



Academic Management Manual

Section M

The Honors College

Academic
Affairs
2009-10

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Introduction

This section of the Academic Management Manual should serve as a reference tool for faculty and staff in all matters concerning the Honors College at Palm Beach Community College. Policies governing the Honors College at PBCC have been developed in accordance to guidelines established by the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC).

Because the Honors College is a district-wide program, the policies and procedures in these pages should be followed closely. This is necessary to achieve uniformity in program standards and benchmarks. Where questions arise, please consult the Honors Program Manager.

PBCC Honors College Mission

In keeping with the mission of PBCC, the purpose of the Honors College is to provide a challenging and supportive academic environment in which students are encouraged to think critically, demonstrate leadership, and develop ethical standards. Honors pursues an interactive learning experience where students acquire a creative and comprehensive understanding of concepts in an interdisciplinary and global context. PBCC honors students and faculty share a commitment and civic responsibility that extends beyond the classroom to local, national, and international communities.

Academic Policies

The following academic policies govern student admission, retention, and graduation within the Honors College at PBCC.

- I. **Admissions Policy:**
 - a. Students wishing to be admitted to the PBCC Honors College must complete an Honors Application.
 - b. Students with less than 12 credit hours of college coursework must meet one of the following admissions criteria:
 - i. SAT combined score of 1170 (verbal & math)
 - ii. ACT average score of 24 (English, math, and reading)
 - iii. CPT reading score of 90 AND CPT writing score of 100
 - c. Students with at least 12 credit hours of college coursework must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or greater.
 - d. Transcripts that are older than 5 years will not be used against students to determine honors eligibility.

- e. Students who do not meet admissions qualifications may appeal for admission by submitting the application and a statement of support from a PBCC faculty member.
- II. **Retention Policy**: GPAs are reviewed every semester. Academic standing in the Honors College will be determined based on the following criteria:
- a. **3.4 and above = “In Good Standing”**: To remain “in good standing,” an honors student must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of at least 3.4.
 - i. Students should note that the maintenance GPA is lower than the admission GPA. The reason for this is because the Honors College does not want to discourage students from taking challenging courses for fear that their GPAs will drop below 3.5. Risk-taking in intellectual ventures should be fostered.
 - ii. While maintenance GPA is 3.4, students should remember that the graduation GPA remains at 3.5. Any student whose GPA is below 3.5 will not be eligible for graduation in the Honors College.
 - iii. An honors student whose GPA is below 3.5 but at least 3.4 will receive a courtesy reminder at the end of each term. Reminders will inform students that while they remain in good standing in the program, they need to work to improve their GPAs in order to meet graduation requirements.
 - b. **3.0 – 3.39 = “Not In Good Standing”**: An honors student whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.4 but is at least 3.0 will be retained in the program as an honors student “not in good standing.”
 - i. Honors students who are not in good standing will be notified shortly after semester grades are posted.
 - ii. An honors student who is not in good standing will be urged to meet with the Honors Program Manager to develop an academic plan and establish a reasonable timetable for returning to good standing.
 - iii. Honors students who are not in good standing will remain honors students and will be able to register early. However, students who are not in good standing cannot take honors classes or enter into honors contracts.
 - iv. Students who are not in good standing will not be eligible for PBCC honors scholarships and will not be recommended for transfer scholarships.
 - v. Honors students who are not in good standing may not represent PBCC at honors conferences.
 - vi. An honors student who is not in good standing shall retain status as an honors student even if his/her cumulative GPA is below 3.5 so long

as his/her term GPA is at least 3.5 for each subsequent semester at PBCC.

- vii. An honors student who is not in good standing will become academically ineligible for honors participation if he/she fails to achieve the minimum term GPA of 3.5 even if his/her cumulative GPA is over 3.0.
- viii. To return to good standing, a student must achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5.
- ix. The loss of good standing in the Honors College is not intended as a punishment; it is a precautionary measure so that a student may focus attention on raising his/her GPA and returning to good standing in the program.

- c. **Below 3.0 = Academic Ineligibility:** An honors student whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 will be academically ineligible to continue in the Honors College. The student will be encouraged to reapply once his/her cumulative GPA is at least 3.5.

III. **Graduation Policy:** There are two tracks to Honors Graduation:

- a. **Honors Certificate:** Students who satisfy the following requirements will be eligible for the Honors Certificate:
 - i. Complete 12 credit hours honors work (any combination of honors classes or honors project contracts);
 - ii. Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5;
 - iii. Earn at least a B in each honors class or honorized class.
- b. **Honors Diploma:** Students who satisfy the following requirements will be eligible for the Honors Diploma:
 - i. Complete 21 total credit hours of honors work, of which
 1. 3 credit hours must be IDH2105, "Knowledge Through the Ages";
 2. No more that 6 credit hours can be in honors projects;
 - ii. Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.5;
 - iii. Earn at least a B in each honors class or honorized class;
 - iv. Earn at least 40 points on the Honors Point System.
- c. **Purpose /scope of tracks:** The Honors Certificate provides flexibility for students who want the honors experience but who may not be able to complete the requirements of the Honors Diploma. The Honors Diploma is intended for students who want a more intense honors experience and is especially recommended for students who plan to transfer to an upper-division Honors College or Honors Program. Graduates of either track are

eligible for honors-specific transfer scholarships (e.g., FAU Community College Honors Scholarship).

