Texas A & M University – Commerce

Honors Handbook

Revised June 2015
Introduction

This handbook is intended for all students interested in or involved in the Honors College or University Honors Scholars Program at Texas A&M University-Commerce. Please read it carefully because not all the handbook applies to every student at every moment, but the handbook does contain specific information about what a student must do during various phases of his or her pursuit of an Honors degree. The handbook concludes with appendices on the most important materials associated with Honors at Texas A&M-Commerce.

This handbook will be divided into three main sections. Section One will focus on elements that are unique to The Honors College at Texas A&M University-Commerce. Section Two will focus on elements that are unique to the Honors Scholar Programs at Texas A&M University-Commerce. Section Three will focus on issues that are of concern to both Honors College and Honors Scholar students (e.g., Honors Theses and Proposals, Student Honors Council).

Section One: The Honors College

Admission: Each year The Honors College at Texas A&M University-Commerce will admit approximately 50 students. There are no cutoff scores for admission to The Honors College. However, we are looking for students who have demonstrated an ability to excel in school and those whose standardized test scores reflect an ability to continue to thrive in an academic environment. Thus, the selection committee considers both class rank and standardized test scores in its admission decisions. The typical Honors College student has the following characteristics: Class Rank – top 10% or better; SAT (combined math and critical reading) of 1200 or higher, ACT score of 27 or higher. The specific numbers for the 2015 Fall class were: Top 4.6% of graduating class, 28 on the ACT, 1208 on the SAT. It is important to emphasize that these are not cutoff scores – merely a portrait of the typical Honors College student. In addition to these criteria, the application essay will be rated by at least two readers. After a review of these criteria, some students will be invited to campus for an interview. Final decisions will include the quality of the interview and the match between student, university, and Honors College.

Students interested in applying can find the application for admission at http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/academics/specialPrograms/honorsCollege/aboutHonorsCollege/default.aspx. The application can be emailed to honorscollege@tamuc.edu or mailed to: The Honors College, PO Box 3011, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Commerce, TX 75429-3011. A copy of your high school transcript and test scores should be mailed or faxed to us at the same time as your application.

Benefits: The Honors College experience is designed to increase the educational opportunities for students while engaging them in a four-year college experience. The benefits of the Honors College include the following:

- Honors courses capped at an enrollment of 25.
• Students housed together in apartment style housing. Emphasis is placed on a housing experience that fosters a residential learning community.
• A fantastic scholarship package that includes the cost of tuition and fees, honors housing, a partial meal plan (96 meals per semester + $100 flexcash per semester), and an allowance ($1400 per year as of 2015) for textbook costs.
• A challenging curriculum that culminates in an Honors Thesis experience.

Curriculum: Honors College students should consult with the Honors College Advisor to determine the particulars of their Honors degree plan. The typical Honors College student will complete 30 Honors credit in the process of completing their bachelor’s degree. These credits fall into 3 groupings: (1) University Core credits – Honors College students must complete a minimum of 21 Honors Credits out of the University Studies core. All students must take a writing course during their first semester. Honors College students who have completed ENG 1301 and ENG 1302 before attending TAMU-Commerce will receive Honors Credit for an upper division English class (ENG 333) that is focused on writing during that first semester. (2) Colloquia and Seminars – all Honors College students will take 3 1-credit courses toward their degree. The first, HC200, functions as the First Year Success Seminar for entering Honors College students. The second, HC300, will be a thesis preparation course. Finally, HC400, will look like a traditional senior seminar. Speakers will be brought in and readings will be assigned that are designed to help students synthesize what they have learned during their four years in college. (3) Honors Proposal and Thesis. In order to receive the Bachelors degree, all Honors College students must successfully complete an Honors Thesis. Students will receive 3 credits for the successful defense of their proposal, and three more for the successful defense of their thesis. See Section 3 for details about the Thesis process.

An example of the curriculum is inserted here. However, you must meet with your Honors Advisor to discuss substitutions and to insure that classes have been categorized correctly.
University Studies Core (42 Semester Hours-a minimum of 21 credits must be in Honors Sections)

Course
+ENG 1301
+ENG 1302
SPC 1315 or 1321
HIST 1301
HIST 1302
PSCI 2301
PSCI 2302

*Social and Behavior Sciences: AEC219; ANTH 2351; ECO2301, 2302, 233; HHPH 331; PHIL2303; PSY2301, 2306, 2315; SOC1301, 1306.

**Literature, Philosophy, and Culture (3 SH): ENG200, 202, 2326 and 2331; HIST 264, 265; JOUR1307; PHIL1301, 331, 332, 360, 362; RTV1335; SPC201; SPA131, 132, 231, or 232.

