“BEING IN THE PROGRAM” VS. “TAKING HONORS COURSES”

- Please never use the expression “in the program.” Some people use it to describe a student who has applied and been accepted as a candidate for the Honors Certificate. However, there are two types of Honors students. Saying “in the program” conflates the two messily.

  - Certificate-Track (C-T) Honors Students aspire to earn the Honors Certificate and be eligible for other Honors benefits (e.g., priority registration, UCI/UCLA library cards, and participation in Honors transfer agreements).

  - Walk-In (W-I) Honors Students enroll in Honors courses but haven’t applied to be accepted as a candidate for the Honors Certificate of Completion.

    - Any Saddleback College student may enroll in any Honors class, so long as s/he meets the ordinary prerequisites, using the same procedure used to register in other classes. Once enrolled, that student is a Walk-In Honors Student.

    - Every student in an Honors class is an Honors student. The instructor doesn’t know which students are not majors. Every student is truly in the math department, whether a major or not. Everyone does the same work. Everyone earns the same transcript notation for the class.

- C-T status is somewhat like having a major. For example, every student in a math class is a math student. The instructor doesn’t know which students are not majors. Everyone does the same work. Everyone is graded by the same standard. Everyone earns the same transcript notation for the class.

A SPECIAL NOTE RE: HONORS HUMANITIES CLASSES (I.E., ALL HUM 10s, 30s, AND 31s)

Honors Humanities is in a two-year process of revision and re-numbering. Students should not register for any of them without consulting the Transfer Center or the Honors Office to avoid accidental repetition or loss of credit. Also, students must have strong writing and research skills and not be new freshmen.

COUNSELING APPOINTMENTS FOR C-T HONORS STUDENTS

- C-T Honors Students must meet with an Honors counselor in the Transfer Center at least once per regular semester, and should meet with one as soon as possible after being accepted.

- Please make sure they know that the meeting with you doesn’t fulfill the Honors counseling requirement and that appointments for other programs (EOPS, etc.) don’t fulfill it either.

C-T HONORS STUDENT TRANSFER

- The Honors Program participates in transfer partnerships with private and public institutions and/or their honors programs. The most frequently used partnerships include the UCLA Transfer Alliance Program (TAP), the UCI Transfer Honors Program (TrHon), and the UCI Honors to Honors Program (H2H). No partnerships offer guarantees. Students can learn about the details of each partnership from an Honors Counselor in the Transfer Center or at the Honors Program Office.

- Completion of the Honors Program in good standing is a necessary but not sufficient condition for participating in honors transfer partnerships.
APPLYING FOR C-T HONORS STUDENT STATUS

(Please don’t say “applying to the program”!) We don’t say students are “in the program,” so it makes no sense to say that they “apply to the program.” Please use our language of “C-T Status” so that students know what their status really is, or isn’t, so they aren’t misinformed about such important things as their ability to take Honors courses or their eligibility for C-T benefits.

- Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. They can be downloaded from http://www.saddleback.edu/uploads/honors/applicationcerttrack.pdf. This document contains instructions for completing the application.
- The “deadline” you may hear about relates only to eligibility for priority registration; it’s really an Admissions &Records deadline. In order to be eligible for priority registration, students must submit applications several weeks before registration for that semester starts so that we have time to process the application and communicate with A&R before they give out the registration appointments. These dates are posted on http://www.saddleback.edu/honors/.
- Standard: an English level of 1A-eligibility at least and a 3.25 GPA over the following:
  - For incoming students or those with fewer than 12 UC-transferable units, the weighted academic GPA from high school
  - For students with at least 12 UC-transferable units, the UC-level GPA.
- Students who believe they can be successful in the Honors Program but do not meet the above requirements are welcome to apply. They should indicate in their application essay the reasons they are confident of their success.

Walk-In Honors Students must submit an application for Certificate-Track status before they complete two Honors classes, even when they do not meet the GPA or English composition criteria in order to preserve eligibility for eventual admission.

Any student seeking eventual admission should be working with an Honors Counselor in the Transfer Center in order to make sure they are fulfilling program requirements.

A SPECIAL NOTE RE: THE PRIVILEGE OF PRIORITY REGISTRATION

C-T Honors Students who otherwise fulfill eligibility criteria under State of California regulations are awarded priority registration. To be nominated for this privilege, C-T Honors Students must be “in good standing,” meeting GPA, Honors progress, Honors course success, counseling compliance, and other criteria.

Saddleback College allows our students priority registration because our transfer partners require that we facilitate our students’ academic progress. To protect the Honors Program’s participation in priority registration, we make sure the privilege is not abused by our students. We check every student, every semester, for compliance with every criterion. We remove priority registration immediately upon a student’s non-compliance.

Students who are motivated primarily by priority registration might want to know there are easier ways to get it.

DO YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS? WE’D LOVE TO ANSWER THEM.

Visit us: LRC 114 8:30 – 1:30 M-Th
Email us: schonorsprogram@saddleback.edu
See our Counselor Resources: http://www.saddleback.edu/honors/resources-saddleback-college-faculty
(or come by LRC 114 to get the handbook as a bound booklet and we can treat you to coffee)

Call us: 949-582-4853