



HONORS PROGRAM



2017-2018

A Guide to Student Success in the Merrimack College Honors Program

This document outlines the policies and procedures of the Merrimack College Honors Program as well as serving as an introduction to the Merrimack Honors community. The Handbook features information about the Honors curriculum, housing, student activities, and much more. Its goal is to provide a foundation for everything you need to succeed.

Merrimack Honors Student Handbook

A GUIDE TO STUDENT SUCCESS IN THE HONORS PROGRAM

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HONORS PROGRAM CONTACTS



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PROGRAM COMMUNICATION

Through the use of social media, flyers & advertisements throughout the campus community, and email updates, the Honors Program strives to keep its students, faculty, and other campus constituents informed of all program activities, events, and updates.

Terrific Tuesday Update (TTU)

The Terrific Tuesday Update is a weekly email sent to the Honors Community. The emails outline all news and events occurring within the Honors community, and can include important academic program information, details about upcoming programming events, and other important updates regarding the College.

Social Media



Merrimack College Honors Program
Like us on Facebook!



@MCHonors
Follow us on Twitter!



Group: Merrimack College Honors Program
Create a LinkedIn account and connect!



@MCHonors
Add us on Snapchat!



@MCHonors
Follow us on Instagram!



Merrimack College
<http://www.merrimack.edu/academics/Honors/>

#MCHonors

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Mission

The Merrimack College Honors Program is inspired by St. Augustine’s belief that studying with friends is the best environment for learning, for challenging oneself, and for discovering one’s passions. In describing his early education, he fondly recalls,

“I found all kinds of joy in the company of friends – talking, laughing and being kind to each other – reading, engaging books together – going from the lightest joking to the talking of the deepest things and back again.” (Confessions 4: 8, 13)

The Honors Program, established in 2008, is designed to enhance and enrich the academic experience of talented, highly motivated students at Merrimack College. The Program offers challenging classes, encourages interdisciplinary approaches to learning, and provides opportunities for students to pursue independent study and research with faculty mentors. It can supplement academic degrees and majors in all departments and schools of the College.

Vision

Inspired by St. Augustine’s philosophy of teaching and learning, the Program is dedicated to:

- Learning in Community** – We believe that learning with friends in small classes is the best way to succeed academically and personally.
- Active Learning** – Honors courses are lively seminar-based discussions. They may include service and experiential learning such as community service, field trips, concerts, and plays.
- Transformative Experiences** – The Honors Program challenges students to reach beyond their comfort level to try new approaches and activities in a process of self-discovery.

The Four Pillars

The Merrimack College Honors Program strives to provide a rigorous and coherent experience for its students. Every aspect of Merrimack Honors—academic, extra-curricular, and social—is organized around the Four Pillars of a Merrimack Honors education: Community, Service, Research, and Leadership.

- Community** – Learning is best and most lasting when it is done in the company of friends. Merrimack Honors seeks students who strive to excel, and who challenge, support, and celebrate one another in their efforts to do so.
- Service** – What we learn finds its greatest value in the ways it benefits others. In a College nationally recognized for service, the students in Merrimack Honors participate in and often take the lead in service projects that enrich the classroom, the campus, and the larger community.
- Research** – Effecting meaningful change in today’s world requires a knowledge that is both deep (disciplinary expertise) and broad (interdisciplinary competence). The Merrimack Honors curriculum is designed so that our students practice and master essential research skills in their chosen field, while always keeping in mind connections to other fields. Students will see the larger picture—in all its scientific, social, and human complexity.
- Leadership** – Merrimack Honors imparts the skills needed for true leadership. Through opportunities ranging from topics in classroom discussions, to the Honors Student Council (the student governing body that has a voice in every aspect of the Program), to our emphasis on educating the whole person (with all the possibilities and limitations of being human that this implies), we strive to prepare students for life beyond the classroom, in whatever their chosen field and way of life.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

There are many benefits to joining the Merrimack College Honors Program. The Program offers students a wide range of opportunities for fostering community, engaging in service, participating in research, and growing into leadership, including:

- Small, dynamic classes with some of Merrimack's most experienced professors
- One-on-one research opportunities with professors
- Special Honors advising and peer mentoring in addition to student's academic advisor
- Priority registration
- Research and travel grant opportunities
- Co-curricular and extra-curricular events throughout the year such as special lectures, receptions, plays, concerts, and much more
- Free admission to select on-campus events at the Rogers Center for the Arts
- Access to the Honors Commons and its computers, facilities, and resources
- Honors community housing (Honors Residential Suites for upperclassmen and an Honors Living-Learning Community for incoming first-years), with specially chosen Honors Resident Advisors
- "Honors Program" notation on college transcripts and diploma to signify student's achievement
- Upon admission to the College, every invited entering first-year student who commits to Merrimack Honors by May 1, 2017 will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. The award is renewable each year the student remains in good standing in the Honors Program.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

For incoming first-years:

The Admissions office actively recruits high school seniors with at least a 3.5 adjusted GPA (although the minimum may vary from year to year depending on the applicant pool). Qualifying students are invited by admissions and asked to complete an online application.

