

Fullerton College Honors Program Student Handbook



Office: College Center, Room 225

Phone: 714.992.7133

Email: honors@fullcoll.edu

Web: <http://www.honors.fullcoll.edu>

The Honors Program

The Fullerton College Honors Program consists of specialized courses designed to develop exceptional academic ability in highly motivated students as they prepare to transfer. Honors courses provide intensive instruction and challenging course work through close interaction with faculty to provide students with an enriched educational experience. The Honors Program also offers valuable opportunities for community service, cultural enrichment, and participation in undergraduate research conferences.

Honors Classes

Faculty design Honors classes to

- Be smaller than the traditional class. With only 20 or 25 students, students can develop strong “high-level” cognitive skills such as problem solving, evaluation, synthesis, critical thinking, and independent thinking;
- build writing and research capabilities in students so that they can excel at upper-division work after transfer; and
- create a challenging, highly interactive, enjoyable academic experience.

Honors Societies

Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS)

Our mission is to promote, maintain, and recognize student achievement, offer programs that provide educational, cultural, and social enrichment for members and campus, and to volunteer services to the campus and community.

Benefits:

- Have your academic excellence recognized at graduation: graduation stoles and preferred seating in the front rows, listed in the Commencement Program.
- Give back to your college and community
- Gain valuable service and leadership skills
- Be eligible to compete for academic and service scholarships
- End of the year banquet

Eligibility:

Students who have completed 12 semester units and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or Incoming Freshmen who have a cumulative high school GPA of at least 3.50
<http://agsfullertoncollege.wordpress.com/>

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK)

The purpose of PTK is to recognize and encourage scholarship among two-year college students. To achieve this purpose, PTK shall provide opportunity for the development of leadership and service, for an intellectual climate for exchange of ideas and ideals, for lively fellowship for scholars, and for stimulation of interest in continuing academic excellence. PTK participates in Honors in Action Program and the College Project.

Benefits:

- A notation on official transcripts denoting lifetime membership
- Gold graduation stoles for all members participating in Fullerton College Graduation, listed in the Commencement Program, preferred seating in the front rows
- Access to millions of dollars in scholarships
- Letters of recommendation, Golden Key membership pin, and Embossed membership certificate

Eligibility:

Students who maintain a 3.25 grade point average or higher and are currently enrolled in at least 3 units at Fullerton College.
<http://ptk.fullcoll.edu/>

Honors Program Admission

Admission: To be accepted to the Honors Program, a student must:

- Submit an **Application**. Available in the Honors Program Office. (See the Program's webpage: <http://honors.fullcoll.edu>)
- Have a cumulative academic **3.40 GPA or higher** for guaranteed admission. If you have a GPA between 3.0 – 3.3, we will review your application and notify you.
- Submit **transcripts** of all college work. Students with fewer than 9 semester units of graded college work should submit transcripts of high school work. Unofficial copies are acceptable.
- Returning students (out of high school for at least 5 years) and Veterans can choose to join with a GPA below 3.4. Please see a counselor to discuss academic renewal options if you have transcripts with low grades from previous college courses.

Maintenance: To be "in good standing," Honors students should:

- Earn a cumulative GPA ≥ 3.25 overall
- Meet with a counselor at least once per semester. To make an appointment, call **714-992-7084 early** (8 a.m.) Monday morning for that week.
- Make reasonable progress toward Program completion. Usually, this equates to at least one Honors class every semester.
- Make reasonable progress toward completing academic goals such as major preparation.
- Engage in community service, school service, or leadership activity, unless for extenuating circumstances you cannot participate.
- Commit no acts of academic dishonesty or other violations of the Fullerton College Student Code of Conduct.
- In dealing with the Honors Program Office and the Honors Counselors, keep all appointments, update contact information as needed and complete correspondence in a timely fashion, meeting deadlines, in a respectful, professional manner.

“This Week in Honors”

Each Monday morning, during the regular semester, honors students will receive a weekly e-mail newsletter with announcements, campus events, deadlines, and other important information. Please be sure to read this newsletter and pay attention to deadlines listed. If you stop receiving the newsletter, it is your responsibility to contact the Honors office with an updated email address.

