

09/21/12

Educational Support and Administrative Review

[University Honors Program]

1. Overview of

1.1 The Honors Program is a distinguished degree option for outstanding students at UNA. The program is open primarily to entering first year students; second year and transfer students may be admitted on a case-by-case basis. The deadline for application for first year students is December 1 (December 3rd for 2013). Transfer and current students should contact the Honors Program. Admission is selective. The Honors Program is open to students in all majors and colleges. The Honors Program curriculum consists of 27 credit hours of honors coursework, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, a civic engagement component, and a Capstone Project. There are no additional credit hours beyond the hours required for a typical degree. Honors courses replace required courses in the university curriculum and in individual majors. To remain in the Honors Program students must maintain a 3.25 GPA, adhere to university policies, participate in program activities, and make satisfactory progress toward completion of the academic requirements. Students who complete the program graduate with the distinction “University Honors.”

The Honors Program operates with a budget of approximately \$111,321. This figure includes the total salary and benefit package of the Administrative Assistant position that also supports the Writing Center and Learning Communities. The Honors Program also oversees a scholarship budget of \$215,000 that includes

responsibility for awarding UNA's Housing scholarship program.

1.2 Mission Statement

The mission of the Honors Program is to create a supportive campus community of the best students and to offer an educational experience that is challenging

4.

In their academic credentials, students in the Honors Program generally equal or surpass honors students in similarly configured programs at peer institutions. Honors Program students regularly have their work accepted for presentation at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference and other student research conferences.

2. Department/Area Evaluation

2.1 Description of goals.

The primary assessment is through completion of the curriculum of Honors coursework, (Y/N rubric) including Honors Contract courses and the Honors Capstone Project. Additionally, student participation in Honors co-curricular and extracurricular programming that meet Program goals is self-reported in assessment documents every semester and compiled annually. Honors students also complete surveys (3 point Likert scale) each year, the data from which enables additional assessment of progress toward Program goals.

2.2 Summary

The Honors Program is making strides in each area. Honors students are disproportionately (+) represented in annual awards and in leadership positions. Honors students are disproportionately (+) represented in study abroad. Students continue to report they are satisfied with the level of support, emphasis and encouragement toward all Program goals. The Honors Program continues to attract a strong entering class each year with levels of diversity commensurate with that challenge at a regional university with limited scholarship support.

1. *Recruitment and retention of male students*
A proposed Pre-Engineering program co-sponsored by the Honors Program may assist in this effort.

2. *Develop new mechanisms for making progress toward Goals #2 (Leadership), #3 (Global Perspectives), and #5 (Digital Literacies) to include methods of assessing that progress.*
 - × *Goal #2 – Provide more information about leadership opportunities in regular Program communications*
 - × *Goal #3 – Develop closer partnership with the Office of International Programs*
 - × *Goal #5 – Bring speakers from tech fields to address Program gatherings & provide more information about tech careers in regular*

7. Unit Recommendations

7.1 Recommendations for control of _____ if _____

None at the present time

7.2 Recommendations for _____ that require Vice President, Provost or higher levels.

Recommended:

x Additional full time staff position in support of the Honors Program

x Full deliberation should be given to the creation of an Honors College with a full time Honors Dean