

The Honors College

Lesley A. Northup, *Interim Dean*

Juan Carlos Espinosa, *Associate Dean*

José F. Rodríguez, *Assistant Dean*

Cecile Houry, *Coordinator of Student Programs*

Juan Lopez, *Coordinator of Media Services*

Lilian Hernandez, *Coordinator of Recruitment*

Rachelle Galindo, *Coordinator of Student Services*

Alan Raudez, *Coordinator of Student Services*

Talented students often are forced to choose between the exciting opportunities and challenges offered by large, research-oriented universities and the close, personal environment offered by small liberal arts colleges. FIU offers the best of both worlds. The Honors College is a small community of dedicated scholars—outstanding students and committed teachers—who work together in an atmosphere usually associated with small private colleges, but with all of the resources of a major state university.

The mission of the Honors College is to create an intellectual community where outstanding students and teachers engage in innovative, interdisciplinary, and international learning. This community is committed to excellence in all endeavors, academic and personal honor, innovative pedagogy and research, and respect for self and other.

The Honors College at FIU offers the very best in undergraduate education and preparation, providing an important foundation for academic, social, and professional development. Students' undergraduate experiences are significantly enhanced by the interdisciplinary focus of the curriculum and the opportunity to work closely with top faculty from a wide variety of academic departments and schools. An emphasis on civic engagement and community involvement (such as the College's extensive partnership with the City of Sweetwater) expands students' leadership skills and provides an arena for social interaction. Leadership, mentoring, and internship opportunities made available through the College help prepare students for future graduate and professional study or employment.

Location

The Honors College operates at both Modesto A. Maidique Campus in DM 233 and the Biscayne Bay Campus in ACI 200.

Admissions Policy

Admission to The Honors College is selective and limited. Students are admitted only at the beginning of each academic year (fall term).

Freshmen: Students with a 3.5 weighted high school GPA and commensurate scores on the SAT or ACT are eligible for admission to the College.

Transfer and Continuing FIU Students: Students who have maintained a 3.3 GPA in all college-level work are eligible for admission to the College. To be eligible for admission, students must have at least two full academic years remaining in their undergraduate programs.

Academic Policy

Students are required to maintain a cumulative 3.3 GPA for satisfactory standing in the Honors College.

Graduation Policy

Students are eligible for the transcript notation "*Graduated Through The Honors College*" if they have met the following criteria:

- completed all major and degree requirements for graduation from the University;
- were continuously enrolled in Honors seminar courses until the semester of graduation or the completion of the Honors College curriculum;
- completed a minimum of 12 credits of Honors seminar courses, contingent upon time to graduation. For example, if a student enters as a freshman and finishes a degree in four years, the student will need 24 credits of Honors seminar courses;
- maintained an overall minimum FIU GPA of 3.3.

Honor Policy

In the Honors College, the term "honor" refers to both academic achievement and character. Students in the College should therefore adhere to and be held to the highest standards of personal accountability. Students whose behavior brings discredit upon themselves and/or the College or who commit acts of academic misconduct may be dismissed from the College.

The Honors Curriculum

Students in the College possess dual academic citizenship. They pursue any major available in the University and at the same time complete the Honors curriculum. In most cases, participation in the College does not increase the number of credits required for graduation. Each year students enroll in one honors seminar that is designed to stimulate thoughtful discussion and creativity and to develop communication skills. Honors seminars are ideally limited to a student/faculty ratio of 20:1 and are taught by some of the best teachers in the University. In the junior or senior year, students may choose from several options including additional seminars, independent research, and foreign study.

Many classes are team-taught; all are interdisciplinary. Years I – II at Modesto A. Maidique Campus are structured similarly: students and faculty at each level meet in a large group session one day a week for lectures, panel discussions, case studies, student presentations, films, and special events; the other class meeting each week is spent in small group discussion sessions. At the Biscayne Bay Campus, classes meet as individual seminars. Professors at both campuses meet with the same small group throughout the year. The third and fourth years provide a choice of individually taught seminars with an emphasis on synthesizing the students' experiences during the previous years and on introducing students to graduate level research skills, as well as opportunities to study abroad.