Honors Program Certification

Honors Certification: All Honors courses counting toward Program completion must be graded (Pass/No Pass is not allowed). Up to six units of Honors coursework may be taken at Cypress College or, by petition, at other HTCC California Community Colleges. <http://htcca.org> To “complete the Honors Program,” not only current Good Standing but also the accomplishment of one of the two Honors track options is required:

Standard Honors Certification

Complete at least 15 units of Honors coursework with a “C” or better and an overall GPA of 3.4+

STEM Track Honors Certification

An overall GPA of 3.4+ and complete at least 9 units of Honors coursework and 6 units of high-level STEM non-honors coursework with a “C” or better, attend at least two extracurricular events that relates to your major or career interests **and** one of the following:

- 50 hours of Service Learning with a paper
- Two Academic Conference Presentations
- 30+ Internship hours in your field
- A supervised STEM Weekend Experience
- Other high impact learning experience

STEM Non-Honors Coursework Acceptable for Certification:

Physics: 221, 222, 223, 299

Chemistry: 111A, 111B, 211A, 211B

Biology: 170, 272, 274, 276, 299

Mathematics: 150B, 250A, 250B,

Applying for Honors Certification

All qualified students must apply for Honors Certification. Applications are available in the Honors Office. Applications must be received by March 1st to be recognized as “Honors Certified” at the spring Honors Certification Lunch and receive a graduation medallion for Commencement (graduating certified students only).

Students who complete the Honors Program receive not only the Certificate but also special transcript notation, “Honors Certified [Sem/Yr].”

Honors Program Benefits

The benefits of participating in the Honors Program are many. The table below provides a breakdown of the main benefits:

Benefits and Opportunities	Honors Program	Honors Certified
Smaller classes	✓	✓
Challenging and enjoyable academic experiences	✓	✓
Dedicated faculty and staff	✓	✓
“H” transcript notation for each Honors course taken	✓	✓
Weekly Newsletter to keep you informed of campus events	✓	✓
Service Learning Opportunities	✓	✓
Eligibility to join PTK and AGS honor societies	✓	✓
Library cards at UC Irvine and UCLA	✓	✓
Study Abroad Opportunities	✓	✓
Opportunity to be an Honors Ambassador	✓	✓
Enhanced preparation for upper-division work	✓	✓
Eligibility to participate in Honors research conferences	✓	✓
Eligibility to submit to Honors publications	✓	✓
Eligibility for Honors transfer consideration		✓ ^①
Eligibility for Honors scholarships at transfer partners		✓ ^①
Recognition at spring Honors Certification Lunch		✓
“Honors Program Certified” on transcript		✓
Honors Certification certificate signed by FC President		✓
Honors Medallion for Graduating Certified Students		✓

①Honors Program completion is necessary for participation in all Honors transfer agreements; however, agreements vary widely. **Program completion alone is not sufficient for eligibility to participate in every transfer agreement.**

The Honors Calendar

It is impossible to give exact dates for many things you'll need to keep track of. Use this as a general "heads-up" guide. It may change. **Keep in touch! Read the "This Week in Honors" every Monday morning!**

This calendar is for the Honors Program only. This calendar does not contain

- **Course recommendations;** that's the Honors counselors' job.
- **Transfer application & post-app deadlines**(See <http://transfer.fullcoll.edu/>)

Month	A Typical Year	Conferences, Publications	The Year Before Transfer
July	Fall registration begins		
Aug.	Late-August: Classes start		Get Transfer Center calendar for transfer workshops
Sept.			Attend Transfer Center application workshops.
Oct.		Due early October: SCCUR abstracts Due mid-October: submissions to Scribendi, honors literary magazine http://www.wrhc.nau.edu/	Apply to CSUs. FOR UCLA TAP: - Consult the Honors Counselor for allowable alternate majors . To be eligible you must put them on your November app Keep your GPA > 3.5 too!
Nov.	Spring registration www.fullcoll.edu/class-schedule	SCCUR Conference http://www.sccur.org	Apply to UCs.
Dec.	Over Break: Start application for Fullerton College Foundation scholarships. www.fullcollfoundation.org	Due early Dec.: HTCC conference abstracts.	
Jan.	Late Jan: Classes start	Due Late January: abstracts for the BHC conference	
Feb.		Due Feb 20: Application to volunteer (and earn free registration) at the HTCC conference	Mid-Feb: CSU transfers file for AA-T / AS-T degree

March	March: Apps due for Fullerton College scholarships.	Mid-March: HTCC Conference (UC Irvine)	Early March: File for AA/AS degree (non-CSU)
April		Due mid-April: Building Bridges abstracts HTCC presenters only Late April or early May: BHC conference (Stanford or Berkeley)	☺ Try very, very hard not to check your email every 10 minutes.
May	Summer registration begins	Fullerton College Division and Foundation Scholarship Ceremonies	Apply for Transfer Scholarships Transfer Celebration Commencement!
June			Submit SIR File for IGETC certification.