Documents:

Honors College Application –

<http://www.pbcc.edu/documents/Honors/HonorsCollegeApplication.pdf>

Honors Graduation Application –

<http://www.pbcc.edu/documents/Honors/HonorsGraduationApplication.pdf>

Honors Point System –

<http://www.pbcc.edu/documents/Honors/HonorsPointSystem.pdf>

Appeals: A student may appeal any decision concerning admission to, retention in, or graduation from the Honors College. Appeals must be in the form of a letter addressed to the PBCC Honors Advisory Board; the letter should explicitly address any mitigating considerations. In addition, the student is encouraged to attach relevant documents supporting his / her case. Appeals should be filed with the Honors Program Manager within thirty days of the initial decision. The Honors Program Manager will arrange for the appeal to be heard by the Honors Advisory Board during the next regularly scheduled meeting. If necessary, an electronic voting system will be used to decide matters of appeal.

Honors Courses – Policies

General Guidelines: The distinction between an honors course and a non-honors course is qualitative, not quantitative. An honors class is not more work; it is *different* work. In teaching and developing honors classes, creativity is the measure. Inspiring creativity in students begins by thinking creatively about materials, approaches, techniques, and evaluation.

Honors Course Development Guidelines: No course may be offered as an honors course without the approval of the PBCC Curriculum Committee. Honors courses should adhere to the following requirements and recommendations.

- I. **Requirements:** Every honors course must:
 - a. Address and integrate the goals of the Honors College mission into course instruction;
 - b. Emphasize individual interpretation and analysis;
 - c. Encourage creative and critical thinking;
 - d. Examine questions from an interdisciplinary context;
 - e. Delve more in-depth into the subject matter than the non-honors version; honors courses should introduce students to the theoretical disputes and historical development of the discipline;

- f. Foster the ability to analyze and synthesize a broad range of materials and concepts;
 - g. Stress the importance of effective oral and written communication skills;
 - h. Promote teamwork and collaboration;
 - i. Acquaint students with discipline-specific research skills;
 - j. Encourage students to become active, self-motivated thinkers who will take greater responsibility for their own learning.
- II. Recommendations:** Honors courses may:
- a. Incorporate different instructional materials than the non-honors version; primary source materials (i.e., literature, works of art, official documents, film, diaries, statistical data, etc.) are preferred over textbooks; scholarly journals should be used where appropriate;
 - b. Be conducted in a seminar-style classroom setting, with an emphasis on discussion;
 - c. Apply theories to real-world situations; the social, cultural, and political context of classroom activities and course material should be considered whenever possible;
 - d. Promote learning outside of the formal classroom;
 - e. Provide opportunities for publication, public presentation, and peer review of student work;

Honors Course Development Procedures: Faculty wishing to develop an honors course should follow the procedural path outlined below. Release time for the development of an honors course should be arranged through the requester's Academic Dean.

- I. A PBCC faculty member will present a request to the Honors Advisory Board for a specific course to be developed as an honors course. If it is decided that the course fits into the honors curriculum and fulfills goals and priorities set for the program, approval for course development will be given.
- II. The PBCC faculty member will take the proposal to the discipline cluster and resolve all issues related to the honors version of the course.
- III. Once the cluster has affirmatively voted on the course proposal, the matter will return to the Honors Advisory Board. Only that portion of the proposal which deals with honors pedagogy will be considered. After discussion, the Honors Advisory Board will vote on the proposal.
- IV. Once approved by the Honors Advisory Board, the course will go to Curriculum Committee. Both votes – from cluster and the Board – will be reported to the Curriculum Committee.

Honors Wheel: The Honors Wheel makes it possible for an Honors student to complete all General Education requirements *at each campus* in Honors classes. A minimum of five Honors classes will be offered each term on each campus.