For rising sophomores:

There are two ways for rising sophomores to be considered for admission to the Honors Program. 1) At the end of the fall semester during the first year, the Honors program solicits faculty recommendations of current Merrimack first-years. 2) At the beginning of spring semester of the first year, rising sophomores who have not been recommended by faculty but who are interested in being considered for the Honors Program can contact the Program Director. In both cases, invitation to apply and admission are at the discretion of the Honors Program. Upon meeting with the Director, invited students are matriculated into the program, and are expected to complete all requirements in the remaining three years.

For transfer students:

The Director of the program considers transfer students on a case by case basis. Generally, faculty advisors must see a strong academic background and recommend applicants who are keenly motivated to contribute to the program and complete it within three years.

HONORS ENROLLMENTS

The Honors Program aims to maintain a total enrollment of 10% of the Merrimack College student body. This number is sufficient to support a variety of Honors course sections across the College, while allowing for inevitable attrition from the Program.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Honors Program students are required to complete EIGHT HONORS COURSES IN FOUR YEARS. First-year students must achieve a minimum 3.4 cumulative GPA by the end of their first year; sophomores and beyond must maintain a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA in order to graduate from the Honors Program. Please note: the GPA that you have at the end of semester before you graduate will be used to determine whether you will graduate as a member of the Honors Program. (For example, if you will graduate in Spring 2020, we will consult your GPA at the end of fall semester 2019 to determine whether you have met the 3.5 threshold.)

First Year

An Honors first-year student should aim to complete at least three Honors courses during their first year:

- 1000-LEVEL HONORS RTS (RELIGIOUS AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES) CLASS
- HONORS INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (PHL 1000H)
- HONORS INTRODUCTION TO COLLEGE WRITING (FYW 1050H)*

**An Honors section of FYW1050H is required, even with AP or transfer credit equivalent*

Honors students at any level may choose an Honors section of Astronomy, Psychology, Literature, or Business, or other courses depending on their interest and course availability.

NOTE: FYE1000H—First Year Experience is not for credit, and it DOES NOT count toward the eight courses. Students must, however, pass FYE by the end of their freshman year in order to graduate from the Honors Program.

IMPORTANT: Many first-year Honors classes are pre-populated by the Registrar's Office to ensure that students meet Program requirements. First-year students in the Honors Program should not drop or withdraw from any Honors course without first contacting the Honors Program Director. ALSO: All Human Development majors are required by their major to take EDU 2130—Diversity and Social Justice in the spring of their first year. With the addition of an Honors contract, this course fulfills the Program's service learning requirement, and also fulfills the Ethics (E), Diversity (D), and Experiential Learning (X) requirements in the Liberal Studies Core. Because EDU 2130 fulfills the same requirements as SOJ 1000, Human Development majors are not required by the Honors Program to take SOJ1000, as long as they add an Honors contract to EDU 2130. To this end, a section of EDU 2130 will require an Honors Contract for Honors Human Development majors. Be sure to discuss this with your education advisor and/or with the Honors Program Director to make sure you register for the correct section of the course.

Second Year

In addition to any regular Honors course the student may select, second year Honors students are required to take SOJ 1000H—Introduction to Social Justice (with the exception of Human Development majors who took EDU 2130 with an Honors contract). This course fulfills the Honors Program's service learning requirement, and also fulfills the Ethics (E), Diversity (D), and Experiential Learning (X) requirements in the Liberal Studies Core.

Third Year

In addition to any regular Honors course the student may select, in the second semester of their junior year, Honors students will register for the Honors senior Capstone seminar to begin planning their capstone project. This course counts as one of the eight required Honors courses.

- HONORS SENIOR CAPSTONE I (HON 4001H) 2CR – SPRING OF JUNIOR YEAR

Note: Students who decide to study abroad during the spring semester of their junior year must take HON 4001 in the fall of their senior year. Health Science 3 + 2 program students (EXAT & HSAT majors) need to enroll in HON 4001 spring semester sophomore year.

