\$7500/year	Internal	Successful online journal operating	3.3
Honors College	Increase involvement with student groups	X	X	Half-time salary for graduate	\$7500/year	Internal	Increased activities of student	3.3



				student			organizations	
<b>Goal 4: Enrich our learning and working environment by attracting and supporting a more diverse faculty, staff, and student body.</b>								
Honors College	Support diversity through a range of events and course selections	X	X	None	No additional		Increase in diversity of Honors students and faculty teaching	4.4
<b>Goal 5: Develop and manage human, financial, physical and technological resources effectively, efficiently, and ethically to support the university's mission.</b>								
Honors College		X	X	Facilities planning and funding for renovations	Unknown	State and external	Plan for building generated by 2013	1.4