



Honors College

#9 Plan cycle - 9

Plan cycle 2022/2023

7/1/22 - 6/30/23

Introduction

The purpose of the Honors College is to promote the academic excellence of the students who are admitted into its program and to enhance opportunities for other students, faculty members, and the local community.

Performance Objective 1 The Honors College will enhance opportunities for its students by recommending, sponsoring, and co-sponsoring lectures and programs.

1 Assessment and Benchmark

Benchmark: The Honors College will sponsor or co-sponsor a minimum of four speakers/programs per year. Ideally these programs will be open to the public and advertised.
Prior to 2017-2018, the benchmark was a minimum of two speakers/programs per year.

1.1 Data

2018-2019:

This was a good year for events. We learned that a well-known novelist (Katie Williams) was living in town, so we asked her for a reading, which was well advertised and well attended. We also had a famous historian of the English languages, Seth Lerer, give a talk. This was also well advertised, including an ad in the newspaper, and well attended. A third event was a talk by an expert on Indian history. The attendance for this was only fair. It was given during the afternoon, so perhaps that was part of the reason for the small crowd. We also helped with two visits by law schools. These events were well publicized, but attendance was relatively light.

Unfortunately there was no Yom HaShoah event this year, which we have in the past helped sponsor. There were logistical difficulties according to the director of this venture. We are considering being more active in efforts to revive this event, but are uncertain at this point, since the time commitment would be great if we were the major player.

2019-2020:

We do not have complete data to check on this item, since our building is closed. We did have at least four events: a presentation on applying for graduate and professional school, a charity formal, an opera night, and a lecture by a scholar on Medieval Studies. Three of the four events were publicized and open to the public. The lecture was very well publicized in the local newspaper.

2020-2021:

Because of hurricanes and Covid we had only one cultural event, a presentation by persons running for the Student Government Association. We also had an Open House outdoors and planted flowers twice at the McNeese tennis courts. Also, we helped to promote a virtual forum on a writer.

2021-2022:

Primarily because of Covid, which was very strong until mid-Spring, we did not sponsor many programs for outside audiences. We sponsored a lecture by Louis Markos and contributed to one of the MFA events. Thus we only had two lectures/readings. Both events were well attended, We did have an Open House and had our Formal for the fall also. Both of these events were also well attended. We advertised for the Markos lecture in the local newspaper, which brought in some attendees from the local community.

Although we will not count this as a cultural activity for the Honors College, we did invite the Governor's Program to the lounge for a Movie Night. About 20 students were there, and the eventwent well. Additional activities were Honors Night celebrating our incoming freshmen and our graduates, and a graduation banquet.

2022-2023:

This year we had two speakers, one on Shakepeare and one on personal finance. We were disappointed with the numbers in the audience. Both events were scheduled during the day, which was intended to make things easier for students to attend, but might have had the opposite effect. In the future, we will try to have events during the evening. Both events were otherwise successful, however. We did not sponsor the Joe Cash lecture last year, but we do have it planned for the fall. For that event we will advertize in the newspaper. We also had our Open House, which was well attended, and our Charity Formal, which was perhaps our best ever. In addition, the Director and some students participated in the Preview Days held by the University.

Academic Year	# of events	# of attendees
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2013-2014	5	—
2014-2015	3	—
2015-2016	4	—
2016-2017	5	180
2017-2018	4	236
2018-2019	4	175
2019-2020	4	150
2020-2021	1	22
2021-2022	2	95
2022-2023	2	23

1.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2018-2019:

We are pleased with last year's events, particularly the reading by Williams and the lecture by Lerer. Both were truly superb and were well received. Events such as law school visits tend not to be as well attended, but they still could be important for individual students in that area.

We plan to continue with our academic talks and with visits by professional schools as we get the opportunity. We currently have a poetry reading scheduled and are looking at other events.

We did not offer an event on student preparation for graduate school, but we hope to do that soon.

2019-2020:

We were generally pleased with this year's event. The lecture by Dr. Martin and the formal were very well attended. We also offered the preparation for graduate school talk, and it was reasonably well attended. The opera night had a good turn out also.

