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The Honors College is the center of undergraduate academic excellence at FIU. We offer a unique academic and social experience that is compatible with all majors, transcends disciplines, and encourages our scholars to become life-long learners.

This has been our pandemic year. We started the Fall semester with over 2,700 scholars working remotely with our dedicated faculty. Together we explored the limits and possibilities of remote and online learning, and the meaning of community—local and global. Meeting the unprecedented challenges of our time not only provided us with an opportunity to examine and reflect on the ethos of Honors, but also on the meaning of Honors in our very specific circumstances.

What does it mean to be Honors in a majority minority urban research university where half our students are Pell eligible, a quarter are the first in their families to attend college, and many speak English as a second language? We tackled these and many other questions as an Honors community of scholars, faculty, alumni, and staff.

Community is one of our core values. In the past year, we worried about the sustainability of student life and co-curricular programming. But despite the circumstances, Enrique Rosell, our Student Programs Coordinator, preserved the sense of community that characterizes the Honors College. We hosted events ranging from self-care workshops to race and social justice conversations. We also launched “More Than a Major,” a podcast hosted and created by Enrique to share our scholars, alumni, and community leaders’ stories.

In our virtual classrooms, faculty fostered global ties through their participation in the Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Program. As a result, our scholars met and collaborated with peers from universities in Colombia, Canada, Ecuador and Venezuela.

We are now looking forward to our next academic year in a post-pandemic world. Our schedule is already established and includes courses taught by COVID-19 specialist Aileen Marty, visual artist John Bailly, and Large Hadron Collider physicist Pete Markowitz, each exemplifying the variety and quality of our offerings—over 125 sections. Research and the university-wide undergraduate research conference sponsored by the Honors College will be back. Our nine Study Abroad programs will be traveling again.

At the Honors College we strive to be at the forefront of pedagogical innovation, while embracing timeless values of inquiry. We embrace the ideals and practices of modern polymathy. We help our scholars rise and become the best they can be. We are Honors.
ABOUT FIU HONORS COLLEGE

OUR MISSION
The Honors College is the center of undergraduate academic excellence at FIU. We are also the most powerful engine for student success at the university. We are a community of students, faculty, and staff from all backgrounds and disciplines who are dedicated to excellence in all pursuits. We offer a unique academic and social experience that is compatible with all majors, transcends disciplines, and encourages our students to become life-long learners.

OUR VISION
The Honors College will foster a student-centered community and achieve global recognition by providing a transformative education and motivating our students to discover their passions and maximize their full potential.

OUR VALUES
Excellence: We achieve the highest standards of scholarship and performance through an exceptional community of faculty, staff, and students.

Diverse Perspectives: We cultivate an inclusive environment for learning that promotes diversity by recognizing the uniqueness of each individual, promoting the exploration of different cultures, and building upon our differences.

Experiential Learning: We believe learning happens through action and experiences that further enhance knowledge and skills.

Global Citizenship: We create global citizens who are aware of the wider world and engage with their local and global communities with the belief that we can all make a difference.

Integrity and Accountability: We exemplify honesty, honor, and responsibility in all we do.
The Honors College was home to 2,742 scholars during the 2020-2021 academic year. Honors represents 5% of FIU’s 58,000 students.
**FAST FACTS:**

- **64.11%** female
- **35.89%** male
- **4.46** average GPA
- **1309** average SAT
- **29.4** average ACT

**TOP 5 MAJORS**

- Biology
- Psychology
- Computer & Information Science
- International Business
- Finance
Scholar Success

While Honors College scholars are FIU’s best and brightest, their demographics mirror the rest of the University. They are diverse, reflecting both U.S. and international population trends. They bring a unique work ethic, with most successfully balancing multiple demands on their time. The Honors College was proud to award 198 scholarships to ensure the recipients could focus on their studies.

FAST FACTS:

- **188** Honors scholarships awarded
- **486** First Generation Scholars
- **$642,863.92** total amount awarded

“...It has been because of the people I’ve met at FIU like my mentors who have guided me, the internship experiences that I’ve done, and the support from the Honors College to do my study abroad that made this possible...”