The Honors curriculum is designed to enhance students' undergraduate education by helping them develop the following competencies:

1. Enhanced Research - Honors College students will learn the principles of conducting academic research,

how to evaluate sources and information, how to construct a dialogue between knowledge and values, logical analysis and synthesis, and advanced communications skills.

2. **Interdisciplinarity** - Students will learn to apply ideas, methods, and knowledge from multiple disciplines to a question, recognize connections among things learned inside and outside the classroom, comprehend the complexity of important questions, and contextualize ideas, knowledge, information, and experiences.
3. **Internationalism** - Students will understand the interconnectedness and interdependence of global systems and issues; the historical, cultural, economic, and political forces that shape societies; and the nature and substance of various cultures.
4. **Appreciation of the creative arts** - Students will learn to articulate the importance of cultural artifacts and their production and to integrate knowledge and appreciation of the arts into their exploration of important questions and issues.
5. **Leadership Skills** - Honors College students should demonstrate awareness and application of ethical principles, assume leadership roles in the classroom, organization(s), and/or the larger community, and participate in activities that contribute to the common good.

Year One

IDH 1001, IDH 1002 The Origin of Ideas and the Idea of Origins (6). The course is designed to encourage students to become self-conscious learners, exploring not only the what, but also the how and why of knowing. The course focuses on the nature of truth and reality and our role in the world each of us has constructed.

SLS 1501 Honors First Year Experience (1). This required fall semester course participates in the university's FYE program, but with enhanced research training for Honors students.

IDH 1931 Honors Leadership Seminar (1). This required spring semester course provides a "toolbox" of leadership skills and overview of the qualities demonstrated by different kinds of leaders.

Year Two

IDH 2003, IDH 2004 Inhabiting Other Lives (6). This seminar exposes students to issues of human commonality and diversity, and invites them to investigate and to understand the interconnectedness of various cultures, times and life experiences.

Year Three

IDH 3034, IDH 3035 Aesthetics, Values, and Authority (6). Building on the investigations of the first two years, the third course examines the aesthetic underpinnings of culture and foundations of what commonly are held to be "western values." Discussions focus not only on these paradigms, but on the authority and power relationships that surround them.

Year Four

Prerequisites

1. 3.0 GPA in prior honors course work; and
2. A cumulative GPA of at least 3.3.

Option 1

IDH 4007, IDH 4008 Looking to the Future (6). Discussion of contemporary issues within the framework provided by the first three years of study;

Option 2

Departmental Honors Requirements—Honors course work or honors thesis opportunities offered by individual departments;

Option 3

HCARP Research project—Individual research projects under the direction of a faculty member from the student's major department or through the Honors College Advanced Research Program;

Option 4

Foreign Study

Students may choose to complete the fourth year of the honors curriculum at one of the College's summer study abroad programs during the summer. See http://honors.fiu.edu/study_abrd_programs.htm for current programs.

Honors Place

Honors Place at Panther Hall was named Outstanding Living – Learning Community by Florida Student Leader Magazine in 2003. Honors Places provide students the opportunity not only to live together, but to study, socialize, and serve the community together as well. There are two Honors Places: Honors Place in Lakeview Hall (1st-year students) or in Everglades Hall (sophomores and above) at Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

For more information on how to be a part of Honors Place, visit

http://honors.fiu.edu/slife_honorsplace.html.

Honors College Advanced Research Project (HCARP)

The HCARP Program engages students in advanced research and artistic projects during their undergraduate studies. HCARP pairs students and faculty for cutting-edge research usually done only by graduate students, enhancing knowledge and research skills and their attractiveness to top graduate schools and employers.

Student Information Technology Centers

Student information technology centers are located in the Honors College office on both the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campuses. Honors students may use the computers and printers or study in the lounge areas. Honors also maintains a study room in the Green Library on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and carrels in the libraries on both campuses.

Student Organizations

Gamma Epsilon Phi at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and Tau Sigma Alpha on the Biscayne Bay Campus move the Honors experience beyond the classroom by organizing social and cultural activities and community service projects. The societies provide community and opportunities for leadership development. Other student groups include the Honors Student Ambassadors, MUSE

(student-student mentoring), HOW (Helping Our World), and the Honors Leadership Council.

