



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

HONORS PROGRAM

CHALLENGE • ENRICHMENT • COMMUNITY

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Outline

- Goal of honors education
- History of UD's Honors Program
- Trend in Honors entities across the US
- Rationale and vision for a UD Honors College
- Why now, and where are we in the process?
- Q/A



Goal of honors education

“Shaping people who will shape the world”

- Challenge academically curious students
- Provide enrichment opportunities for scholars to chase their academic dreams
- Create a stimulating and supportive living learning community



History of UD's Honors Program

- **1976** – founded by Burnaby Munson, Donald Harward, and Provost Leon Campbell, \approx 150 students/class
- **1980's** – 4-year Program plus Honors degree, First-year Honors housing in Dickinson Hall, “Dickinson Fellows,” \approx 250 students/class
- **1990's** – Upper-Division Honors housing with “Senior Fellows,” \approx 350 students/class
- **2000's** – Non-thesis Honors Degree option, General Honors Award, \approx 450 students/class
- **2010's** – Louis L. Redding Hall, “Munson Fellows,” \approx 550 students/class
- **2019** – Largest first-year class ever at 638 students



Honors Program: Notable Contributions

- Helping recruit, retain (advise/mentor), and graduate exceptional students
- Engaging students in High Impact Practices (HIPs) including:
 - undergraduate research and senior theses
 - colloquia and capstones,
 - study abroad, co-curricular activities, service learning . . .
- Providing enrichment funds to support student and faculty initiatives
- Assisting students in applying for and winning major awards
- Training leaders (Munson fellows, Senior fellows, Writing fellows, . . .)



Prestigious scholarship winners last year

Gates Cambridge
Bailey Weatherbee



Truman
Natalie Walton



Goldwater
Yasmin Mann



Fulbright
Mackenzie Campbell '17
Julianna Ly '15
Meghan Juscak '17



UD Warner/Taylor
Bailey Weatherbee
Nick Konzelman



Major scholarship winners from 1990 – 2019

Scholarship	All UD Students	Honors Students	Percentage Honors
Rhodes Scholarship	5	4	80%
Marshall Scholarship	3	3	100%
Mitchell Scholarship	1	1	100%
Truman Scholarship	16	14	88%
Goldwater Scholarship	41	35	85%
Udall Scholarship	2	2	100%
Gates Cambridge Scholarship	2	2	100%
Schwarzman Scholarship	2	2	100%
Total	72	63	88%

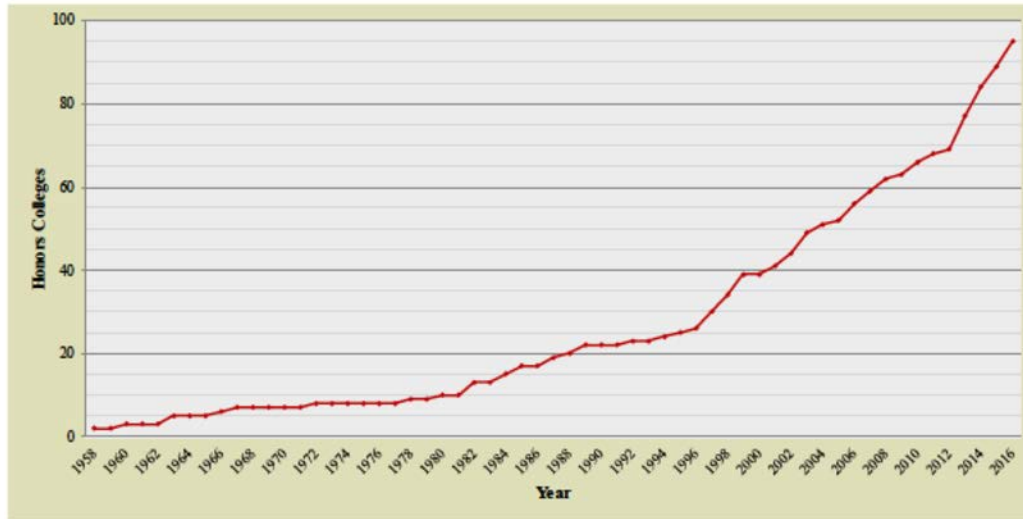


Trend in honors entities across the US



BRIEF: RECENT INCREASES IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HONORS COLLEGES IN THE UNITED STATES

Andrew J. Cognard-Black
February 9, 2017



Number of Honors Colleges in the United States by Year

Source: NCHC 2016 Census of U.S. Honors Programs and Colleges (n = 95)