Pierina Anton Lopez
FIU’s first recipient of the Payne Fellowship Program
HONORS SCHOLARS

RETENTION AND COMPLETION RATES

FTIC Retention Rates

HONORS ONLY  NON-HONORS  ALL

Cohort Year


Honors College Graduates (last three years)

Full Academic Year  Summer  Spring  Fall

Graduation Year


474  552  704

108  114  146

217  286  350

149  152  208
HONORS SCHOLARS

HONORS COLLEGE GRADUATION RATES (COMPLETION RATES)

Full-Time AA Transfer 2-Year Grad Rate

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Honors Only</th>
<th>Non-Honors</th>
<th>ALL</th>
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<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>46%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>60%</td>
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Cohort Year
The Honors College Edge Lab is FIU’s only makerspace open to the entire university community. Our space gives students, faculty, and staff access to a variety of tools, allowing them to create anything from hand-crafted jewelry to fully functioning prosthetics. The space has also taken the lead in working with new technologies and sustainable practices. Currently, it provides learning opportunities through workshops in electronics and digital fabrication, such as game design, vinyl cutting, CNC milling, and 3D design and printing.

In partnership with Parkview Residential Hall, the Honors College Edge Lab announced the implementation of a makerspace open to residents of Parkview East Hall. This was the first time a makerspace opened in residential life at FIU. This makerspace includes 3D printers, vinyl cutters, A/V equipment, and a variety of tools and resources for students to immerse themselves in making and creativity.
The Honors College offers unique study abroad programs that introduce scholars to culture and history in the following countries:

- Costa Rica
- France
- United Kingdom
- Italy
- Spain
- Vietnam/Cambodia
- Japan
- China

While we were in Costa Rica, we went snorkeling, scuba diving, hiking, ziplining, and swam in the clearest ocean I have ever seen. We helped volunteer at the most extraordinary places with even more interesting backgrounds.

Briana Vergara
Sociology and Liberal Arts major
ADVANCED RESEARCH AND CREATIVITY IN HONORS (ARCH) PROGRAM

The ARCH option allows Honors scholars to take part in research and present their research at conferences and in publications. Simultaneously, these ARCH classes are used to satisfy upper division requirements.

ARCH program enrollment has grown by 92% in the past four years.
In addition to the ARCH program, the Honors College hosts the Undergraduate Research at FIU (URFIU), an annual university-wide undergraduate research conference, which features presentations, posters, and workshops by top student and faculty researchers at FIU.

- Presentations
- Attendees

Conference presentations by Honors College scholars

- 12 HC students presented at NCUR 2017
- 12 HC students presented at FURC 2017
- 13 HC students presented at NCUR 2018
- 8 HC students presented at FURC 2018
- 11 HC students presented at NCUR 2019
- 8 HC students presented at FURC 2019
- NCUR 2020 was canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic (12 HC students were accepted)
- Four students were accepted to FURC 2020
- 16 HC students presented at NCUR 2021
- 14 HC students presented at FURC 2021
Faculty Development

- **Science & Fiction Lab** by Rhona Trauvitch. The Lab is a melding of science and the humanities, meant to examine how the humanities depict science.
- **The Teagle Cornerstone grant.** A series of workshops led by Jamie Sutton, Pioneer Winter, and Pete Markowitz meant to critically examine those classic works that speak to the Miami experience and the works that form the Miami Canon.
- **COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning courses)** taught by Honors Faculty Fellows Niurca Marquez and Amilcar Castellano-Sanchez connect FIU students to students at universities across the planet. Assignments, learning, and questioning are done with students at collaborating schools.
- **Global Learning Workshop for Honors College faculty by Office of Global Learning.** Upper division courses are certified Global Learning courses including a matrix of learning outcomes. Global learning workshops help faculty align their course assignments and instruction with the GL learning outcomes of global perspective, global awareness, and global engagement.
- **Remote Teach Ready Workshops for Honors College faculty by FIU Online.** When the pandemic forced FIU to respond with remote classes, a series of remote learning workshops were created to give faculty skills to translate our face-to-face classes to an online environment.
**OUR FACULTY**

### Faculty Degree Fields

- **Education**: 22%
- **Humanities**: 1%
- **Arts and Design**: 9%
- **Legal**: 11%
- **Business/Entrepreneurship**: 11%
- **Social Sciences**: 11%
- **Global Affairs**: 9%
- **Health**: 9%
- **STEM**: 9%
- **Hospitality**: 8%

![Faculty event image](image)
OVERVIEW

The Honors College at FIU provides a co-curricular roadmap intertwined with its curricular offerings to help scholars fulfill hard and soft transferable skills. These activities enhance their experience and better prepare them for life beyond their undergraduate degree, regarding both employment and/or graduate studies.