Mentoring

Mentoring is an important component of the Honors College experience. A close mentoring relationship with a faculty/staff member or community leader can facilitate and enhance the educational or professional experience. Mentoring in the Honors College is multi-faceted. Through HCARP, students develop a close, one-on-one relationship with a research professor. The student-led Mentoring Undergraduate Students for Excellence (MUSE) program pairs entering freshman with an upper-class student mentor. The Student Program Coordinator works with students to develop leadership skills, community service programs, sites for internships and part-time jobs, and college and employment recruitment opportunities. Corporate and community partners also offer unique mentoring for selected students.

Graduate and Professional School Placement

The College has special relationships with the university's professional schools that offer students unique opportunities: a three-plus-three program with the College of Law allows eligible students to begin law school in lieu of their fourth year of undergraduate study, and an agreement with the College of Medicine guarantees Honors College students a personal interview, based on eligibility. In addition, the College also offers many invitation-only graduate school interviews.

Other Privileges

Because of the special nature of their contribution to the university, Honors College students enjoy other privileges as well, including

- Priority registration
- Library privileges as graduate students
- Opportunities for Honors-only scholarships
- Participation in community partnerships for service learning
- Opportunities for advanced research
- Supplemental funding to attend conferences
- Internships and mentoring
- Leadership training
- Special recognition at commencement ceremonies
- "Graduated through the Honors College" on the transcript

Fellows of the Honors College

Alonso, Irma, T., Ph.D. (*University of York, England*),
Economics

Alvarez, Daniel, M.A. (*Harvard University*), *Religious Studies*

Baez, Benjamin, Ph.D. (*Syracuse University*), *Higher Education*

Bailey, Regina, M.F.A. (*Pratt Institute*), *Art*

Bailly, John, M.F.A. (*Yale University*), *Painting and Printmaking*

Barantovich, Martha, Ed.D. (*Florida International University*), *Leadership and Professional Studies*

Becker, David, Ph.D. (*M.I.T.*), *Chemistry*

Beesting, William, K., Ph.D. (*Florida State University*),
English

Blevens, Frederick, Ph.D. (*University of Missouri*), *Journalism and Mass Communication*

Davies, Gwyn, Ph.D. (*University College, London*),
History

Espinosa, Juan Carlos, Ph.D. (*University of Miami*),
International Studies

Fain, Stephen M., Ed.D. (*Columbia University*),
Leadership and Professional Studies

Fingerhut, H. Scott, JD (*Emory-University*), *Law*

Garrote, Ruben, M.A. (*Florida International University*), *Religious Studies and Philosophy*

Gerstman, Bernard, S., Ph.D. (*Princeton University*),
Physics

Graham, Devon, Ph.D. (*University of Miami*), *Biology*

Grof, Andrew, M.S. (*Queens College-CUNY*), *Library Sciences, M.A.* (*Fordham University*), *Philosophy*

Hanly, Elizabeth, M.A. (*Columbia University*), *Journalism and Mass Communication*

Hoder-Salmon, Marilyn, Ph.D. (*University of New Mexico*), *English*

Kakar, Suman, Ph.D. (*University of Florida*), *Criminal Justice*

Kass, Scott, M.S. (*Florida State University*), *Library Science, English Literature*

Machonis, Peter, A., Ph.D. (*Pennsylvania State University*), *Modern Languages*

Markowitz, Pete, E. C., Ph.D. (*College of William and Mary*), *Physics*

Morcillo, Aurora, Ph.D. (*University of New Mexico*), *History*

Northup, Lesley, A., Ph.D. (*Catholic University*),
Religious Studies

Peterson, Brian, Ph.D. (*University of Wisconsin, Madison*), *History*

Pfeiffer, Mary Lou, LL.M. (*St. Thomas University*),
Human Rights Law, M.A. (*Florida International University*),

Religious Studies

Placide, Sharon, M.A. (*Florida International University*), *Hispanic Studies*

Pyron, Darden, Ph.D. (*University of Virginia*), *History*

Riach, James, Ph.D. (*University of Georgia*),
Anthropology

Ritzi, William, M.S. (*Florida International University*),
Art Education

Schwartz, Bennett L., Ph.D. (*Dartmouth College*),
Psychology

Tsalikis, John, Ph.D. (*University of Mississippi*),
Marketing

Vilanova, Jose, J.D., M.A. (*Duke University*), *Law*
(*Catholic University*), *Religious Studies*