- Honors Wheel -

AREA	FALL	SPRING
I – Communications <u>Requirements:</u> ENC1101 or 1121 ENC1102 or 1122 or 1141 SPC1017	ENC1121 will be offered at each campus each fall. SPC1017 will be offered at each campus each fall.	ENC1122 will be offered at each campus each spring.
II – Humanities <u>Requirements:</u> One course from the “top” section One course from the “bottom” section	At least one course from the “top” section of Area II will be offered at each campus each year. (Spring) <u>Courses:</u> AML2010; AML2020; AML2600; ENL2012; ENL2022; LIT2090; LIT2110; LIT2120; LIT2380	At least one course from the “bottom” section of Area II will be offered at each campus each year. (Fall) <u>Courses:</u> ARH1000; ARH2050; ARH2051; MUL1010
	At least one course from Area III will be offered at each campus each year. (Fall) <u>Requirements:</u> Two courses <u>Courses:</u> MAC1105; MAC1114; STA2023	
III – Mathematics <u>Requirements:</u> Two courses	At least one course from the “top” section of Area II will be offered at each campus every other year. (Fall) <u>Courses:</u> SYG2000	At least one course from the “bottom” section of Area II will be offered at each campus each year. (Spring) <u>Courses:</u> AMH2010; AMH2020; POS1041
IV – Science <u>Requirements:</u> Two courses	VI – Health and Foreign Language <u>Requirements:</u> One course	Every year at each campus: HSC1101 or HSC2100 (Spring)
V – Social Science <u>Requirements:</u> One course from the “top” section One course from the “bottom” section	At least every other year at each campus: SPN1120 (Fall)	At least every other year at each campus: SPN1121 (Spring)
Other	IDH2105 will be offered at each campus at least once per year; additional classes will be scheduled as needed, determined by faculty strengths / interests on each campus and past course success.	

Honors Wheel, Scheduling Example:**Year One:**

FALL	SPRING
ENC1121*	ENC1122*
SPC1017*	LIT2090
MUL1010	HUN1201
MAC1105	POS1041
SYG2000*	HSC1101
	IDH2105

Year Two:

FALL	SPRING
ENC1121*	ENC1122*
SPC1017*	AML2010
ARH1000	BSC1050
STA2023	AMH2010
SPN1120*	HSC2100
IDH2105	SPN1121*

* Denotes fixed class offering given present Honors course development.

Scheduling / Staffing of Honors Classes: To maintain the integrity of the Honors Wheel, all honors classes will be scheduled at the district level. Honors courses will be staffed at the campus level with input from the Honors Program Manager and the Honors Advisory Board.

Cancellation / Conversion of Honors Classes: Honors classes should not be cancelled without consulting the Honors Program Manager and / or the Dean of Curriculum, Planning, and Research. Where low enrollment necessitates the conversion of an honors course into a non-honors course, the honors section (and corresponding reference number) *must* be cancelled and a new course and reference number generated. Otherwise, notational markers will remain on student records.

SPECIAL NOTE CONCERNING CANCELLED CLASSES:

Any honors student –

1. who is registered in an honors class before it is cancelled and
2. who reregisters for the non-honors version of the same class with the same professor at the same time and
3. who satisfactorily completes an honors project in the class

will earn credit for having completed an honors class for the purposes of the Honors Diploma.

Class Size: Honors classes at PBCC are intended to simulate a graduate seminar environment and create a close-knit intellectual group. Accordingly, the maximum size for honors classes is set at 15 students per class.

E-Learning / Pure Internet Honors Courses: Honors classes at PBCC are intended to simulate a graduate seminar environment and create a close-knit intellectual group. Accordingly, honors courses may not be offered via e-learning or as pure Internet. Honors courses may be offered as hybrid classes with the prior approval of the Honors Advisory Board.

Honors Faculty

While honors faculty should reflect the make-up of the faculty at the college, they must exemplify excellence in the classroom and motivate the students to do the same. Honors faculty will:

- I. Allow their passion for their individual disciplines to shine through in their teaching;
- II. Embrace teaching strategies that empower students to take ownership of course material and approach questions from interdisciplinary perspectives;
- III. Maintain a record of substantive and continued scholarly achievement and campus enrichment;
- IV. Encourage students to learn independently from direct sources of knowledge, such as laboratory experiences, original documents and other primary sources, data collections, service learning opportunities, etc.;
- V. Enhance the critical and creative thinking skills of their students;
- VI. Promote the active and interactive learning of their students through such techniques as coaching, mentoring, inquiry-based methods, supervised independent projects, and service learning;
- VII. Provide thorough, frequent, and constructive assessment of students' written and oral work;
- VIII. Be willing to involve students in their own research, scholarship, or creative activities;
- IX. Be widely available to students outside of class time and posted office hours for mentoring, conversation, guidance, and the general enhancement of the students' academic experience and personal development;
- X. Demonstrate a strong and ongoing commitment to promote excellence in honors education, being fully aware of the Honors College mission and helping to evolve the philosophy of the program as needed;
- XI. Be active and dedicated advocates of the Honors College on campus and off; this includes attending honors events, being willing to serve on the Honors Advisory

Board, writing letters of recommendation for honors students, attending honors conferences, recruiting new honors students, working with student groups, etc.