Our plans for next year did not come to fruition because of Covid and hurricanes. We had invited one lecturer on classical fable to come in the fall, but we changed those plans. (written in summer 2021)

2020-2021:

Because of continued problems with Covid and hurricanes, we were very limited in our offerings. Towards the end of the year, we had a presentation by Student Government Association candidates. We also had a few events online, including an open house. In view of the circumstances, we definitely did the best we could. In fact, we may have taken too many risks, but we know of no one who got sick.

We will need to be careful next year, but we anticipate more opportunities to offer events. It is likely that we will do more in-house events rather than fly in speakers. We would like to offer and advertise in the newspaper our Open House and our graduate/professional school event.

2021-2022:

Although we did not reach our numerical goal, we are satisfied with the events this year. It would have been irresponsible to promote programs during certain portions of the year. Also, during the fall we were very much preoccupied with returning to normalcy after the hurricane. We had other priorities, and we had trouble finding venues.

We hope slowly to get back to normal regarding events. We would like to have at least something in the fall and in the spring. Among some possibilities would be inviting some of the law schools to visit again and having a forum for students wishing to go to graduate school.

2022-2023:

We did not meet our benchmark this year, falling two speakers/activities short. We probably were a little bit out of the habit of scheduling these events, since we did not schedule many during the last few years.

Moreover, one of our usual speakers (Southern University Law School) was still not traveling because of Covid. We have already been more proactive in scheduling for next fall, having sent out feelers to one lecturer and to Southern University Law School. We will also be careful to schedule some events during the evening and to publicize one or more in the local newspaper as well as on the McNeese website. Our attendance for daytime events was low, so we need to change our times and do some advertising. We did advertise for our Open House, but we do not typically include it as one of our cultural activities.

2 Assessment and Benchmark

Benchmark: Students in HONS 100 and HONS 200 will be required to attend at least three cultural events per semester and to write short reviews of them.

2.1 Data

Academic Year	# of students in HONS 100 & HONS 200	# of students completing assignment
2017-2018	93	93
2018-2019	94	94
2019-2020	101	101
2020-2021	91	88
2021-2022	89	87
2022-2023	88	88

2.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2018-2019:

Students seem to be responding well to our efforts to get them to attend cultural events. We also managed to get students on board with registering for HONS 100 and HONS 200.

We are offering a few more in-house cultural events, such as opera night, which students (surprisingly) enjoy.

2020-2021:

This year, only 96% of the students did their cultural events during the school year. We had three incompletes, two were from international students. All of these classes were online, so I think there was simply difficulty with students in carrying out the work, given Covid and hurricanes. It is also possible that the teacher did not clearly communicate the requirements clearly enough.

As noted in previous years, we will try to offer more in-house cultural events. These are enjoyable, and at this point, after the height of Covid, students crave socialization. Nevertheless, we will need to be careful about getting together early in the fall, until we know how bad Covid is going to be. (At this point the Delta variant seems to be gaining strength.)

We intend to offer online cultural opportunities as well as carefully planned events in person.

2021-2022:

98% of the students completed this assignment. The 2% is attributable to one student who failed to do the assignment two semesters in a row. Despite efforts to work with this student, it is likely that she will not be a successful completer with the Honors College.

We added a few in-house cultural events, such as movies, as we had planned to do. In the spring, however, we only allowed students to count one of these, since we ultimately want to get them out and visiting different venues. In the fall we also offered a few online options, because of Covid. In the case of outstanding online events it would be good to continue to offer these occasionally.

If Covid continues to wane, we will offer a few more in-house or on-campus activities, but we will be alert to good online opportunities as well.

2022-2023:

This year 100% of the students attended their cultural events and did their evaluations of them. There seem to be several reasons for the improvement. We are getting better at using multiple forms of communication to remind students, more students are in the lounge, thus keeping abreast of events, and we are offering a few more in-house cultural events.

A few students will engage in activities that are not as cultural as others, so we need to do a better job of explaining our expectations. However, we don't want to go to the extreme of saying that only so-called high-cultural events are worthy of attending.

Performance Objective 2 The Honors College will promote individual research, presentations, study abroad, or professional development activities on the part of students.

1 Assessment and Benchmark

Benchmark: Honors College students will be reminded every semester in HONS 100 and 200 of the requirements for honors options. They will also be given a sheet outlining the appropriate number of honors hours they should have per year. This sheet will also be posted.