Fourth Year

Honors program seniors are required to complete a capstone project. Capstone classes will count for 2 out of the 8 Honors classes required: HON4001 counts as one course and a course or directed research in the student's major area of study to which the capstone project is attached will count as the second.

Students should consult their Cohort Program Requirements as they change from year to year. This can be found on the Honors Program web site under curriculum. This student handbook reflects the current curriculum for the entering Class of 2021.

HONORS COURSES AND CREDIT

The Honors curriculum is central to the Honors experience. It is intended to provide a rigorous examination of the subject matter, to engage the student fully in active scholarship, and to provide a stimulating atmosphere in which to work.

A passing quality grade of a "C" or better must be achieved for an Honors course in order for it to be eligible to meet Honors requirements. If a student withdraws from or fails a course, takes a course on a Pass/Fail basis (with the exception of HON 4001), or audits a course, it will not count toward the completion of the student's Honors course requirements.

PLEASE NOTE: HON4001 is offered as Pass/Fail and is the only exception to this rule. It will count toward your eight Honors courses.

Honors Courses

A variety of regular Honors classes are offered each semester. Classes vary each semester depending on faculty availability and student demand. Regular Honors classes are:

- Usually capped at 18 students
- Generally taught by full-time members of the Merrimack College faculty

Note: Some Honors courses have no counterparts in the regular curriculum, while others are Honors sections of regular college courses.

Honors Contract

After attending a mandatory workshop held within the first two weeks of the semester outlining requirements, Honors students (sophomores and beyond) may work with a faculty member to formulate an Honors Contract for a non-Honors course. The Honors Contract (formerly known as the Honors Component) is developed by the student in consultation with the course instructor, and must incorporate more challenging and/or in-depth work

than the non-Honors course requires. Possible work could be an additional or longer research paper, a study, a presentation requiring significant research, a portfolio, performance, or creative artifact otherwise not required in this course, or other significant work that is appropriate to the discipline and that goes beyond the requirements of the non-Honors course. The contract must also clearly reflect at least one of the pedagogical goals of the Honors Program—ie., Learning in Community, Active Learning and/or Transformative Experience. The proposal should include all of the following:

- A cover sheet consisting of a completed Honors Contract Form that is signed by both student and instructor
- A proposal narrative written by the student that contains:
 - a description of the work to be undertaken, including a timetable
 - an explanation of how the work to be undertaken goes beyond the regular course syllabus in a way that satisfies one of the Honors Program's four pedagogical goals
 - a copy of the class syllabus
 - an explanation of how the results of the project will be disseminated to others
 - an explanation of how the work will be evaluated by the instructor upon its completion

Finally, the Honors Contract Form, the proposal narrative, and the course syllabus should be scanned as ONE pdf document, emailed to the Honors Program Director, and registered via the Honors Contract Registration Google Form by noon on the semester due date.

Students are normally limited to one Honors Contract during their time in the Honors Program. Honors Contracts cannot be taken Pass/Fail. Eligible courses include any *non-introductory* Merrimack course above the 1000 – level taught in the day division during the regular academic year. With approval of the Program Director, students may petition for an Honors Contract through Merrimack-approved foreign study programs. Summer and evening courses and courses taught at other institutions will normally not be eligible. Under completion of the Honors Contract and the course, and upon submission of a one-page report signed by the instructor confirming completion of the contract project to the Honors Program Director, an “H” will be placed on the student's transcript to indicate an Honors course.

If two or more Honors students would like to formulate an Honors Contract for a course, they can collaborate on a proposal with the course instructor. The same guidelines above apply. Each student who completes the Honors Contract and the course will receive a notation on their transcript.

Honors Capstone

The Senior Honors Capstone of the Merrimack Honors Program has three goals:

- To distinguish Honors Program graduates in an academically significant way
- To prepare the Honors students for post-graduate studies or employment by fostering advanced skills in an area of interest
- To maintain an academically challenging but supporting community of scholars among Honors seniors as they complete their time in Merrimack Honors

We seek to achieve these goals through the student's development and completion of an intensive project, usually in the student's major area of concentration.

Nature of Capstone Project: The Capstone Project will be a significant undertaking, such as a research paper, study, creative endeavor (such as an exhibition of visual art, a manuscript of creative writing, a theatrical production), or some other discipline-appropriate work ordinarily in the student's major. Projects will be completed within a student's 4-credit senior seminar course or 4-credit major-specific capstone course, or as a 4-credit directed research course if no senior seminar or senior capstone course exists to accommodate the student's area of interest. Please note that Capstone Projects can only be completed as part of upper-level undergraduate courses; projects cannot be embedded in introductory-level undergraduate or any graduate-level courses. To qualify as an Honors Capstone project, the student must disseminate their project in a public forum, such as a conference, symposium, exhibit, or performance, or publish it in an appropriate journal or collection.