Grading in Honors Courses: Intellectual risk-taking is a foremost value in honors education. Faculty should be sensitive to the ways that course evaluation thwarts experimentation and risk-taking. For this reason, course evaluation should be based on methods and measures that accurately assess creativity, imagination, and critical thinking. Mastery of course objectives should be stressed over accumulation of point and percentages. In this sense, a certain ‘artfulness’ comes to bear in assigning grades. Faculty must be able to distinguish between a creative expression that discloses comprehension and one that disguises a lack of comprehension.

Beyond this, grading in honors classes should not force students into competition with one another for a limited number of A’s. In determining grades, faculty should compare the honors student to all students at the same level, not simply to honors students in isolation. At the same time, faculty must honestly and completely evaluate the student’s command of course material. Where course expectations are not met, there should be no hesitation to award a low grade.

Honors Project Contracts – Policies and Guidelines

Honors credit may be earned in any regular credit class at Pbcc through a process called “honorization.” In a nutshell, the student and instructor enter into a contract that details the work that will be done in the class. When the terms of the contract are fulfilled, the honors credit is earned.

The work designated as honors must be *over and above* what is done in the regular course. Honors work should build upon techniques and methodologies taught in the course; however, the material and research should go beyond normal course instruction. For example, a student in “English Literature After 1800” might write a paper about a Yeats poem not covered in class. Or, a student in “Earth Science” might write a paper on the *El Niño* effect.

Documents:

Honors Project Contract –

http://www.pbcc.edu/documents/Honors/Honors_Contract2.doc

Honors Project Cover Page Template –

http://www.pbcc.edu/documents/Academic_Services/cover.pdf

Pay / Grade Form (for instructors) –

<http://www.pbcc.edu/documents/Honors/pay-gradeform.pdf>

Project Process Description –

<http://www.pbcc.edu/documents/Honors/project-guide.pdf>

Process: The process for “honorizing” a course through an Honors Project Contract is:

1. The student who wishes to do honors work approaches the instructor and asks if the instructor would be willing to oversee an Honors Project.
2. If the instructor agrees, the student and faculty member work together to define what the topic of the Honors Project will be and what model it will follow. The PBCC Honors College has established seven different models for Honors Projects:
 - a. Traditional Research Paper
 - b. Data Collection Model
 - c. Interview Model
 - d. Product Creation Model
 - e. Rhetorical Analysis Model
 - f. Web Page Model
 - g. Teaching Model
 - h. Service Learning Model
3. The general guidelines for all projects, regardless of model, are that they must:
 - a. Be from 2,000 to 5,000 words,
 - b. Include a cover page,
 - c. Include a Works Cited or References page with documentation and citation in the body of the paper of all references listed (the number of references is dependent upon which model is followed),
 - d. Use either Modern Language Association (MLA) or American Psychology Association (APA) style format (instructor's choice),
 - e. Be error-free and presented in 12-point font.
4. Once the details are agreed upon, the student and instructor complete an honors contract with contact information, course information, and project information, including a tentative title, the model type, a description of the project, and an instructor’s statement that explains how the Honors Project exceeds the normal expectations of the course. The honors contract can be found online at www.pbcc.edu/documents/Honors/Honors_Contract2.pdf.
5. In the section titled “Signatures of Contract Agreement,” the student and instructor sign the contract.
6. At this point, the contract should be forwarded to the Associate Dean who will sign the contract and forward it to Academic Services (MS #51).
7. When the contract reaches Academic Services, it will be reviewed to verify that the student is eligible to do honors work. If the contract is approved, the Honors Program Manager will sign the contract and return the original, along with a packet of information for completing the contract, to the instructor.

8. As the term progresses, the student and instructor should meet regularly to discuss research and other matters relating to the project. At a minimum, *three meetings* should be scheduled to guarantee adequate oversight.
9. As the project nears completion, a mandatory in-class presentation of the honors work should be scheduled.
10. Completed projects should be reviewed closely by the instructor for quality, grammar, and correct citation.
11. Once approved, the instructor signs the contract under “Signatures of Project Approval.”
12. The signed contract and the completed project are submitted to the Associate Dean who will sign and verify that the terms of the contract are fulfilled.
13. The contract and project will then be submitted to Academic Services for review and processing.
14. The contract is deemed fulfilled; honors credit is granted; and an honors notation is added to the course on the student’s transcript.

Ex-Post Facto Contracts / Late Projects: Students may not begin the honorization process for a course after completion of the term. Deadlines for project submission are established at the beginning of each term. These deadlines should be adhered to as closely as possible. Under no circumstance will projects be accepted more than *two weeks* after the end of the term.

Human Subjects Study: Because PBCC does not have an Institutional Review Board, faculty should be extremely careful in mentoring projects that have impact on human subjects.

Interviews: Interviews are permitted, but students are responsible for obtaining an “Interview Consent” release from the subject(s). If children are interviewed, a parent or legal guardian must sign the release. Release forms should be submitted with the final project.