1.1 Data

Academic Year	# of students graduated without requisite honors hours
2013-2014	2
2014-2015	0
2015-2016	2
2016-2017	1
2017-2018	1
2018-2019	1
2019-2020	0
2020-2021	0
2021-2022	3
2022-2023	0

1.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2018-2019:

This was a good year for us in terms of graduation. We had only one of 24 who did not have the appropriate hours. As noted above, it is always a disappointment to lose even one student. The student in question had taken at least two internships, so we did not maintain as much consistent contact with him as would have been desirable. We need to try to anticipate difficulties with interning students and maintain continued contact with them.

2020-2021:

We had no students in our program who failed to graduate with the Honors College diploma because of grades or honors hours. We are very happy about this, particularly because of the difficult circumstances of this year.

The Registrar's Office has helped up a lot by getting us the list of graduates very early, so we can check on students before it is too late. However, we will need to be extra careful during the coming year, since the number of honors options was rather low during the first Covid and the hurricane semesters.

We will need to inspect transcripts carefully early in the year.

2021-2022:

We were disappointed to have three students not have the proper number of honors hours. Although we have worked closely with students, the lack of continuity during Covid and hurricanes seems to have caused students not to be as diligent as they should have been with their honors options. Also, with the additional dual enrollment credits that many students have, they are sometimes not with us for four full years.

We hope that the additional stress we have placed on honors options during the last year in HONS 100 and HONS 200 will come to fruition next year.

We are also creating a form for each individual student that we will place in a notebook and arrange by hours taken. This should help us keep track of who will be likely to graduate with the upcoming year, so we can make sure they have sufficient honors hours.

2022-2023:

We were happy that we had no students graduate without the required number of honors hours. We did make fliers this year listing very specifically the requirements for graduating with the honors college diploma. We also intend to post that on Moodle for HONS 100 and HONS 200 next year. In addition to the possible improvement from having the form readily available and posted, we have done better at utilizing various means of communication, including social media outlets, emails, and texts. Also, we seem to be getting over some of the problems from confusion and dislocation because of Covid and hurricanes. However, we do need to remain diligent, since it is easy for students to forget their responsibilities.

2 Assessment and Benchmark

Benchmark: Two or more students will receive grants to travel to conferences, study abroad, or for similar purposes.

2.1 Data

Academic Year	# of students that received grants to travel to conferences, study abroad, etc.
2013-2014	7
2014-2015	5
2015-2016	4
2016-2017	4
2017-2018	4
2018-2019	5
2019-2020	2
2020-2021	0
2021-2022	7
2022-2023	6

2017-2018:

One student was awarded an Honors College scholarship to go to England for summer 2018; this student also received a Disney internship in fall 2017. One student received an Honors College scholarship to attend a student leadership conference; he also attended a second conference for which he received money from another source. One student received an Honors College scholarship for summer study in France. Another student received an Honors College scholarship to deliver a paper on mechanical engineering in Montreal during the summer.

2018-2019:

We did a lot this year in aiding students, but we would like to have done more. We helped send two students to the Sigma Tau Delta conference, where one gave a paper. We paid almost all the costs for two students to travel for an art trip to New York City. This was a splendid opportunity for them. We also helped substantially

with one student who gave a paper at a conference in Athens, Greece, and then visited some museums and historical sites.

Unfortunately the University changed its policies so that we could not help another student who wanted to study abroad. We have hopes now that the University has found an effective avenue to encourage study abroad. We do have a student who is currently applying under the new program.

2020-2021:

We did not have any students expressing interest in attending conferences or doing study abroad this year. This is completely understandable because of Covid and the hurricanes.

We have at least one student who has expressed interest in study abroad. It would be worthwhile to have a guest speaker presentation on that topic.

We will continue to remind students that we have funds allocated for academic travel.

2021-2022:

This was a very good year in terms conferences and study abroad. We had two students go to Europe for study abroad (one semester each). Five students went to conferences (psychology, leadership, engineering).

This was perhaps our best year ever in this regard. Particularly with Covid still being a problem, this was a large number of students. We are thankful for Jamie Sutherland's help and for our endowed professorship that helps with these expenses.

