May 2017

Dear families of the new Honors freshmen,

On behalf of the UD Honors Program Staff, welcome to the UD Honors Community! Families of Honors students are important to us and we hope seeing you at New Student Orientation (NSO) will just be the first of several times you will visit campus. We will share opportunities to return to campus at a session called, “Academic Life: The Honors Program.” You will also learn about the expectations and opportunities your students have as members of the Honors Program. This session is scheduled at 9:00am during NSO 9:00 a.m. I look forward to meeting Honors families there!

When you arrive at NSO, you will stay with your student for the welcome but the rest of your programming will be separate. The NSO Office has more information about the specifics of the day on this site: (http://www.udel.edu/students/nso/#parents).

Honors students have a full day– getting to know their future classmates at UD, obtaining information about their colleges and curriculums, and learning about the Honors Program’s expectations and opportunities. In the afternoon, students will meet with advisors about fall semester schedules, be photographed for a UD ID card, and attend several informative presentations. Orientation activities will conclude by 5:00 p.m.

Advisement
There are often many questions about advisement. The advisement session is for the student and advisor only. Students need to become comfortable meeting with faculty independently throughout their college education and that process begins at NSO. All Honors students complete an Honors Advisement Form online that will be used to ensure students receive a fall schedule that fits within their degree requirements and meets the expectations of the Honors Program. This is where AP/IB or other college credit should be shared so your student can discuss with his/her advisor how these credits impact the courses taken at UD. In some cases, an advisor might encourage a student to take a course at UD regardless of AP credit earned. Often this recommendation is made in cases where university-level courses are crucial to a student’s success in the discipline. In these cases, the advisor might recommend taking the course as Honors, so the student can acquire knowledge beyond the foundation they received in AP courses.

All students in declared majors will be assigned to faculty or staff advisors in their major departments. Honors students who enter UD as University Studies (undecided) will be assigned to an advisor in the University Studies Program. At NSO, some students will meet with an advisor individually and others will meet in small groups, depending on the major and first semester curriculum. The advisor student meets with at NSO may not be the advisor to whom they will be assigned in the fall.

www.udel.edu/honors/
We can guarantee that students will be enrolled in Honors courses and regular courses necessary to make progress toward graduation; however, we cannot promise that students will get their first choices of courses. Logistics such as timing and classroom locations are also factors when planning a schedule.

**Fall Schedule**
A typical schedule at UD consists of four or five courses. Courses are usually 3 or 4 credits, depending on the nature of the course and the number of contact hours the course involves. Most Honors students take 15-17 credits a semester. Tuition covers 12-17 credits. Twelve is the minimum number of credits required to be a full-time student at UD. Extra tuition will be charged for anything over 17 credits, with a few exceptions.

In the first year, we require Honors students to take an Honors section of ENGL 110 (Seminar in Composition) and an Honors Colloquium course, which is an interdisciplinary writing-intensive seminar. They are taken in opposite semesters, one in the fall and the other in the spring.

We expect Honors students to work towards earning the General Honors Award. Details about this award are on our website ([http://www.udel.edu/honors/](http://www.udel.edu/honors/)).

**NSO**
We look forward to sharing more about the opportunities for and expectations of your student at New Student Orientation. We will discuss some of this information and more at the family session but also with Honors students directly. Don’t hesitate to contact the Honors Program with any questions, (302) 831-1195 or askhonors@udel.edu.

We look forward to meeting everyone this summer!

Sincerely,
Christine Yang Schultz, Ed.D.
Associate Director, Honors Program
University of Delaware