University of California Honors Transfer Agreements

Honors transfer agreements have nothing to do with the UC Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG). Consult the Transfer Center for your best TAG strategy.

- **UC Berkeley Transfer, Re-entry, Student Parent Center:** Though CAL doesn't offer a transfer agreement, they do have a "**Starting Point Mentorship**" opportunity which provides our students with a UC Berkeley student mentor that offers guidance, motivation and access to campus and community resources.
- **UC Irvine Honors-to-Honors: Honors Certified students who have earned a GPA of 3.7 or higher** are eligible for UCI's Campuswide Honors Program, with a Regents Scholarship, eligibility for Honors housing, priority registration, and other benefits.
- **UCLA TAP (Transfer Alliance Program): Honors Certified students with a GPA of 3.5 or higher are eligible for TAP.** They will be considered **twice** by the College of Letters and Science: once under each of two majors. Applicants must be prepared for each of these majors and must state them on their original (November) application. **Not all majors may be used as an alternative!** The Honors counselor has a list of which majors are allowed for second consideration. This list is subject to change annually at UCLA's discretion. Most competitive majors at UCLA require a GPA substantially higher than 3.5 for admission, and preparation for the major is crucial to acceptance. TAP Applications are available in the Honors Office in January and must be completed and returned by the first week of the spring semester.

California State University (CSU) Honors Transfer Agreements

You must first be accepted to the CSU to use one of the Honors-to-Honors Transfer Agreements listed here.

- **CSU, Fullerton Honors Program: Honors Certified students with a GPA of 3.6 or higher are eligible for automatic acceptance upon application.** Students who are not certified with a 3.5 GPA or higher can apply and interview for the program. Benefits include priority registration, smaller classes, and research opportunities. <http://www.fullerton.edu/honors>
- **CSU, Fullerton Business Honors Program: Honors Certified students with a GPA of 3.5 or higher are eligible.** Completion of major preparation classes, plus the upper division BUAD 301 and ISDS 361 (courses are not offered at community colleges) must be taken at CSUF prior to the Fall semester. Priority registration and scholarships are available. Contact Director Marcia Clark for more information. <http://mihayloweb.fullerton.edu/undergraduate/honors>

Alphabet Soup

Δ=Place 🎓= Academic Division 🏢 = College Office ☺ = Group/Society

A&R🏢	Admissions and Records
AA/AS (-T)	Associate in Arts / Associate in Science (-Transfer)
AC	Add Code
AGS☺	Alpha Gamma Sigma – California community college honors society
ASG☺	Associated Student Government
BHC	Bay Honors Consortium
DSS🏢	Disabled Students Services
EOPS🏢	Extended Opportunity Program and Services
GE	General Education
HTCC	Honors Transfer Council of California
ICC	Inter-Club Council (all student clubs)
IGETC	Inter-segmental General Education Transfer Curriculum
KBPK	Fullerton College Radio Station - 90.1 FM
MELVYL	UC Libraries online catalog (named for Melvil Dewey of the Dewey Decimal)
NCHC	National Collegiate Honors Council
PSSA☺	Political Science Student Association
PTK☺	Phi Theta Kappa international honor society for two-year schools
PCUMC	Pacific Coast Undergraduate Math Conference
SCCUR	Southern California Council for Undergraduate Research
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
TAG	Transfer Admission Guarantee for UC campuses (not Honors-related)
TAP🏢	Transfer Assistance Program (not Honors-related)
TAP	Transfer Alliance Program (Honors link to UCLA)
VRC🏢	Veterans Resource Center
WRHC	Western Regional Honors Council

Alumni Mentors

Our former Honors students are incredible resources and would love to help you. We have Alumni Mentors at a large number of transfer schools who can answer questions about the transfer process, what they love about their school/major, and what they wished they'd known before they transferred.

Ambassadors

The Honors Ambassadors Program selects Honors students to promote the Honors Program to the community and prospective students and to help represent the campus. Our volunteer Ambassadors help recruit new students, promote the program on campus, give campus tours, assist with social events, and act as liaisons between the Honors student body and the Honors staff. Applications are available in the Honors Office.