- www.pbcc.edu/Documents/honors/InterviewConsent.pdf

Surveys: Students wishing to collect survey data for analysis in an honors project must submit a “Survey Approval Form” for review (available at the link below). Projects based on survey data collected without prior approval will be rejected.

- www.pbcc.edu/Documents/honors/SurveyApprovalForm.pdf

Other: Observation of public behavior is allowed, so long as the observer is not participating in the activities being observed. Other forms of human subjects study – even those generally regarded as exempt by the Federal Policy on the

Protection of Human Subjects (i.e., cognitive evaluation, taste testing, etc.) – are expressly prohibited.

Other Restricted Research: Honors projects involving any of the following are prohibited:

- live vertebrate animals, including observation projects,
- recombinant DNA,
- controlled substances,
- hazardous substances and devices,
- human and nonhuman animal tissues, or
- pathogenic agents.

Use of Copyrighted and Other Restricted Material: The use of copyrighted material must not exceed “fair use” standards established by the Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. § 107-118. All copyrighted material, including direct quotes, photographs, lyrics, etc., must be properly cited. In addition, written permission from subjects must be obtained to publish photographs. For further reference, please consult <http://www.copyright.gov/title17/92chap1.html#107>.

Summer Term Honors Projects: Honors students may, with prior permission of the Honors Program Manager, honorize *one course* during the summer term.

Faculty Payment: Each instructor who oversees an Honors Project Contract to completion will earn a \$100 payment per contract.

Faculty Contract Limits Per Term: To ensure adequate mentoring, faculty are limited to overseeing ten Honors Project Contracts per term.

Faculty Responsibility in Honors Project Contracts: The instructor is the most important link in the project chain. In the end, it is the faculty member who will determine if the submitted work is worthy of honors credit. As far as specifics go, faculty responsibility in the Honors Project Contract process is multi-faceted:

Syllabus: An instructor who is willing to do honors work with students is encouraged (but is not required) to put a note on his / her syllabus indicating this. The note might also refer the student to the Honors College web page for more information (www.pbcc.edu/honors.xml).

Rejecting Project Requests: The Honors Project process is collaborative and time-intensive. There are many valid reasons why an instructor may decide to deny a student’s request to do honors work. Honors students are encouraged to be polite in entreaty and to accept “no” gracefully.

The Integrity of the Honors Project Process: Faculty are the guardians of the Honors Project process. From conception to completion, honors research should be original and closely supervised. Where recycling of prior work is suspected, instructors are urged to either cancel the project or take appropriate corrective measures. It is for this reason, also, that an honors project may not be based on the augmentation of regular coursework. Because the project process is intended to take the student into specific extra-curricular research, a longer or more research-intensive version of a course assignment unfortunately does not qualify for honors credit.

“Grading” Honors Projects: Technically, the honors project does not receive a grade. In terms of meriting honors credit, the project should be thought of as earning either a pass or a fail; that is to say, either the project is worthy of honors credit or it is not. When an instructor signs an honors contract indicating successful completion of the project, he / she affirms the following: “I certify that the above named student has satisfactorily completed the Honors Contract in this course according to the standards of Honors.” The grade request on the contract form is for the final course grade. If this is not known at the time of project submission, please leave that blank.

If the faculty member deems that the submitted work is not honors level, then the contract should be regarded as not fulfilled and, therefore, not signed. The unsigned contract and the project should be submitted to Academic Services (MS #51) for filing. Pay/grade forms cannot be processed for unapproved projects unless the project is received in Academic Services.

Uncompleted Honors Projects Contracts: About twenty to twenty-five percent of all signed Honors Projects Contracts are never completed. Understandably, there are various and predictable causes for this. Instructors who know that an Honors Project Contract will, for whatever reason, not be finished should contact the Honors Program Manager so that a note can be put in the database. Beyond this, instructors are urged not to hold the non-completion of an Honors Project Contract against a student in the calculation of the course grade. Honors work is superadded to regular course requirements. Thus, failure to complete Honors work should not be construed negatively.

Pay/Grade Form: In order to process the \$100 payment per contract, an instructor must submit the pay/grade form by the end of the term. This form will be sent to the instructor in the packet of information with the original contract. It can also be found online at <http://www.pbcc.edu/documents/Honors/pay-gradeform.pdf>.

Projects forwarded to the Honors College that are either too short (less than 2000 words), that do not have the minimum number of secondary sources, that lack proper documentation, or that fail to comply with all published guidelines will be

regarded as inadequately supervised. For this reason, pay/grade forms will not be processed for these projects.

The Associate Dean’s Responsibility in Honors Project Contracts: Because a payment is processed along with the project, the Associate Dean plays a key role in the Honors Project Contract process. During the contract approval process, the Associate Dean should review the contract from the instructional vantage. Will adequate oversight be offered to the student? Any doubts should be addressed and resolved at this point; if these concerns cannot be allayed, the contract should not be approved.

