

University Honors College

2020 Strategic Plan

Engage • Explore • Evolve

Core Values

The Oregon State University Honors College is committed to three core values:

- **Engagement.** The Honors College will provide a transformative educational experience that compels involvement.
- **Inclusivity.** The complete Honors College experience will be available to and accessed fully by all Honors College students.
- **Diversity.** The Honors College will create a community of scholars, where all are welcomed, respected, and able to fully engage.

Mission

At the Oregon State University Honors College, the most outstanding undergraduates in each of the University's academic colleges engage in unique curricular and co-curricular opportunities designed to help them explore their fields and evolve into creative thinkers whose world-class abilities are magnified by global perspectives. The Honors College curricular and co-curricular experiences are designed to create graduates who have the ability to engage in pursuits that create new knowledge and contribute to one or more scholarly areas of study and have the capacity to fully engage in meaningful dialog incorporating cross-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary perspectives.

Within this context, the mission of the Honors College is to

- Serve the needs and aspirations of high-achieving undergraduate students in the state of Oregon and the region;
- Provide a transformative educational experience through innovative curriculum, featuring individualized and engaged learning opportunities with talented and dedicated faculty and staff;
- Create a multifaceted honors experience, which includes a compelling residential experience and comprehensive co-curricular programming that provides leadership, service, and global learning opportunities; and
- Provide meaningful undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative work experiences, which leverage OSU's three Signature Areas of Distinction -- Advancing the Science of Sustainable Earth Ecosystems; Improving Human Health and Wellness; and Promoting Economic Growth and Social Progress.

Strategic Priorities

After nearly two decades of growth, the Honors College is on the cusp of its next wave of development – the creation of a multifaceted honors experience that will be a beacon for high-achieving students in the state and beyond,

supporting their growth as campus and eventually world leaders. Building on our core values, we have identified the following strategic priorities to guide this development:

Strategic Priority 1:

Expand experiential learning to provide Honors College students with transformative opportunities in research, leadership, service, and global learning.

The Honors College is committed to providing experiential learning opportunities that make the world a classroom. Honors students will engage directly with contemporary challenges through both their honors coursework and honors co-curricular programming.

This strategic priority is in support of OSU's Strategic Plan 3.0, Goal 1: "Provide a transformative educational experience for all learners" and the associated strategy to "Make high-impact learning a hallmark of Oregon State undergraduate education, preparing students for responsible citizenship and global competitiveness." This strategic priority is also closely aligned with OSU's Strategic Plan 3.0, Goal 3: "Strengthen impact and reach throughout Oregon and beyond" and the associated strategy to "Increase the number of Oregon State students who participate in study abroad."

Tactic: In partnership with faculty and staff from academic colleges, academic affairs, and student affairs, develop and provide experiential learning opportunities related to research/scholarship/creative activity, leadership, service, and global learning through incentive programs, such as curriculum development grants and faculty mentoring programs.

Strategic Priority 2:

Ensure that high-achieving students from all backgrounds, majors, and colleges choose the Oregon State University Honors College.

High-achieving students are one of Oregon's and the region's greatest assets. Bringing high-achieving students to Oregon State University has a positive impact on the student body at the University and a positive, long-term impact on the state's economy. Because of their academic credentials and their demonstrated engagement outside of the classroom, students admitted to the Honors College are heavily recruited by other institutions. Competitive scholarship packages are critical in our ability to recruit high-achieving students.

This strategic priority is in support of OSU's Strategic Plan 3.0, Goal 1: "Provide a transformative educational experience for all learners" and with

the associated strategy to “Expand strategies to recruit diverse and high-achieving students.” This strategic priority is also in support of OSU’s Strategic Plan 3.0, Goal 2: “Demonstrate leadership in research, scholarship, and creativity while enhancing preeminence in the three signature areas of distinction” and the associated strategy to “Expand and cultivate trans-disciplinary research through partnerships with Oregon State, along with industry and national and international partners.”

Tactic 1: In partnership with the OSU Foundation and academic colleges, develop competitive recruitment scholarship packages to attract high-achieving students from all backgrounds, who are interested in the entire range of academic programs at OSU to apply to and select OSU.

Tactic 2: Expand outreach and recruitment efforts directed to underrepresented college populations, in partnership with academic colleges and the OSU Office of Admissions, and work to identify and mitigate barriers to application.

Strategic Priority 3:

Make the complete honors experience accessible to all Honors College students.

Over 25% of current Honors College students have been identified as having high financial need, and 34% have high or medium financial need. These students will be forced to make difficult choices, e.g., paying the Honors College differential tuition or paying for books, food, and rent. Additionally, students with higher levels of financial need take on part-time employment and are also unable to fully participate in enriching curricular and co-curricular opportunities provided by the Honors College due to their need to work.

This strategic priority is in support of OSU’s Strategic Plan 3.0, Goal 1: “Provide a transformative educational experience for all learners” and the associated strategy to “Enhance an integrated learning environment that raises and equalizes retention and success of all learners.”

Tactic 1: In partnership with the OSU Foundation and academic colleges, develop Honors Tuition scholarships and expand Experiential Learning/Work scholarships.

Tactic 2: Create structures and programs that support access, engagement, and success for all Honors College students.

Strategic Priority 4:

Grow Honors College enrollments in support of the university's high achiever enrollment goals.

The Honors College will enroll approximately 1,100 students in the fall of 2016. As OSU's undergraduate enrollments grow to an estimated 25,000, we will grow the size of our incoming class each year to 350 to maintain a critical mass of Honors College students, representing 3% - 7% of the on-campus undergraduate population. In addition to meeting enrollment goals, the Honors College must substantially improve honors degree completion rates, which are historically and currently around 50%.

This strategic priority is in support of OSU's Strategic Plan 3.0, Goal 1: "Provide a transformative educational experience for all learners" and the associated strategy to "Enhance an integrated learning environment that raises and equalizes retention and success of all learners."

Tactic: In partnership with OSU Admissions, the High-Achieving Student Workgroup, the First Year Experience Taskforce, and academic colleges, develop goals for increasing non-resident enrollments in the Honors College and ensure consistency in honors first year programs, while customizing honors first-year experiences to increase degree completion rates.

Strategic Priority 5:

Expand the Honors College living-learning community to create a comprehensive and compelling Honors College experience, which addresses the needs of all Honors College students.

The current Honors College living-learning community serves approximately half of first-year honors students and less than 10% of returning students. There is evidence that Honors College degree completion and success in the honors community is strongly influenced by participating in Honors College living-learning communities. Additionally, common and dedicated space to enable connections between honors students, faculty, and the larger community is critical to building a sustainable community.

Tactic: In partnership with University Housing and Dining, develop a fully-integrated Honors College living-learning community, which will enable substantial integration of living-learning programming and which will house at least 75% of first year students and 25% of returning students.