Program Review Report

Academic PR - HON - Honors

Mission Statement: Honors Program Mission Statement: The Saddleback College Honors Program is an interdisciplinary effort to develop exceptional talent, ability, and scholarship in highly motivated students.

2018

SECTION I: SUMMARY REPORT

A. List all degrees, certificates, and occupational skills awards offered by the program: None

B. What are the most important contributions of the program to the college?:

- The Honors Program enhances the academic reputation of the college and is an emblem of excellence recognized within our service area, among our community college colleagues, and among transfer institutions nationwide.
- The Honors Program enhances transfer opportunities, builds relationships to promote transfer to highly competitive colleges and universities, prepares students for post-transfer success, serves as a home for student research, deepens student involvement on campus, and forges relationships with civic and charitable organizations in South Orange County.
- Honors program students serve regularly as speakers at commencement, Foundation scholarship ceremonies, and the annual transfer celebration. Honors Program alumni have persevered in academic success and leadership after transfer, representing the academic excellence of Saddleback College.
- Through its support of the honor societies (the chair is the societies' advisor), the Honors Program contributes significantly to community and school service: well over 1000 hours per semester. Members have been ushers at FAMT performances, staffed the food bank, built plant beds for the Horticulture department, supported and moderated a research symposium, run blood drives, assisted the VETS 5K, and mentored students seeking to present research. Off campus activities create community goodwill. We have participated in Tall Ships Festivals, Alzheimers Association walks, Dana Point Grand Prix of Cycling, Ocean Institute beach clean-ups, and other events.

C.1 Since the last PR, how have SLO results been used to make changes to the program?: HON courses specifically attached to the Honors Program started this semester. Previous SLO collection of honors sections of courses has been within the disciplines.

C.2 What has been the impact of those changes on the program?: N/A. However, future program reviews will use the SLOs created for the separately articulated courses. This will increase the workload of the chair and honors faculty but will also allow us to more clearly evaluate our own offerings.

D.1 Did the program achieve its objectives from the last PR?: In curriculum reform (per UC requirements to separately articulate Honors offerings), expansion of transfer agreements (additions since 2015 are Amherst College, Azusa Pacific University's Honors College, Brandeis University, Carleton College, Concordia University Irvine, Connecticut College, Gonzaga University, Illinois Institute of Technology, Weber Honors College at San Diego State University, Scripps College, Smith College, Trinity College CT, Tufts University, University of Arizona, UC Riverside Honors Program, University of Michigan College of Literature Science and the Arts, University of San Francisco, Wheaton College MA, and Williams College) support of honor societies, and alignment of core curriculum to better define the Humanities 10A/B offerings as HON 11-14, yes. In office staffing and increased support of student participation in undergraduate research, partly.

D.2 What has been the impact of those achievements on the program?: We have secured transferability of all offerings to UC, placed appropriately in IGETC. We have attained excellent transfer rates, including transfers to new partners. We have been able to encourage excellent student research, resulting in our students' receiving several academic prizes, but have not been able to support the increased acceptance rates of our students into conferences. Students have broadened their transfer searches and have applied to and been accepted by institutions such as Scripps, Smith, and Williams. Because of our agreements, we were visited by group of admissions representatives from three partners (Amherst, Pomona, and Williams) and two non-partner schools (Princeton and Yale) who were alerted by our three partners to our students' excellence. No other community college in California was able to host this group. The excellence of our HUM/HON offerings is such that in the past three years students presenting work from those classes have received three of the twelve statewide Outstanding Abstract Awards ($400), one of the three Directors Awards ($1000), and one of the six UC Irvine Research Grants ($500) awarded at the Honors Transfer Council of California conferences held since 2015. Two honors biology students also won awards, an Outstanding Abstract and one UCI Research Grant. In addition, several students are published in the HTCC abstracts journal each year.

E. List the top three objectives for the coming three years: (1) Expansion of transfer agreements; (2) Expansion of support for
student research and presentation; (3) Support of honor societies.