During the project approval process, the Associate Dean should review the project again from the instructional vantage, i.e., was adequate oversight offered by the instructor to the student? The Associate Dean may also review the project to verify it meets the contractual requirements of length, model conformity, citation format, etc. This review is not intended to be qualitative as to the content of the project. In all cases, great sensitivity should be exercised during the final approval stage, for the student has already completed the work. Revision, therefore, is preferred to rejection.

The Honors Program Manager’s Review in the Honors Project Process: The Honors Program Manager will review submitted projects to verify that they are of the required length, that they follow the chosen model guidelines, that citations are formatted correctly, and that they comply with all published requirement. Projects that fail to meet honors standards are returned for revision. The Honors Program Manager will also read all projects with an eye towards possible inclusion on the Honors College web page, for submission to *Sabiduria*, for consideration in the Portz Scholars competition, and for other various types of exemplary recognition.

Honors Councils / Travel Policy

PBCC belongs to three Honors Councils: the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC), the Southern Regional Honors Council (SRHC), and the Florida Collegiate Honors Council (FCHC). Each of these organizations holds an annual conference. The NCHC annual conference is in the fall of each year, late October / early November. The FCHC conference is held in the spring of each year, usually in February. Typically, the SRHC conference is in March or April. Past program budgets have provided enough funding for four faculty / staff and four students to travel to each of these conferences. Selection of attendees is made by the Honors Advisory Board. Travel arrangements are made by Academic Services. Travel policies are established by District; strict adherence to Board policy is mandated.

Honors Scholarships

The Honors College administers two scholarships: the PBCC Honors Scholarship and the Honors Book Stipend.

PBCC Honors Scholarship: This scholarship is available twice each year, once in the fall and once in the spring. Normally, the amount of the award is \$300. To be eligible, an honors student must:

1. Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.6;
2. Have completed a minimum of 6 credit hours of honors work prior to the semester of application;
3. Be currently taking an honors course or completing an Honors Project Contract;
4. Have no more than 4 withdrawals on his / her college transcript; and
5. Submit the scholarship application by the deadline.

Honors Book Stipend: This scholarship is available twice each year, once in the fall and once in the spring. The amount of the award is \$150. To be eligible, an honors student must:

1. Be a recipient of the President's Scholars Award (upon graduation from high school);
2. Have successfully completed an honors course or Honors Project Contract during the semester of application;
3. Be a full-time student (enrolled in at least 12 hours);
4. Maintain a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA; and
5. Submit the application by the deadline.

Transfer Scholarships / Community College Honors Scholarships: The Honors College plays a vital role in the application process when an honors student applies for a Community College Honors Scholarships at one of the state universities. However, these scholarships are administered by the separate universities; no guarantee about the availability of these scholarships should be made to PBCC honors students.

Honors Advisory Board

The Honors Advisory Board is composed of PBCC faculty, staff members, and representatives from the Honors Student Advisory Committee. The board meets twice each semester. Dates are established at the beginning of each term; committee members and relevant administrators should be notified well in advance of meetings. A published agenda should be distributed at least two days prior to each meeting. Minutes will be distributed and posted online a week after each meeting.

Honors Student Advisory Committee

The Honors Student Advisory Committee serves as a liaison to the college-wide advisory board, representing the needs and concerns of honors students to the PBCC administration. Comprised of interested honors students committed to regular attendance and improving the quality of the program, the committee meets twice each term. A President, Vice-President, and Secretary will be selected from the membership. Two representatives (typically, the President and Vice-President) will be chosen to serve on the Honors Advisory Board.

Honors College Procedures

Applications: Honors applicants are reviewed to see if they meet eligibility requirements. Applicants who are not eligible are reviewed by the Honors Program Manager and may be admitted provisionally for one term. If a student is accepted into the program, two honors designators are put on the student's record: HC & HS. The HS allows the student to register early. The HC is matched to a course designator and allows the student to register for honors classes. Students without the HC designator are not able to register for honors courses unless there is a schedule override. The PantherNet path for adding designators to the student's record is: **ST AD AP SP**. After the student designators are added, contact information and relevant academic data are entered into the honors database. The student is then notified of acceptance / non-acceptance into the program.

Monitoring Student Progress: At the end of each term when grades are posted, a status report for all students with the HS designator should be requested from the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness. The report should show GPA, current hours, last term attended, and whether the student has graduated from any program.

Grade Point Average: A student's standing in the program will be determined by the established Academic Policies. A student who is "not in good standing" or who becomes academically ineligible will be notified. The HC designator should be end-termed for students who are "not in good standing." The HC and HS designators should be end-termed for students who are academically ineligible for the program.

