Student Handbook

A Guide to the Edinboro University Honors College
Welcome!

By meeting the rigorous criteria for the Edinboro University Honors College, you have acknowledged your commitment to high achievement, the pursuit of knowledge, and learning through service. You are now part of a community of students who take their education seriously and who understand the importance of a friendly and supportive social environment. Honors students study hard, contribute to the overall success of the Program, and know how to have fun!

This booklet will help you navigate through some of the requirements. It might seem like a lot at first, but it really isn’t. As a highly motivated undergraduate, full of curiosity and the desire to experience everything the university has to offer, you will recognize these “requirements” are things you’d be doing anyway.

Please look over this handbook in order to ensure your success in the Honors College. If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to ask your mentor. Or you can stop by my office to talk to me. We want your years in the College to be challenging and rewarding—a time for you to do your best work, and make some of your best friends.

Sincerely,
Roger L. Solberg, Ph.D.
Honors College Director

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Honors students passing out candy during the Homecoming Parade
Benefits of the Honors College:  

The Honors College provides many personal, academic, career, and practical benefits. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

♦ Students who complete the Honors College requirements graduate with an **Honors diploma**, a designation that provides advantages in applying for jobs or graduate school.
♦ Members may apply for **scholarships** not available to the general student population.
♦ Students in the College enjoy **preferential scheduling**. They register for classes prior to all other students, virtually guaranteeing them all the courses they need, when they need them.
♦ Honors students qualify for special campus housing on the **Honors Living-Learning Floor**, which includes access to a student lounge.
♦ Honors students can enroll in **Honors courses**. These classes require students to “work smarter, not harder.” They are taught by Edinboro’s finest professors.
♦ Honors students can apply for **study abroad** opportunities not available to other undergraduates.

Semester Requirements:  

To remain in good standing **each semester**, you must attend the following: a) the All-Honors Meeting; b) one campus event; c) one Enrichment Meeting. You must also perform 10 hours of campus and/or community service. The following pages explain each of the requirements.

Scholars in the Honors College commit to upholding the highest standards and honoring their commitments. To remain in good standing and avoid probation or removal from the College, Honors students must do the following:

♦ Maintain a GPA of at least 3.25 (3.50 is required to maintain Honors-awarded scholarships).
♦ Work toward completing their 14 Honors Option Points (HOPs); see page 5 for details.
♦ Complete all college requirements and turn in the appropriate forms.

Probation and removal decisions are made at the discretion of the Honors Director, and are based on the forms on file in the Honors Office. Students with questions about their file may stop by the office to check on its status. Students placed on probation are urged to meet with the Honors Director to work out a plan for restoring their good standing.
Honors Events

All-Honors Meeting. During the first or second week of each semester, we hold our All-Honors Meeting. This is our way of starting the semester on a positive note, bringing everyone in the Honors College together for one hour so we can welcome them back, provide useful information, and let them hear a guest speaker who will teach and inspire them. Recent speakers have included a member of the Cleveland Clinic organ-transplant team and a local independent filmmaker. If you cannot attend the All-Honors meeting, you must attend two Enrichment Meetings instead.

Enrichment Meetings. These are informal educational sessions, hosted by a student or a faculty member. The presenter shares his or her expertise on a certain topic—it could be an academic subject, a hobby or experience, or information about a certain career. One of our special Enrichment Meetings is “Pizza with the Professor,” when students choose one of their favorite professors to come to the Honors lounge to eat pizza and engage in a conversation about anything and everything.

A schedule of events will be issued during the first few weeks of each semester.

Service Hours

- Students must complete at least ten (10) hours of service learning activities each semester. Students are required to document the service hours, provide a brief description of the activity, and submit the Service Hour forms to the office within one week after the completion of the service.

- Service Learning is defined as good deeds for which you are not paid, that are completed through a nonprofit, campus, or charitable organization.

- Honors students are encouraged to make their service hours (1) meaningful and valuable to their lives and/or (2) related to their career goals and connected to resume building. The goal is to avoid “just doing” hours.

- Honors students are responsible for finding, arranging, and completing their own service hours.
Campus Events:

- The university offers many programs on campus to provide students with new educational and social opportunities. Honors students should welcome the opportunity to take advantage of such resources, and therefore **must attend one educational event on campus per semester**. To document attendance at a campus event, students must complete a Service and Campus Event Form, which is available from the Honors office. Have it signed by the professor overseeing the event. The form should be submitted to the office within one week after the event takes place.

- Qualifying campus events include **academic lectures and/or debates that are organized by professors, concerts organized by faculty, plays organized and led by faculty, etc.** Social activities organized by the Student Government Association, University Programming Board, or other clubs do not count to fulfill this requirement. If students are unsure whether an event qualifies, they should contact the Honors Office **before** the event to check.

- **Honors students are responsible for finding qualified campus events to attend.** Campus events are regularly listed on Edinboro University’s calendar, the BoroSync community calendar, the Honors College Facebook page and the Honors Weekly Bulletin.

Honors Option Points (HOPs):

HOPs is a system designed to give students unique and flexible opportunities to augment their educational experience as they work toward their Honors diploma. Students must complete **14 HOPs** and be in good standing in the College by fulfilling all requirements (as listed on previous pages and above). There are a variety of ways that students can earn HOPs, including:

- Honors Courses
- Contract Courses
- Study Abroad Experiences
- Conference Presentations
- Research Project and Creative Activities
- Publication of Research
- Student Teaching, Internships, or Nursing Clinicals
- Dual Majors, Minors, and Foreign Language Studies
- 500 Level Courses

For the full list of qualifying options and descriptions of each, please refer to the HOPs Planning Guide.
Forms:

This packet includes a complete set of forms and informational packets related to earning HOPs and completing other honors requirements. Additional copies of all forms are available on the Edinboro University Honors webpage, on BoroSync, and outside the Honors Office.

Forms included in the Handbook:

- **Service and Campus Event** – This form is used to record service hours and campus events. The form must be signed by the supervisor/professor who oversaw the event/service work.

- **Honors Option Points Verification Form** – This form is used to verify HOPs, other than Honors courses and contracts. These include International/National Experiences, Conference Presentations, Research Projects, and Publications of Research. This form notifies the office that you have completed one of these options, and are requesting verification of that activity to receive HOPs.

- **Contract Course Booklet** – This Booklet has been designed to explain the process for contracting a course. It details contract requirements and formatting and includes details about what is expected of the student and the professor who enter into an Honors Contract.

Additional form:

**Research Project Guidelines** - This packet, not included in this Handbook, details what is required of a student participating in an Independent Study Research Project. It is available in the Honors Office.
If you have any questions about the contents of this handbook, please contact the Honors office, where our director, office manager, and student workers are always more than happy to help.

Remember, our College is only as successful as our students, so go out and achieve as much as you can!

Meeting with ChipBlasters CEO Greg Antoun

Touring the US Ambassador’s residence during the 2015 PASSHE Summer Honors College in Norway

Getting ready to march in the Fall 2015 Homecoming Parade

Seeing the holiday displays during the Fall 2015 day trip to Pittsburgh, PA

Sightseeing in New Orleans after the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference

Cleaning the campus for community service at a “Trashy Saturday” event