Projects outside a Student's Major: Capstone Projects will ordinarily be in the student's major area. However, projects outside the major can be proposed after consultation with the program director. Interdisciplinary projects—including projects connecting two majors or a major and a minor—are particularly encouraged.

Group Projects: It is assumed that most projects will be conducted by individual students, but group projects involving two or more Honors students will be considered if the project proposal offers a clear justification and concrete roles for each participant.

Project Period: The design, completion, and dissemination of the student's Capstone Project will extend over two semesters, typically beginning in spring of junior year and ending in the fall of senior year. Note that the overall timing of the Capstone is meant to allow for the completion of project work in time for the student's application to graduate school or for post-graduate employment. Students who decide to study abroad during the spring semester of their junior year must take HON 4001 in the fall of their senior year and complete all components of their capstone projects by graduation. If an Honors student elects to graduate early from the College, they are still required to take HON 4001 and to complete all components of their capstone project in order to graduate as a member of the Honors Program.

PLEASE NOTE: If a student presents the Capstone Project at Merrimack's Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference at the end of the spring semester, s/he must notify the Honors Program and provide evidence of the presentation. We also strongly encourage you to upload your project to ScholarWorks, which is McQuade Library's research repository.

Research Support: Travel grants can be obtained from the Honors Program to support student research and/or participation in appropriate conferences. Information about grants will be made available each semester.

Dissemination: Through the dissemination of project results, work for the Senior Honors Capstone will enrich the intellectual culture of the entire Merrimack College community, while giving the student important experience in making specialized knowledge accessible to a wider audience. Project results can be disseminated in a number of ways, with specific adjustments and accommodations as needed in different fields.

- **CONFERENCE:** An event at Merrimack or another approved campus that includes poster sessions, brief talks, and other presentation modes. Merrimack's Research and Creative Achievement Conference is one example and other conferences off-campus may qualify with approval of student's capstone advisor.

- **PERFORMANCE:** For projects that center on artistic productions, special arrangements will be made to ensure that the project receives a proper audience. The Program Director will work with the student and the project mentor.

IMPORTANT: Please remember that you must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above by the end of the semester before you graduate and complete your capstone project in order to graduate as a member of the Honors Program.

Honors Notation

Honors Courses are designated by an Honors suffix of “H”. Honors Contracts and Honors Senior Capstone Projects are identified in the ‘notes’ column of the student’s undergraduate transcript.

Honors Probation

Students who fall below the grade point average requirement (3.4 for first-years, 3.5 thereafter) are placed on Honors probation. After meeting with the Director, they may be given one semester to bring their GPA to the required level. If a student does not achieve the minimum grade point average at the end of the probation period, he/she will be removed from the Program and the annual scholarship will be removed beginning in the next semester. Should a student’s GPA fall below a 2.7 after the first semester in the Program, the Honors Program Director reserves the right to remove the student from the Program without granting a probationary period and to remove the Honors scholarship beginning in the next semester.

NOTE: There is no probationary period available to second-semester seniors because the cumulative GPA that you have at the end of the first semester of your senior year is the one that we use to determine whether you have met the GPA requirements for graduating as a member of the Honors Program.

Appeal process: While a student is typically granted one semester for probation in the Honors Program, there must be extenuating circumstances that impact a student’s performance beyond the single probationary semester in order for a student to appeal for a second probationary semester. If a student encounters such extenuating circumstances, they may appeal for one extra probationary semester by petitioning the Honors Program Committee. The petition should include a transcript of the student’s grades up to the most recent date, and explanation for the necessity of an extra probationary semester, and a plan outlining how the student intends to improve the GPA to the minimum 3.5 required for sophomore, junior, or senior status in the Honors Program. The Director and the HPC will review the petition and decide for or against a second probationary semester. If it is approved, the student must bring the cumulative GPA up to the minimum 3.5 by the end of that semester or be removed from the program. Additional appeals will typically not be considered.

Academic Integrity

Any student found guilty of violating the College’s Academic Integrity code will be removed from the Honors Program. Procedures for determining such a violation can be found in Undergraduate Course Catalog, or at <http://www.merrimack.edu/live/files/279>.