Assist.org

Assist.org is an online student-transfer information system that shows how course credits earned at one public California college or university can be applied when transferred to another. ASSIST is the official repository of articulation for California's public colleges and universities and provides the most accurate and up-to-date information about student transfer in California. Major Prep requirements are listed here for your major and transfer school.

Associated Students

Getting involved in Associated Students Government is a great way to build leadership skills and become a part of the campus community. AS Executives and Senators are an integral part of Fullerton College's Shared Governance serving on campus committees like Curriculum, Budget, Planning, and hiring committees. They advocate for and represent the student body. Visit Associated Students (Room 222) for more information.

Cadena Cultural Center

The Cadena Cultural Center sponsors field trips, cultural events, film screenings, guest speakers, and student forums. You can participate in the Black Student Forum, LGBT Student Forum, Open Mic Nights, Women Student Forum, Veterans Student Forum, Undocumented Student Forum, Latino Student Forum, Asian/PI Student Forum, and other events. If there's an event you'd like to see added, contact them. They also sponsor Worldfest and other campus-wide events. Room 212

California Cousins

California Cousins are current Fullerton College students who serve a vital role in the successful transition and adjustment of new international students. California Cousins help international students adapt to the campus and orient them to college life, Fullerton, and the U.S. They are here to help our new international students with things like registering for classes, showing students the campus, finding a place to live, giving tips about community resources, being a friend away from home and much more! http://isc.fullcoll.edu/current_students/mentor_program.htm

Forensics (Speech & Debate)

The Forensics team offers students a chance to compete academically against many of the nation's top colleges and universities (2-7 tournaments per semester). Numerous studies list Speech and Debate as one of the top ways to gain skills in communication, critical thinking, and research. Enroll in Speech 138 or contact Professor Doug Kresse dkresse@fullcoll.edu

Get Involved

Whether it's writing for the school newspaper, doing research in a science lab, playing on one of our athletic teams, or performing in our incredible theater productions -- get involved on campus! Don't miss out on your college experience because you're attending a commuter campus. It's up to you to get involved and become a part of the campus community. Display your leadership skills, discover a new talent, and explore the myriad activities and experiences this campus has to offer.

Honors Research Conferences

Honors students are offered a number of opportunities to present their academic research (from their honors coursework or independent study) at academic research conferences. This is a chance to set yourself apart as a scholar and enhance your academic resume. In addition to campus conferences, Fullerton College honors students routinely present at the Honors Transfer Council of California's research conference at UCI each spring, the Bay Area Honors Symposium at Berkeley or Stanford, and other conferences. Take LIB 100H: Honors Intro to Research <http://htcca.org>

The Hornet, La Antorcha, and The Torch

Working on The Hornet (the school newspaper), La Antorcha (the Spanish language publication), or The Torch (the school magazine), is a great way to be involved on campus and get valuable experience in journalism and communications. Students have the opportunity to travel to journalism conferences and earn awards and recognition for their work. Enroll in JOUR 222, 271, or 132 to get started. Contact Professor Jay Seidel: jseidel@fullcoll.edu Room 719

Service Learning

Service learning is a method of teaching that combines classroom instruction with meaningful community service. This form of learning emphasizes critical thinking and personal reflection while encouraging a sense of community, civic engagement, and personal responsibility. Transcript Notation can be earned. Applications available in the Office of Special Programs, Room 225.

Student Clubs

There are many student clubs available and they are an essential part of campus life -- planning cultural events, political debates, and other club activities. In addition to PTK and AGS honors societies, you can join various clubs like the Political Science Student Association, Veterans Club, Sociology Club, MEChA, Latina Leadership, LAMBDA, the DREAM Team, STOMP, H.O.P.E., and many more. If you can't find a club that interests you, start one. Our clubs participate in KinderCaminata, WorldFest, and many other campus-wide events each year. Stop by the Quad during Club Rush or visit Student Affairs (Room 223) for more information.

