



HONORS PROGRAM

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE-TRACK STATUS

Admission Criteria:

1. Completed Saddleback College matriculation process indicating
 - a. eligibility to enroll in transfer-level English composition classes (1A, 1AH, 1B, or 1BH)
 - b. Saddleback College as the current College of Record. This status must be maintained.
2. Evidence of a weighted academic GPA of 3.25 for all four years of high school or at least 12 semester units of UC-transferable college work.
3. Demonstrated ability and commitment to succeed in honors-level work.

Required Application Materials:

1. Completed, signed Applicant Information sheet.
2. Application Essay (two-page, typed, double-spaced), ***written with no assistance from other persons.*** **Your Application Essay will be used to evaluate your writing skills as well as read for content.** Choose one of the essay prompts on the last page of this application.
3. Two letters of recommendation from an instructor or counselor.
 - a. These must be submitted **on school letterhead**, either by paper mail to the address below or as an attachment to an email sent from the recommender's official school account.
 - b. At least one letter must be from an instructor in English, the humanities, or the social sciences.
 - c. If letterhead is not available, an email from the recommender's **official** school account is acceptable so long as there is enough information to verify the letter's authenticity if necessary.
4. Transcripts of academic history (Unofficial copies are acceptable)
 - a. From all colleges or universities attended, no matter how many units have been completed.
 - b. From all high schools attended, if fewer than 12 college semester units have been completed.

Deadlines:

You may register and complete Honors classes before applying to Certificate-Track status, but your right to apply for Certificate-Track status ends once you have been graded for two Honors classes. Applications are accepted throughout the year. The only deadlines are for students who want to be eligible for priority registration for the subsequent semester. To be eligible for priority registration, your complete application must be **received** by
- **February 1 (for Summer)** - **April 1 (for Fall)** - **September 1 (for Spring)**

If these dates occur on a weekend or Saddleback College holiday, the application materials may be deposited in the Dropbox outside LRC 114. Applications are normally evaluated within three weeks of receipt. Applications will not be evaluated before a student's [matriculation](#) is complete, including all testing and placement.

Submit applications by mail or in person to Saddleback College, Honors Program Office (LIB 114), 28000 Marguerite Parkway, Mission Viejo CA 92692. For more information, contact the Honors Program Office at the above address, by phone 949-582-4853, or via e-mail at schonorsprogram@saddleback.edu.

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

Complete this section ONLY if you have fewer than 12 college semester units:

I am currently a U.S. High School Student: Expected graduation: _____

Name of current high school: _____

Address if outside California: _____

I am U.S. High School Graduate: Graduation date: _____

Name of high school: _____

Address if outside California: _____

Other (international, GED, home-school, etc.) Specify: _____

Submit transcripts of all high school work, GED, etc. Unofficial copies are acceptable.

Complete this section if you have ANY college units:

I am a current or returning Saddleback College student.

I am a current or past Irvine Valley College student.

I have attended other community colleges, four-year colleges, or universities.

**Submit transcripts of all college work taken anywhere other than
Saddleback College and Irvine Valley College. Unofficial copies are acceptable.**

INTER-PROGRAM RELATIONSHIPS AT SADDLEBACK

We want to help you coordinate your academic plan with the requirements of other programs. Please check any of the following programs or activities with which you are likely to be working. **This is for counseling purposes only; it does not affect Honors Program admission or status.**

Are you working with any or all of the following programs? Please check all that apply:

- Athletics (as a "Student-Athlete": See the Student-Athlete Handbook [here](#)).
- Extended Opportunity Programs & Services: ([EOPS webpages](#))
- Disabled Students Programs and Services: ([DSPS webpages](#))
- Financial Aid (governmental, not private): ([FAO webpages](#))
- Associated Student Government: ([ASG webpages](#))

TIME MANAGEMENT

These questions help us assist your success, evaluate how we can better serve our students, work with college offices and possibly advocate for you if needed. These do not affect Honors Program admission or status in any way.

How many units (not courses) do you expect to take in a typical semester? _____

How many hours do you spend working at a job in a typical week? _____

How many hours do you spend fulfilling family obligations in a typical week? _____

Do you know that Saddleback, like almost all colleges, expects each unit of credit to require at least two hours of preparation and study outside of the classroom each week? That's for a regular semester. Double that to four hours for 8-week classes. For example, a 3-unit semester-long class will require about 9 hours of work per week.