Honors exemplars

Institution	College	Program
Arizona State University	C	
Boston University	C	
Pennsylvania State University	C	
Rutgers	C	
Stony Brook University	C	
Virginia Tech	C	
University of Massachusetts	C	
University of Maryland	C	
University of Michigan		P
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill		P
University of Pittsburgh	C	
University of South Carolina	C	
University of Texas at Austin		P
University of Virginia		P

Housed in Arts & Sciences

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Only for Echols Scholars



Top reasons for becoming an Honors College

NCHC survey results (Sederberg, 2008)

Responses of 35 Honors Colleges

- recruiting stronger students (100%)
- improving overall campus academic quality (91.4%)
- improving the quality of honors educational opportunities (88.6%)
- raising the profile of honors within the institution (85.7)
- having the head of honors report to the provost (82.8)
- enhancing fundraising potential (60%)



Rationale for change

The Program's most recent APR report in 2017 praised Honors by saying

“The University of Delaware Honors Program (UDHP) has created a thriving and well-established avenue for outstanding students to receive an excellent undergraduate experience”

While praising the program, the APR report also noted that it is time to

“take the honors program at UD to the next level of excellence.”



Vision for a UD Honors College

- Build on rich 43-year history to take the Program to the “next level of excellence”
- Enhance UD’s ability to attract a talented and diverse group of students
- Improve the quality and increase the quantity of Honors educational opportunities
 - Expand High Impact Practices (HIPs), especially for sophomores and juniors
 - Cross-college seminars (annual RFP solicitation for new courses)
 - Signature products (more broad than just a thesis)
 - Enable and encourage in-stream admission of talented students
 - Serve as an incubator for innovative programs
 - Student/faculty mentor program
 - Graduate/professional school preparatory programs



Vision for a UD Honors College

- Increase faculty engagement by building a culture of academic excellence
 - Department liaisons
 - Lunchtime brown bags (e.g. sharing best practices for add-on sections)
- Enhance overall campus academic quality
- Provide a significant development opportunity to generate much needed resources
- Engage in University-wide leadership conversations
 - Honors dean working with other college deans
 - Honors dean reporting to the Provost



Why now, and where are we in the process?

- Proposal developed and supported by
 - ❖ Honors Program Student Advisory Board (14 students)
 - ❖ Honors Program Faculty Advisory Board (23 faculty representing all seven colleges)
 - ❖ Honors Program External Advisory Council (alumni and friends)
 - ❖ Upper administration strongly supports becoming a college
- Resolution introduced at February 10 Faculty Senate meeting
- **Faculty Senate Open Hearing, February 24**
- UG Studies committee, February 26
- Then to the Coordinating, Budget, and Executive committees, and finally back to the Senate for a final discussion and vote



Honors Program Faculty Board

<u>Alenka Hlousek-Radojic</u>, Biological Sciences	Cory Bart, Computer & Information Sciences
Susan Groh, Chemistry & Biochemistry	Sheldon Hewlett, Materials Science
Miranda Wilson, English	Jenni Buckley, Mechanical Engineering
<u>Marcalene Boyd</u>, Languages, Literatures and Cultures	Todd Royer, Health, Nutrition and Exercise Sciences
Alan Fox, Philosophy	Leslie <u>Allshouse</u>, Medical & Molecular Sciences
Alice Ba, Political Science & International Relations	Kathy Schell, Nursing
Beth <u>Morling</u>, Psychological and Brain Sciences	Elizabeth Bayley, Economics
Paul Quinn, Psychological and Brain Sciences	Dana <u>Veron</u>, Geography
Eric Rise, Sociology & Criminal Justice	Bob Hampel, Education
Jason Hill, Art History	Kali <u>Kniel</u>, Animal & Food Sciences
Doug <u>Buttrey</u>, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering	Chris Williams, Entomology and Wildlife Ecology
Josh <u>Enzer</u>, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering	



Thank You

Questions

