Sophomores: Are You Ready for Summer?

Do you know our new policy on summer classes and Honors good standing?

We know you're just relaxing and recovering from Spring, but we think you'll want to know about this. It may change your summer plans!

Completing LIB 2 Honors (Tkt# 80005) or ENGL 1AH (Tkt# 12375) in Summer 2015 will be considered by the Honors Program Office to be an acceptable justification for not taking an Honors class in Fall 2015 or Spring 2016 if you are making good progress toward completing the program and can be expected to complete it before transfer.

If you expect to have a heavy load in either Fall 2015 or Spring 2016 and want to make that load a bit lighter, you may want to take this into account.

If you are a freshman student, you need the permission of the Honors Program chair to do this, since you do not yet have a demonstrated record of progress in the program.
To our new students:

Welcome (and congratulations)!

Over the next several weeks, one part of the Monday FYI will be dedicated to helping you learn your way around college in general and Saddleback College in particular. Last week was finding rooms. This week is grades, which are very different from high school grades in three ways:

First:
**There are no + or - grades.**
“Almost an A” is not an A-.
“Almost an A” is not a B+.
“Almost an A” is a B.

Know where you are in class, especially when the end of the semester rolls around and you're trying to decide where to put your energy. If you have two classes on a 100% scale, this might happen:

**Scenario One:**
You begin finals week with 80% in one class and an 88% in the other. If nothing changes, you will have earned a B in each class.

**Scenario Two:**
You work less hard to raise the 88%. You raise your grade only 2 points, to 90%.
GPA impact: YES!
An 88% is a B, but a 90% is an A.

Second:
Courses have different unit values, and that means your GPA is weighted by the number of units.

For example:
- Biology 20 is 4 units
- History 16 is 3 units
- Math 3B is 5 units

So, if your grades are
- Biology 20, B (3 points)
- History 16, A (4 points)
- Math 3B, C (2 points)

you do not have a 3.0 average.

When courses have different unit values, those values count in calculating your GPA. In this case, that's bad news.
- Biology: 3 points x 4 units = 12 grade points
- History: 4 points x 3 units = 12 grade points
- Math: 2 points x 5 units = 10 grade points

Your GPA is \( \frac{12 + 12 + 10}{4 + 3 + 5} = 2.83 \).

Saddleback has a helpful webpage that will not only aid you with this calculation (which does get tedious after a few semesters) but also can give you GPA forecasts as well as your UC-transferable and CSU-transferable GPAs:

[Saddleback GPA Page](http://www.saddleback.edu/honors/)

Third:

Honors courses do not earn extra grade points.

In high school, an "A" in an honors, IB, or AP course may have earned 5 grade points. In college, the top grade is 4 points.