Withdrawal from the Honors Program

Merrimack Honors is not for every student. Students who wish to withdraw from the Program must contact the Director and complete an “Add/Drop” form stating the reason why they wish to leave the Program. Both the student and the Director must sign the form.

HONORS SPACES

Honors Commons

Located in North Residential Village, House 7, Suite 150

Staffed Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Student Access: 24 hours, 7 days a week

Honors Program Staff are available in the Honors Commons during regular office hours. During extended hours, the Honors Commons may be accessed using your Merrimack ID card.

The Honors Commons is equipped with a variety of resources for students:

- White boards and conference tables
- Desktop computers, printing (Black & White and Color), and study tables
- A kitchenette and facilities

Honors Housing

Merrimack Honors offers dedicated Honors housing, complete with Honors community activities and specially chosen Honors Resident Advisors (RA's), for all residential students in the Honors Program. Honors Housing at Merrimack College provides Honors students with academically focused living quarters where they can live and study together. The Honors Program offers first year students the opportunity to live in a Living Learning Community in Ash Centre. Upperclassmen interested in continuing their LLC experience are offered the opportunity to live in the North Residential Village for their Sophomore, Junior, and Senior years. Honors students opting to continue in the upperclassmen LLC will be placed prior to the general housing selection process. Both residence areas pride themselves on a dedication to the Four Pillars of Merrimack Honors: Community, Service, Research, and Leadership.

Note: Honors students who opt out of Honors housing at any point are not guaranteed Honors housing in subsequent semesters.

Note: All commuter students have access to the residence hall common areas during normal college operation hours (until 11 pm daily) and have full access to Honors activities occurring in the residence halls and in other areas.

FIRST-YEAR HONORS LIVING-LEARNING COMMUNITY

Adjusting to college life can be challenging and even overwhelming, especially for students focused on and accustomed to success. Honors first-year students who live on campus are expected to live in the Honors Living-Learning Community to help facilitate their transition into Merrimack. Students entering the Program live together with other Honors first-years in a supportive environment where they can challenge one another to achieve, in class and out. This environment allows students to study together as well as engage in fun activities facilitated by resident advisors, the Honors Student Council, Honors Program staff, and Honors faculty. (Please note that iTEC students may choose to live in either Honors or iTEC community.)

The First-Year Honors Living-Learning Community is located in **Ash Centre**

Ash Centre Quick Facts:

- 4 person suites
- Suites feature two bedrooms, a common area and a bathroom
- Common hallway connecting the suites
- Two private study rooms in the main lobby area of the building
- 2 specially selected Honors RA's
- Located in St. Clare Court, a primary area for most Merrimack first-year students

THE HONORS RESIDENTIAL SUITES

The Honors Residential Suites provide spacious residence halls for upperclassmen Honors students to live and study together. Honors sophomores and above may apply to live in the Honors Residential Suites for one or more years, on a space-available basis. The Honors Residential Suites foster a community of engaged learners who are highly involved on campus in many ways.

The Honors Residential Suites are located in **North Residential Village, Houses #6 and #7**

Honors Residential Suites at North Residential Village Quick Facts:

- Located in the popular new Residential Village, the most convenient residence area for classrooms, dining, activities, and quick access to the Honors Commons
- Suite-style living, suites of 4 or 6 residents
 - 4-person suites are on one level with two bedrooms, a common area, and a full bathroom
 - 6-person suites are on two levels with three bedrooms, a common area, and two bathrooms
- All of the suites contain a spacious common room with an upholstered couch

More information regarding Honors Residential Suites can be found on the [Office of Residence Life's webpage](#)

STUDENT LEADERSHIP & ACTIVITIES

Honors Student Council

The Honors Student Council (HSC) of the Merrimack College Honors Program serves as the primary organization to plan and organize extra-curricular events such as social and community events, on-campus gatherings, and special off-campus events of both academic and non-academic interests. The Honors Student Council also provides at least two student liaisons to represent the Honors student body at meetings of the Honors Program Committee (HPC). The HSC is structured into committees, which focus on specific areas of programming or advocacy. The HSC Chair and Co-Chairs are elected by the members of HSC, and the committee officers are selected by the Chair and Co-Chairs through an application and interview process. All Honors students are invited to serve on the committees through a recruitment process in the fall semester.



