

**College/Division Name: Honors College  
2-year Review of 2012-2017 Plan**

**College/Division Mission:**

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.

**College/Division Goals:**

- 1. 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.)
- 2. 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)
- 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.

**Top Five 2012-2017 Strategic Priorities for Remainder of Planning Cycle:**

**1. Increase number of courses and participation of students across all undergraduate majors while maintaining an average class size of at least 15 students per regular course.**

**2. Increase number of students writing an Honors thesis to 100/year.**

**3. Plan for increased staffing and students by utilizing additional space and beginning to plan and seek funding for renovations.**

**4. Increase collaborations with departments and units across campus especially by promoting the Common Experience.**

**5. Recruit, retain, and support high ability students throughout their undergraduate career particularly by increasing undergraduate research opportunities and submissions to national fellowship programs.**