Study Abroad

The Study Abroad Program at Fullerton College provides our students with the opportunity to study with our faculty and 40 other students in a foreign country that will promote a global perspective for effective living and working in an international environment. The Study Abroad experience is life-changing and one each honors student should consider. <http://studyabroad.fullcoll.edu>

Transfer Center

The Transfer Center offers valuable workshops on transfer basics, the differences between the CSU's and the UC's, how to write a personal statement, meetings with transfer representatives, campus field trips (including the Northern California Campus Trip which is an amazing trip), campus catalogs, scholarships, and access to computers. Every honors students should attend their workshops. Read their monthly newsletter and pay attention to their scheduled events. Room 212

General warnings:

1. Nothing's automatic!
 - a. If you want to be Honors Certified, apply for it, or you won't get it.
 - b. If you have repeated a class to remove a D or F from your GPA, file the necessary paperwork, or both grades will be included in your GPA. (Admissions & Records)
 - c. If you want a degree from Fullerton, file for it, or you won't get it. <http://admissions.fullcoll.edu/Home/graduation.html>
 - d. If you want your transfer school to honor your IGETC completion, file for it, or you'll be under that school's general education, no matter what it is. (Admissions & Records)
 - e. If you want your AP scores to be on your Fullerton College transcript, file for it, even if you have already given them to matriculation, or your transfer school may not give you credit for them in the application process. Discuss options with Linda Kelly-Mandich, Honors Counselor.
2. Professors (including Honors Program Coordinators) can't . . .
 - a. give you a "W" after the drop date has passed;
 - b. waive English or math pre-requisites for any course in any discipline;
 - c. change campus deadlines or drop dates. Be aware of all deadlines.
3. "Call Monday morning" for an Honors Counselor appointment means "Call at 8:00 a.m. Monday morning."
4. You are responsible for deadlines and information in the weekly Honors newsletter. Read it.
5. If you want a letter of recommendation from a professor, make sure you ask someone who knows you well, ask well in advance (a month) of the deadline, give them your academic resume and all other information they'll need, and be clear about the deadline. Academic resume templates are available in the Honors Office.
6. The UCs and CSUs have no sense of humor concerning anything, including but not limited to deadlines you didn't know about, almost-met criteria, overlooked details, your ignorance of their rules, your misreads, your belief in bad advice, your non-compliance with their procedures, your not filing forms you never heard of, computer crashes, goblin attacks, or any other possible items not herein listed, so embrace the bureaucracy. It will be worse after you transfer; get used to it now.

**Read all e-mails from the Transfer Center and the Honors Program Office.
Read all emails from the schools to which you have applied.**

Web resources and contact information you may find useful:

At Fullerton College: (Area code 714)

- Associated Student Gov't <http://studentwww.fullcoll.edu/as/> 992-7118 (Room 222)
- Cadena/Transfer Center: <http://transfer.fullcoll.edu> 992-7086 (Room 212)
- Campus Maps: <http://www.fullcoll.edu/campus-maps>
- Campus Safety and Parking: <http://campussafety.fullcoll.edu/> (Room 1500)
- Career & Life Planning Center: <http://careercenter.fullcoll.edu> (Room 2000, upstairs)
- EOPS, CARE, Foster Youth: <http://eops.fullcoll.edu> (Room 2000, upstairs)
- Employee Directory: <http://www.fullcoll.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-staff-directory>
- Engage in STEM: <http://engageinstemfc.com/> (Room 225)
- Financial Aid: <http://financialaid.fullcoll.edu/> 992-7000 (Room 115)
- Honors Program Facebook page:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/FC-Honors-Program/130282714854>
- Library: <http://library.fullcoll.edu/> (Room 800)
- Skills Center: <http://skills.fullcoll.edu/> (Room 801)
- Student Affairs/Student Clubs: <http://stuaff.fullcoll.edu> 992-7095 (Room 223)
- Student Health Center: <http://healthservices.fullcoll.edu/> 992-7093 (Room 1204)
- Veterans Resource Center: <http://veterans.fullcoll.edu/> 992-7102 (Room 518)

Concerning UCLA, and UCI (for other transfer partners visit the Honors Program Office):

- UCI Campuswide Honors Program: <http://www.honors.uci.edu/>
- UCI Libraries: <http://www.lib.uci.edu/>
- UCLA TAP student information: <http://www.ugeducation.ucla.edu/tap/admission.htm>
- UCLA Honors Program information: <http://www.ugeducation.ucla.edu/tap/honors.htm>
- UCLA Libraries: <http://www.ucla.edu/academics/libraries>

Statewide resources:

- What counts toward what major, and where, in CSUs and UCs:
<http://www.assist.org/web-assist/welcome.html>
- Chancellor's resources for students: <http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/Students.aspx>