HONORS PROGRAM
Honors Student Council

2017-2018 HSC LEADERSHIP TEAM

Chair: Alison Hanlon (2018)

Co-Chair for Community Engagement: Courtney Carrozzo (2018)

Co-Chair for Student Engagement: Cailin Fraser (2019)

Academic/Program Development Officer: Samantha Geary (2019)

Cultural Engagement & Service Officer: Michaela Casey (2018)

Events & Programming Officer: Kerri McCarthy (2018)

General Officer: Mary Levine (2019)

Public Relations Officer: Alison Tobin (2018)

HSC Committees

Community Engagement

Academic/Program Development

- Responsible for attending and recording notes at Honors Program Committee (HPC) meetings
- Coordinates and publicizes academic events held by the HSC and other Merrimack organizations
- Works with Honors Program faculty to coordinate events in which students and faculty interact
- Facilitates various academic and student input surveys to gather feedback and promote change

Cultural Engagement & Service

- Establishes an inclusive Honors community by organizing events such as films, shows, plays, etc. that focus on diversity, multicultural awareness, in addition to other diverse populations
- Works with Merrimack organizations such as Jewish Christian Muslim Relations to facilitate an integrated community dedicated to inclusivity
- Builds an inclusive community with the Honors Commons and Residential Communities by incorporating Merrimack's ideals and traditions with other organizations on and off campus
- Focuses on planning and executing service related activities such as the Wounded Warrior Project, Thanksgiving Basket Drive, Random Acts of Kindness Week, and Relay for Life
- Connects with various organizations including Campus Ministry, and the Office of Student Engagement to participate in service opportunities as an Honors Program community such as Mack Gives Back
- Facilitates fundraising activities and events to collect donations for outside organizations and charities

Student Engagement

Events/Programming

- Responsible for all logistical aspects and coordination/facilitation of social programming and events
- Ensures the facilitation of Honors events such as snack attacks, socials, movie nights, etc.
- Works with the Honors Resident Advisors and Honors Peer Mentors to plan events in the Honors LLC's, focusing on activities for the entire Honors Program
- Works to interconnect all students of all classes in the Honors Program through community building events

General

- Plans and executes Honors Program events in conjunction with other committees
- Coordinates with the executive committee to help facilitate new member recruitment
- Tracks the Honors Participation Points System and assists with the Terrific Tuesday Update weekly email

Public Relations

- Focuses on publicizing the Honors Program through the use of the Honors Program social media accounts such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Snapchat and Instagram accounts
- Advertises events and important information, including helping write for Honors Program newsletter and website, and coordinates with Social Media Coordinator and Staff Assistants

HSC Positions

Executive Team

Chair

- The Chair is expected to manage the operations of the council. He/she manages and oversees the two co-chairs, council officers, their respective committees, and tracks the financial budget. He/she works very closely with the Honors Program Staff to ensure student engagement, event success, and program retention.

Co-Chairs

- The two Co-Chairs are expected to assist manage the operations of the council. They manage and oversee their respective committee areas and council officers, and assist to track the financial budget. They work very closely with the Chair and Honors Program Staff to ensure student engagement and event success.

Leadership Team

Officers and Assistant Officers

Officers and Assistant Officers are responsible for overseeing the operations of their specific committee, and for working with their team of individuals. Officers and Assistant Officers work to plan and execute specific events pertaining to their committee's description.