We will continue to encourage students in HONS 100 and HONS 200 to engage in these activities. If Covid becomes less of a problem, this area might improve even more, although funding could eventually be difficult if we have too many students wanting to travel.

The University's relatively new Study Abroad program seems to be gaining traction, although we would like to see enhanced opportunities at other sites.

2022-2023:

2.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2018-2019:

As noted, we are relatively pleased with last year's success, although we were saddened that we could not help one student who wanted to study abroad. We have good hopes that his situation is being improved.

We continue to post Calls for Papers and similar information. We also continue to support the Arena and Sigma Tau Delta. We are also open to supporting other student organizations and ventures.

2020-2021:

We are not greatly concerned that we have not had students travel this year. With Covid and other difficulties, it was the last thing on anyone's mind, and there were few opportunities.

We will need to be extra diligent to make students aware of the options, however, since students often imitate what previous students have done, and there are no examples from this year to imitate.

We will try to ask someone to talk about study abroad at one of the seminars, or in a special program.

2021-2022:

We will continue to make students aware that we encourage study abroad, conferences, and similar activities and that we have the funds to help. The best vehicle for doing this is HONS 100 and HONS 200. Students also learn of opportunities and consider taking them, as they see others do so. We will invite our two students who engaged in study abroad to talk with the students in seminar.

2022-2023:

This was a very good year for us in terms of student participation in special projects that include travel. We paid about half of the official costs for two students to travel to Paris (on a university-sponsored trip). We paid the costs for two students to attend conferences (one in engineering and one in business). We also paid the expenses for two students to engage in research opportunities this summer (both in biology/health care). A third is engaging in a similar research opportunity, but she did not require financial assistance. We also have in the works payments for eight students next year to travel to Japan (again on a university-sponsored trip). We are covering about half of their official costs.

We will continue to let students know of opportunities and of the ability of the Honors College to cover costs. The sponsorship of the students traveling to Japan will take a very large chunk out of our Foundation budget, but we can be frugal next year if we need to be.

Performance Objective 3 The Honors College will enhance its study, office, and resource spaces.

1 Assessment and Benchmark

Benchmark: The Honors College will enhance its collection of books, recordings, and films by adding at least 20 such items each year.

1.1 Data

Academic Year	# of books ordered	# of DVDs ordered	Total # of books, DVDS, and testing aids ordered
2013-2014	6	8	14
2014-2015	20	8	28
2015-2016	14	7	21
2016-2017	21	4	25
2017-2018	22	1	23
2018-2019	10	15	25
2019-2020	6	4	10
2020-2021	2	0	2
2021-2022	10	0	10
2022-2023	28	1	29

1.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2018-2019:

We ordered a good balance of materials this year including test preparation manuals, academic books, entertaining movies, and more cultural movies.

Since the Honors College moved its space, we may focus more in the coming year on purchasing furniture, etc., although we still plan to buy some books and movies. This summer we purchased a smart TV, which enhances opportunities for viewing different things and also provides a better viewing experience, since our previous television was older than some of our students!

2019-2020:

We did not meet our objective, but this does not present a problem. We enhanced our space through many other purchases, such as chairs, a water cooler, and a chart of the periodic table. Also, during spring 2020, Covid hit, so we were no longer in our space.

2020-2021:

Again, we did not come close to meeting our goal. During the early fall of 2020, we focused more on getting Covid-related materials, like an air purifier. Almost immediately after school started, we had two major hurricanes. At this point, we are still in the process of assessing what we need. We will certainly need to replace some books, etc., but our space is not officially open, so we cannot get a good sense of what we need. We did buy two books for standardized tests, which students were allowed to use in my office in

Kaufman.

2021-2022:

Again, we did not buy many books and no CDs, although we had several books donated. This year, we were much more concerned with returning the lounge to a workable state than in acquiring new materials. (For instance, for several months we did not have bookcases for the books we had, so it would have been foolish to worry about ordering more.)

I expect that we will meet our benchmark next year, and we do now have room for books. It is likely that we will deemphasize CDs, since the internet is making them more and more (but not totally) superfluous. It is possible we will revise our benchmark next year. One of our student workers has taken on the task for being our official librarian, so we will seek her input for books to be ordered.