LIFE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Answer each of the following questions by attaching a page with typed, double-spaced brief essays. Each should be no more than 100 words (about 650 characters).

- (1) What have you done at high school or college (or through school groups) other than academic work, and how has it affected you?
- (2) What have you done outside high school or college, unrelated to school groups, and how has it affected you?

PERMISSIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Date: _____ ID#: _____

Please initial below to indicate your choices and acknowledgements.

I (do _____ / do not _____) give permission for the Honors Program to share my information with four-year institutions to which I have applied insofar as that communication is necessary for fulfillment of Honors transfer agreements. **I understand that if I do not give this permission the Honors Program will not be able to process Honors transfer agreements for me.**

I (do _____ / do not _____) authorize Honors Program personnel to access my student records at Saddleback College and Irvine Valley College. **I understand that if I do not give this permission the Honors Program will not be able to nominate me for priority registration, the Honors Program completion record on transcripts, and Honors transfer agreements.**

I (do _____ / do not _____) give permission to the Honors Program to share my information with honors transfer partners for purposes of their recruitment of me to their programs. **I understand that my choice will NOT affect my acceptance to or participation in the Honors Program but may affect my ability to be included in certain events related to transfer.**

I (do _____ / do not _____) give permission to Saddleback College and the Honors Program to use photographs or videos taken during College and Program activities that include my image for their recruitment or publicity. **I understand that my choice will NOT affect my acceptance to or participation in the Honors Program in any way.**

_____ The information in this application is true to the best of my knowledge, and **I myself have written the application essay without assistance from other persons.** I accept that violation of these standards may be grounds for disqualification from the Honors Program.

_____ I acknowledge that eligibility for Certificate-Track benefits and opportunities requires "good standing" in the Honors Program, for which I must maintain the following:

- A cumulative GPA ≥ 3.25 in UC-transferable coursework.
- A completion GPA ≥ 3.20 in Honors courses, with all such courses graded rather than taken as P/NP. (A "P" will be counted as a "C" for this standard.)
- A documented appointment with Transfer Center Honors counselor every semester.
- Continuous reasonable progress (as determined in consultation with an Honors counselor) toward completing the Honors Program.
- Participation every semester in some community service, school service, or leadership, unless for extenuating circumstances a waiver has been awarded.
- Adherence to the Saddleback College Student Code of Conduct, especially with respect to academic honesty and academic freedom.

_____ I understand that completion of the Honors Program in good standing is a minimum but not sufficient requirement for eligibility to participate in Honors transfer agreements, and that no Honors transfer agreements guarantee admission to any school.

_____ I accept the responsibility of reading and responding (as appropriate) to all communications from the Honors Program and the Transfer Center, including emails and the weekly newsletter. I understand that my good standing, academic progress, and eligibility to participate in Honors transfer agreements may be compromised if I do not do so.

Printed Name

Signature

APPLICATION ESSAY

Please answer one of the below prompts, which have been borrowed/adapted from other programs' past and present applications. A thoughtful, complete response should be about **500 words**. The document must be typed and double-spaced.

Don't accept editing help, suggestions, assistance, etc. from **anyone** in writing these essays. It's **you** we want to learn about, as you are.

Please include your name, Saddleback College ID#, and the number of the question at the head of your document.

Choose one:

1. (from Northern Arizona University)

It is your fifteen-year high school reunion, and the reunion committee asks you to describe what you have been up to since graduation. Please describe not only your (hypothetical) accomplishments, but also the values and personal characteristics that have helped you become the person who you are. *(If you've been out of high school for a while, make it a high school reunion that's 15 years from now.)*

2. (from Utah State University)

Describe thoughtfully and in detail one moment during high school when you became very excited about a specific idea, assignment, or activity connected with a class. How and why did this particular moment spark your interest? How do you plan to pursue and develop that intellectual passion at Saddleback?

3. (from University of Texas at Austin)

Describe a setting in which you have collaborated or interacted with people whose experiences and/or beliefs differ from yours. Address your initial feelings and how those feelings were or were not changed by this experience.

4. (from Old Dominion University, VA)

We seek students who are committed to the discovery of knowledge. Please describe an experience that illustrates your ongoing commitment to inquiry, reflection, and the discovery of knowledge.

5. (from Simmons College, MA)

Think about the books you have read during your high school years, in or out of the classroom. Rank the three best in order. Explain the reason for your top selection.