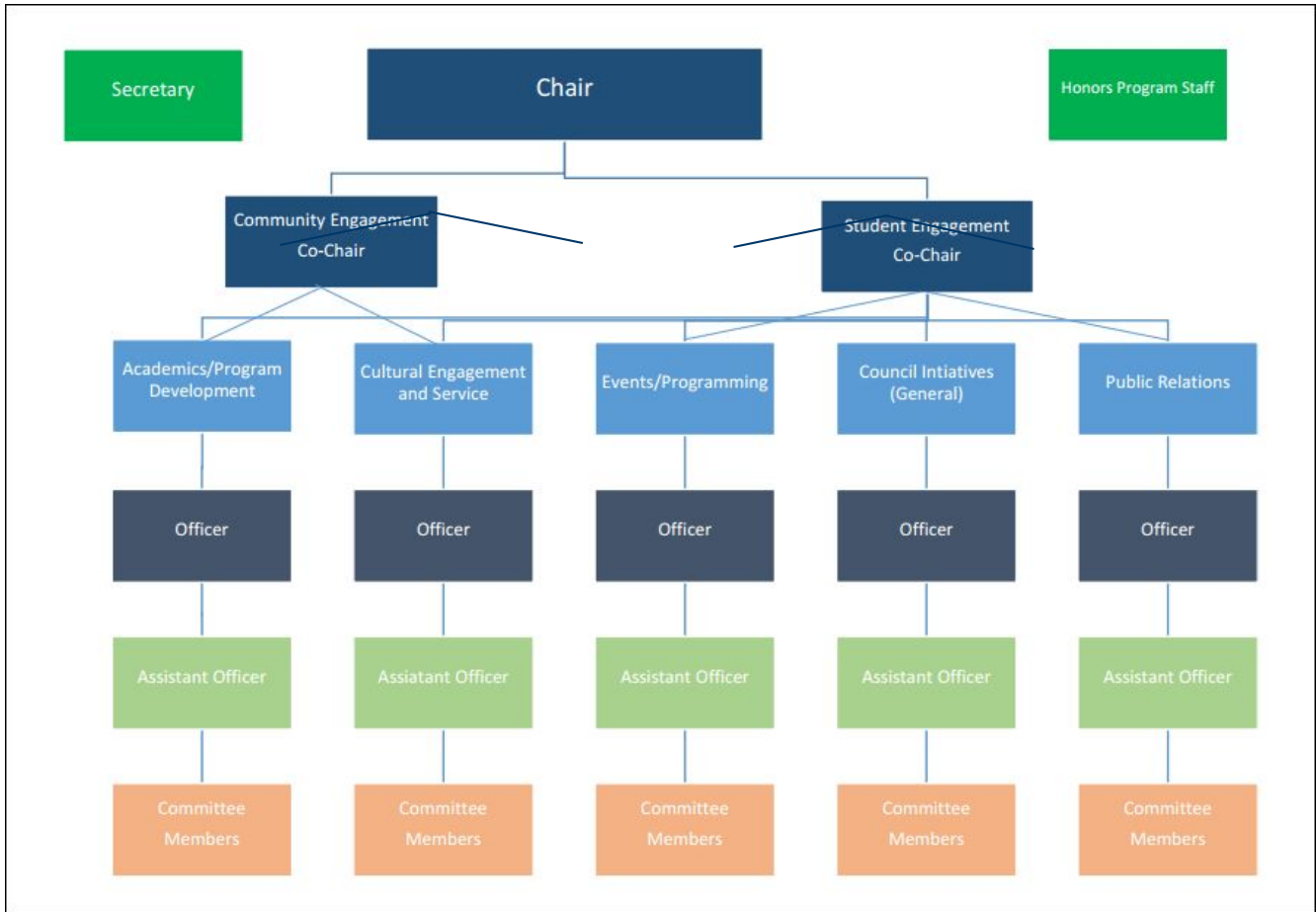
Sub-committee and General Members

- Sub-committee and general members are responsible for performing the duties assigned by the respective committee officer. Members remain in close communication with their committees. They also bring to light any requests, concerns, or comments from the general population of the Honors Program and help the HSC plan, execute, and attend HSC events.

Secretary

- The secretary is responsible for working directly with the Chair and Co-Chairs and aiding any needs on their part. More specifically, at each council meeting, the Secretary will serve to take attendance and record the minutes. (This position will alternate amongst the officers and assistant officers for AY17-18)

HSC Structure AY17-18



Honors Peer Mentoring Program

Founded in 2013, the Honors Peer Mentoring Program connects upperclassmen Honors students with first-year Honors students to provide an additional layer of support and attention. Incoming first-year students are able to select their own peer mentor via an online system during the summer of their entering academic year. Mentors have a cohort of four to five mentees to meet with one-on-one and in small groups throughout the first year. Mentors are available to help students with navigating the College’s resources and services, selecting classes, dealing with academic difficulties, and other academic, extracurricular, or social issues. First-years should utilize their mentor as a resource throughout their first year and beyond, to become more acquainted with Merrimack and the Honors Program. Applications to become an Honors Mentor are available during the spring semester. Mentors are individuals who are good role models for other Honors students and someone who feels comfortable answering questions about Merrimack and the Honors Program. Students will be invited to apply online.



HONORS PROGRAM

Peer Mentoring Program

2017-2018 PEER MENTORING LEADERSHIP TEAM

Mentor Coordinators: Hannah Gills '18 and Dylan Scott '18

Assistant Mentor Coordinators: Amanda Alcox '19 and Taylor McNeil '19

Mentors:

Aidan Kennedy '20	Alexis Hire '20	Ali Wolf '20	Amanda Gallagher '20
Arpi Parseghian '20	Ashely Augulewicz '19	Caitlin McGowan '19	Chris Crawley '19
Devin Clemons '19	Elizabeth McAvoy '20	Gabriella Massa '20	Gigi Castellanos '20
Jacky Nolan '19	Kate MacAuley '20	Kevin O'Neil '19	Norway Dolan '19
Sebastiana Redford '20	Tatum LeClair '20	Taylor Galusha '20	Victoria Christensen '19

Visit: <http://www.merrimack.edu/academics/honors/peer-mentoring-program-.php>

Honors Ambassadors

Honors Ambassadors are responsible for sharing the Honors experience with prospective students at information sessions, admitted student days, and other admissions recruiting events. Ambassadors will be called upon throughout the school year to represent the Honors Program at various events across campus. In order to become an ambassador, students must be at least in their second semester of their first year. An application will be made available at various times throughout the year, but interested students can also express their desire to become an ambassador to the Honors Program staff.