FIU Honors College scholars are required to accumulate 20 engagement points each academic year by attending activities within and outside campus. They must also complete 20 volunteer hours each academic year to maintain their active status within the college. The Honors College also encourages scholars to partake in student organizations, alternative breaks, Study Abroad, and to actively engage change making projects on and off campus.

It is important to note that since March 2020 we have paused the engagement points and volunteer hours requirements due to COVID-19. You will see this change reflected in our engagement numbers, although we did provide scholars with many virtual engagement opportunities and volunteer options during this time.
**CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

**BREAKDOWN OF EVENTS**

**Leadership Lecture:** A series of lectures co-sponsored by FIU Center for Leadership that are focused on “development that transforms and emboldens individuals to positively impact our world.” The vision for this type of series is to get our scholars acquainted with real world strategies that help leaders transform our world.

**Colloquium:** Every year we invite prominent researchers and faculty to give presentations on topics of interest. This series is special in scope as it pertains to academia in nature.

**Honors Hour:** Dissemination of information through informational sessions, social and entertainment opportunities, and workshops to expand the undergraduate experience of our scholars.

**HEARTS:** Opportunities to explore and appreciate different artistic and cultural traditions and modes of artistic expression, recognize the interplay of culture and artistic expression, and celebrate diversity.

**Student Organizations:** There are three types of student organizations within the Honors College:

1. Pre-Professional (PATH (Pre-Law), STITCH (Pre-Med), PUSH (Pre-Med) etc.)
2. Social (BC Community Project, Level UP, SHARP, etc.)
3. HEARTS (Book Club, Writing Club, A Cappella group, Art Club, Photography Club, etc.)
PARTICIPATION BREAKDOWN

Co-curricular/Co-sponsorship (2019-2020)

- Honors Hour: 126 events, 4555 attendance
- HEARTS: 831755 events, 831755 attendance
- Leadership Lecture: 5 events, 489 attendance
- Colloquium: 5 events, 459 attendance
- Student Organization Events: 150 events, 854 attendance
- Parkview Events: 9 events, 567 attendance
- Total Events & Attendance: 7679

Co-curricular/Co-sponsorship (2020-2021)

- Honors Hour: 79 events, 835 attendance
- HEARTS: 83 events, 388 attendance
- Leadership Lecture: 6 events, 34 attendance
- Colloquium: 24 events, 270 attendance
- Student Organization Events: 54 events, 595 attendance
- Total Events & Attendance: 2122
Engagement and Volunteerism

Honors College scholars take an active role in community engagement and volunteering as part of their “civic” duty. Pre-COVID, we would require our scholars to complete 20 volunteer hours per academic year, but they typically go beyond that mark.

We provide them connections to volunteer opportunities with organizations such as City of Sweetwater, Miami Children’s Hospital, Lil Abner Foundation, FIU Go Green, The Little Lighthouse Foundation, etc.

Event-based volunteering can be on and off campus. Many events, such as SOBE Wine and Food Festival and Art Basel Miami, occur throughout the day typically off campus.
The Honors College marked its 30th anniversary during the 2020 – 2021 academic year. It was meant to be a celebration of our current and past alumni, faculty, and staff. We have almost 5,000 alumni and 300 from the original version of Honors, the Faculty Scholars. It is worth noting that the first-year seminar, “Origins of Ideas, Ideas of Origins,” has not changed its basic structure and curriculum in all that time. It seems that is where Honors scholars are made. Of course, extracurricular activities, study abroad, and leadership opportunities are part of the experience that helps form Honors students into Honors alumni.

Who are our alumni? Attorneys, physicians, entrepreneurs, writers, judges, teachers, legislators, bankers, engineers, veterinarians, realtors, diplomats, computer engineers, artists, and many more professions. They give back. Our alumni are loyal to FIU and to the Honors College.

Measured by alumni giving participation, Honors alumni give at almost twice the rate (11.8%) of all other units. They serve on our Dean’s Advisory Board, they teach Honors courses, they hire interns and young professionals, and mentor the next generation in their fields. They stay connected as an Honors family that spans over 30 years.

Each year between 600 – 700 Honors scholars graduate. They join a vast community of professionals that is bigger, more connected each year.