An honors student “not in good standing” who raises his / her GPA to at least 3.5 should have the HC designator modified so that there is no end-term.

Completion of Degree: Many students graduate but do not fulfill the requirements of the Honors College. These students must be maintained in an orderly fashion as well. For every student who has graduated:

1. Record graduation in the Honors database, noting term of graduation and whether or not the student graduated with Honors;
2. Change status in the database from “current” to “not current”;
3. End-term both the HC and HS designators; and
4. Send an e-mail congratulating the student on graduation and notifying the student the designators have been removed. Graduated students wishing to continue in honors classes should contact Academic Services.

Non-active students: Students who have not taken classes at PBCB for more than one academic year should be end-termed as honors students. Follow similar procedures for graduated students. Non-active students wishing to continue in the Honors College should contact Academic Services.

If these procedures are followed, the records on PantherNet should always yield an accurate account of the number of active Honors students.

Honors Graduation: A student who fulfills all of the requirements for Honors Graduation will have “Honors Graduate” noted on his / her transcript. A separate application must be completed for Honors Graduation. At least a month before commencement, the entire list of students planning to graduate with Honors should be sent to the graduation office so that “Honors College Graduate” may be noted in the commencement bulletin and on the name card that will be read at graduation. After the term is complete, the transcripts of those who applied for graduation should be checked. For each student, verify that the student completed the requirements for either the Honors Certificate or Honors Diploma. Students admitted to the program under the “Five Year Rule” must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 for all non-exempt coursework. Once the final list of honors graduates is verified, send the list to the graduation office requesting that “Honors College” be added to the graduation notes of each student.

Procedure for Scheduling Honors Courses: In scheduling Honors courses, the course designators H2 and HC should be added to each class. The Honors Program Manager should double-check each term that the class information is correct on PantherNet.

PantherNet Path: ST CU CC MC

For each Honors class make sure that:

1. The Honors designators (H2 and HC) are on each Honors class;
2. “Honors” (or an abbreviation) is in the title;
3. The maximum class size is set at 15; and
4. The schedule note reads: “Honors Class: Students must be admitted to the Honors College to register. To apply, visit www.pbcc.edu/honors.xml. For more information, e-mail honors@pbcc.edu or call 561-868-3892.”

A general class query should also be run (ST CU QC QC) to make sure there are no non-honors classes with honors designators. In particular, remove the H1 or H3 designators from all classes, as these will erroneously show as honors classes when a student runs a PantherWeb search. The H3 designator (Honors Projects Option) will be placed on the class later to facilitate students who are doing projects; however, it does not need to be on the course during the registration period. The H1 designator is defunct and no longer in use.

Honors Project Contracts: Once the project is complete and approved by the instructor, the associate dean, and the Honors Program Manager, the honors notation should be added to the student’s transcript. Procedures for adding honors notation to a student’s transcript:

1. First, verify the student earned at least a “B” in the course. If the student did not earn at least a “B,” honors credit cannot be granted. A notification letter should be sent to the student as soon as possible. The student may, if he or she chooses, pursue a grade appeal in the course. Ex post facto policy notwithstanding, the project will be kept open until the student’s appeal rights are exhausted.
2. Second, once a satisfactory grade is confirmed, the Honors Project Option designator (H3) should be added to the class. The PantherNet path for this is: ST CU CC MR. Enter reference number and set the maximum honors size depending on how many students did Honors Project Contracts in the class. Hit F11 and enter action “M” to add the H3 designator to the course. If you receive a message that says “invalid option,” it may have to be added to the course dictionary.
3. Third, the honors designator must be added to the student's class schedule. The PantherNet path for this is ST RG RG. Enter the Student ID and choose the term. This brings up the student’s schedule. In the far left column type “A”; in the third column (*Opt) type “H.” Hit enter.
4. After the above steps have been completed, notify the registrar’s office so the “Honors” notation can be added to the transcript. You will need to provide Student ID, term, course number, and reference number for the course in which the Honors Project Contract was completed. For ease of

- processing, the entire list for the term should be sent at one time and not piecemeal.
5. Last, congratulatory letters or emails should be sent to students.

Honors Calendar: Each term, the Honors Program Manager should establish the following due dates:

EVENT	APPROXIMATE DUE DATE
Honors contracts due to Instructors	Approximately three weeks into the term
Honors contracts due to Academic Services	One week after the contracts are due to instructors
Honors projects due to instructors (for students graduating that term)	Approximately eleven weeks into the term
Honors projects due to Academic Services (for students graduating that term)	One week after the projects are due to instructors
Honors graduation applications due to Academic Services	At the same time that projects for graduating students are due to Academic Services
Honors projects due to instructors (non-graduating students)	Approximately thirteen weeks into the term
PBCC Honors Scholarship - Application Deadline	Approximately twelve weeks into the term
Honors projects due to Academic Services (non-graduating students)	One week after the projects are due to instructors
Honors Book Stipend for Presidential Scholars - Application Deadline	Approximately sixteen weeks into the term

Once the dates are determined, they should be updated on the Honors College web page (www.pbcc.edu/x5205.xml) and submitted to *Beachcomber*.