Honors Journalists

Honors Journalists are student writers that assist with the *In the Company of Friends* newsletter and the weekly TTUs (Terrific Tuesday Update). These individuals are also called upon to research, write, and document stories about the Honors Program, Honors faculty, or Honors students. Journalists may choose to register for HON 4003—Newsletter Internship to receive one credit and a notation on their transcript for working on the Newsletter.

ENGAGEMENT EXPECTATION

As a Program Student:

Being a student in the Merrimack College Honors Program is a designation that indicates academic excellence, but it is also meant to reflect a student's involvement and engagement in the program throughout their collegiate career. An engagement points system has been implemented and revised to encourage participation in events and activities beyond academic Honors coursework.

Since students gain access to benefits including Honors housing, social programming opportunities, and priority registration, students are expected to attend mandatory Honors Program events in addition to attaining a minimum amount of points to fulfill the program's standards of community involvement. As the program expands, community involvement will be a major factor in determining access to program benefits including but not limited to Honors housing, and leadership opportunities.

In order to remain in good standing with the Honors Program, every student must obtain **3 participation points** each semester, in addition to attending Honors mandatory events. Participation points can be earned by attending specific events, serving as an Honors student leader, or in other possible ways. The list below outlines the participation point system, with a select list of Honors events. For better clarification, points values for every Honors event will be communicated to the Honors community prior to the event in the Terrific Tuesday Update email, and on Social Media. Points are given for Honors related events only.

While the Program keeps a record of each student's total number of points by swiping student identification cards, the student should also keep track of their own points value.

Mandatory Events

First-Years

- First-Year Orientation
- Peer Mentor Meet-and-Greet Night
- Candlelight Induction Ceremony
- Honors Advice-ing (Fall & Spring)
- Mack Gives Back
- Last Lecture
- Honors Winter Gala

Seniors

- Senior Honors Banquet
- Honors Convocation

1 point

Lectures/Workshops/Events

- First Lecture
- Google Training
- LinkedIn Training

Larger Academic/Community Events

- HSC special events (i.e.: Mix 'n Mingle, Pancakes with the Provost)
- HSC service day opportunity
- Mack Gives Back (sophomores and above, Honors team only)

Leadership

- Honors Peer Mentor, Honors Student Council, Honors Ambassador
 - Max 1 point regardless of number of positions held

It is important to note this list is not exhaustive. All mandatory events are subject to change and may be modified, and students are expected to organize their schedules and prioritize events. Additionally, the list of 1 point events will be clearer as the semester continues. All point-worthy events will be communicated through the Terrific Tuesday Update via email and will be listed on flyers.

The Merrimack College Honors Program strives to collaborate with and sustain its growing community. The Program recognizes that conflicts may and do arise, which may prohibit a student from attending a mandatory event. These conflicts should be communicated to the Program Manager as far in advance as possible to determine a reasonable solution or accommodation. Less leniency is given when discussing matters of students not achieving 3 points per semester due to the numerous events available that students may attend.

All questions regarding the engagement expectation can best be answered by the Executive Committee of the Honors Student Council, or Lisa Cavallaro, Honors Program Manager.

As a resident in our Honors Upperclassmen LLC:

Students that live in our Honors LLC benefit from targeted programming intended to enhance their scholarly experience. Through increased interaction with faculty inside and outside of the classroom, students are immersed in a stimulating intellectual and social environment that promotes and supports student success.

One of our main focuses in our honors LLC programming is bridging the gap between academics and the residential life experience. Designated faculty play an active role in supporting our Honors LLC by providing educational programming such as our Fireside Chats held on various Sunday evenings throughout the semester. We also invite accomplished alumni to discuss hot topics, current events, and issues unique to their workplace or experience.

Honors residents that live in our upperclassmen housing are **required to attend 2 LLC programming** events per semester. These events are advertised to the residential community, and advance reservations are required to most events.