2022-2023:

We made progress in restoring the library. We probably lost many items during the hurricane, so we are slowly making up for that. We have a good collection, so we just need to fill in gaps as we notice them. We try to buy a balance of academic books, fun books, and test prep books. The later, of course need to be kept up to date. As noted above, we are now focusing more on books than CDs and DVDs, because so much is available on the internet.

2 Assessment and Benchmark

Benchmark: The director will examine equipment including computers to make sure that students and office personnel have adequate resources.

2.1 Data

2018-2019:

As noted above, we moved spaces, which necessitates some upgrades. The necessity is especially great since now all prospective students will be walking through the lounge. We purchased a new TV (see above), a new printer/scanner, and a new keyboard.

2019-2020:

We purchased two computers this year. One of these was a laptop, which we did not have and thought it would be good for presentations, etc. The laptop came in very handy during Covid and the hurricanes.

2020-2021:

It is difficult to assess our needs right now because of hurricane damage. Technically, our building is not open, but in making visits, I judged that we should get some new computers, so we ordered four. At one time all the computers had been removed from the office, so we assumed they had been disposed of or stolen. However, at least some have reappeared. Given the bad condition of the buildings and the age of the computers, the purchase of four new ones will probably end up being a wise decision.

2021-2022:

By necessity we rather thoroughly updated our technology. After the hurricane, computers were generally not working or did not have the proper connections. We replaced all but one computer, the one in the library. We also got new printers.

Although the process was slow and painful, we ultimately made quite an improvement to our work and study spaces.

2022-2023:

We made good progress in this area. We replaced the computer in the library, although we have yet to get a printer for it. We also bought a color printer, which we did not have before. At this point we probably only need to by a printer for the library, and then see if anything seems to be aging. We will probably keep a standing order from Amazon for printer cartridges; sometimes we run out of them completely and that can cause problems.

2.1.1 Analysis of Data and Plan for Continuous Improvement

2018-2019:

Because of our move and the increased visibility of the lounge, major upgrades were necessary. We have made good progress with adding the TV and some other equipment and by getting rid of a lot of mismatched material.

Continuing our upgrades will be a major focus in the upcoming year. We should get a full-size refrigerator and probably a water cooler (the director and some students are disturbed by the number of water bottles we currently use).

Redesigning the director's office is also necessary and in the works. We are adding a new desk, since the old one was broken, and matching book cases, since we no longer have built-in bookcases.

2019-2020:

During most of the year, our goal of having a good, functioning place for students was met. We had reorganized relatively well after moving, and had secured many items, like a water cooler, that made our space inviting. We did have decorating to do, and we needed a new refrigerator.

By the middle of spring, with Covid arriving, our focus on the lounge and other areas pretty much vanished, since we were not allowed to be there. At that point we simply planned what we would need for the next year.

2020-2021:

The year started with cautious optimism. Everyone was a little scared, but we had done our best to make the lounge inviting and safe, with plenty of disinfectant and an air purifier. Sadly, after only a week or two of normalcy, our building was closed because of hurricanes. At this point it did not seem appropriate to buy new materials, instead we tried to salvage what we could. Unfortunately our instructions were not followed as to what should be saved, so we will have to buy a great deal of furniture etc. We already began this process in the summer of 2021 and will continue full steam in fall 2021 and beyond. However, there was a lot of destruction both by nature and by humans, so this will be a slow process. We need to buy additional bookcases, sofas, tables, a coffee maker, and a refrigerator, at a minimum.

2021-2022:

With a lot of help from Jamie Sutherland, IT, student workers, and our endowed professorships, we were able to update virtually all computers (and we even managed to function with old ones when he had to).

Next year we should probably get a computer and printer for the library and a color printer. We might consider getting another laptop, since our current one is getting a little old.

After we make these purchases, we will need to replace the computers as they age. It would also be good to check on cartridges at least at the beginning of the semesters, so we don't run out unexpectedly. Fortunately most of our printers use the same type, so that makes it easier to keep extras on hand.

2022-2023:

We are doing fine in this area. We simply need to continue to purchase items as we notice they are needed. We do need a new printer for the library. We also need to put in a standing order for toner so we don't run out.