Honors Councils: Institutional membership dues are billed annually. PBCC also subscribes to two publications published by NCHC: *The Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council* and *Honors in Practice*. Subscription fees for these journals are billed with the annual dues and are paid out of the College's institutional membership budget.

Honors Scholarships: The two scholarships administered by the Honors College are funded out of the college-wide scholarship budget.

PBCC Honors Scholarship: This scholarship is available twice each year, once in the fall and once in the spring. The amount available each term is \$3000. This should be distributed amongst ten recipients. If there are less than 10 eligible recipients, the funds should be distributed amongst all eligible applicants. If

there are more than 10 eligible applicants, the top 10 should be identified using overall GPA, total number of honors hours completed, and the rigor of the applicants' coursework. The Financial Aid Fund ID for this scholarship is "IFSHONORS."

Honors Book Stipend: This scholarship is available twice each year, once in the fall and once in the spring. The amount of the award is \$150. The Financial Aid Fund ID for this stipend is "IFSPSHON."

Procedure for dispersal of funds: Scholarships will be dispersed by the Financial Aid office. Once the recipients are chosen, the following information should be sent to Financial Aid:

Scholarship:		Name of scholarship
Term:		Term of Award
Amount of Award:		How much each student should receive
Fund ID:		IFSHONORS or IFSPHON
Recipients:		The name and student ID of each recipient

Notification of Award: Notification of any scholarship award should be delayed until the end of the term so that successful completion of coursework can be verified.

Honors Student Activities Budget: Honors student activities are funded from the District Student Activities account (org. # 25100000-200020-94). The Student Activities budget provides funding for student travel, honors graduation reception, poster sessions, and any other student activities (e.g., Pantherfest, information sessions, etc.). Program-related food expenses must come out of the Student Activities budget. Budget requests should be prepared and submitted each spring to Student Activities District Funding Committee.

Marketing: Marketing of the Honors College includes but is not limited to:

Honors Fliers: When classes are finalized for the upcoming term, fliers that list Honors classes should be printed and distributed. These should be distributed to faculty, associate deans, and advising offices. For posting on bulletin boards, fliers must first be sent to the Student Activities office on each campus. Student Activities will approve and stamp the fliers for posting. In all cases, the posting of fliers must adhere to established policy.

Honors Postcards: Each term, a postcard listing Honors courses from the upcoming term is printed and mailed to all students eligible for the Honors College. As soon as

the schedule is finalized, a general layout for the postcard and text should be prepared and submitted to College Relations and Marketing. CRM will provide the graphic layout of the postcard and make printing arrangements with an outside vendor. The Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness will provide names and addresses of eligible students. Mailing information should be requested for the following student groups:

1. Current students with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 who have completed 12 - 42 credit hours of coursework; and
2. New applicants who meet eligibility requirements.

An appropriate number of postcards with indicia should be ordered to send to the above groups plus all current Honors students and counselors in Palm Beach County high schools. An equal number of postcards without indicia should be ordered for internal distribution. Prepare postcards according to bulk mailing procedures.

Honors College Web Page: The web page should be checked regularly for broken links. Periodic update should occur as well. Specifically, the calendar page should be updated as soon as dates for the term are decided. Additionally, new course information should be added to the “Honors Classes” as soon as classes are finalized. Further, any change in program policies and procedures should be noted on the web page.

Online Forms: Each term the following forms must be updated to reflect new deadlines:

- Honors Graduation Application –
<http://www.pbcc.edu/documents/Honors/HonorsGraduationApplication.pdf>
- Honors Project Checklist –
<http://www.pbcc.edu/documents/Honors/checklist.pdf>
- PBCC Honors Scholarship Application –
<http://www.pbcc.edu/documents/Honors/PBCCHonors.pdf>
- Honors Book Stipend Application –
<http://www.pbcc.edu/documents/Honors/HonorsBookStipend.pdf>

These forms should be updated as needed:

- Honors College Application –
<http://www.pbcc.edu/documents/Honors/HonorsCollegeApplication.pdf>
- Request for Letter of Recommendation –
<http://www.pbcc.edu/documents/Honors/recommendation.pdf>
- Honors Project Contract –
http://www.pbcc.edu/documents/Honors/Honors_Contract2.doc
- Honors Project Cover Page Template –
http://www.pbcc.edu/documents/Academic_Services/cover.pdf
- Pay / Grade Form (for instructors) –
<http://www.pbcc.edu/documents/Honors/pay-gradeform.pdf>
- Project Process Description –
<http://www.pbcc.edu/documents/Honors/project-guide.pdf>