***Creative Arts (3 SH): ART1301, 1303, 1304; ENG432, 434; MUS1310, 1308; or THE1310

****Math 142,176,179, 192, 1314, 1324, or 2413

*****Life and Physical Science (different requirements for science and non-science majors, see catalog or Degreeworks for options) (3 SH)

*****Life and Physical Science (3 SH) (different requirements for science and non-science majors, see catalog or Degreeworks for options)

Component Area – requirements differ for students pursuing BA vs BS. See Degreeworks for requirements.

+ Students must take Honors ENG 1302 their first semester. If student has credit for ENG 1301 and 1302, ENG 333 will be mandatory as will count as an Honors course.

* ANTH 2351; ECO 2301 or 2302; PHIL 1301; PSY 2301 or 2315, or 2306; SOC 1301 or 1306 (3 SH)

** ENG 200, 2306, 202, 203; Hist 261, 262, 263, 264, 265; Jour 1307; Phil 231, 331, 332, 360, 362; PSI 410, 411, 412; SPC 201(3SH)

*** Art 1303, 1304, 301, 304; Eng 432, 434; Mus 1308; The 1310, 340, 440 (3SH)

**** THEA scores may require developmental math before college level math

***** Select from approved list of University Studies courses/refer to catalog. Science majors will follow the suggested sciences listed in the catalog for that particular major.
### Honors Courses (9 semester hours)

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Semester Completed</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*HC 200: Introduction to Honors (1SCH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>**HC 491: Honors Reading (3SCH)</td>
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<td>HC 490: Honors Thesis (3SCH)</td>
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<td>***HC 300: Honors Colloquium (1SCH)</td>
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<td>****HC 400: Honors Colloquium (1SCH)</td>
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* Will satisfy First-Year Success Seminar (FSS) requirement.
** Provides student time for thesis proposal
*** Will primarily consist of a thesis preparation workshop
**** Optimally to be taken Senior year

### Major Requirements (Discuss with your Major Department)

### Minor Requirements (Semester hours-defined by minor department; not all majors require a minor)

### Upper Level Electives (as needed to meet university requirements for graduation)

Total Honors Hours Required: 30

Total Semester Hours Required: approximately 120 (depending upon major)
Requirements: In addition to curriculum requirements all Honors College students must adhere to the following guidelines.

Students must accept and receive this scholarship during their first semester of enrollment at Texas A&M University-Commerce to continue the scholarship in subsequent semesters.

Students must complete a FAFSA/TAFSA each academic year. Students must also respond to all financial aid requests for verification of FAFSA/TAFSA form. Completion of the FAFSA must occur by August 1 each year.

Student must complete a minimum of fifteen (15) semester hours from Texas A&M University-Commerce each semester to receive and maintain this scholarship.

Honors College students are required to maintain a minimum 3.3 cumulative GPA. Students whose cumulative GPA falls between 3.0 and 3.29 will be assigned Honors Probationary status, which allows them to raise their GPA while continuing to enjoy the benefits of the Honors College. An exception is allowed for first-semester freshmen who may be assigned probationary status with a GPA between 2.7 and 3.29. Students may be on probation for a maximum of two consecutive semesters.

Honors College students must live in the Honors Residence Hall during their Freshmen year in order to receive the Honors College Scholarship. In order to receive the Housing component of the scholarship package in subsequent years they must live in the Honors Residence Hall.

The Honors College scholarship is awarded for eight academic year semesters (Fall and Spring) or until a baccalaureate is conferred, whichever comes first. Note: a student may take 12 concurrent summer hours (i.e., full load during consecutive summer sessions) in place of a long semester.

A student may drop no more than three classes over the course of the eight semesters on scholarship. This cap on dropped courses does not include changes made to your schedule before the semester begins.

Honors College students must adhere to the university’s Code of Student Conduct. The scholarship may be revoked for violations of this policy or for behavior that does not reflect the standards of The Honors College. Neither abusive behavior toward peers, faculty, and/or staff nor violations of academic conduct (e.g., cheating, plagiarism) will be permitted.

Honors College students must complete an Honors Thesis to graduate from the university with a bachelor’s degree. Students who withdraw from the Honors College before enrolling for their fifth semester at Texas A&M University - Commerce will not be held to this requirement.

Honors College students who enter in the fall of 2010, or later, will be required to complete 24 hours of community service each semester during their second and third years in the Honors College. Further requirements are:

a. Hours must be documented (form available on our website for documenting hours) and your participation has to be verified by the signature of the event
coordinator. Please turn these forms in every couple of weeks or immediately after your service commitment. If everyone waits until the end of the semester it puts a huge burden on the office staff. Thanks!

b. Serving as a tutor or SI instructor or writing lab instructor can count as community service even if you are paid for the activity (note – we use the term community service, not volunteer hours). I don’t want people to choose between helping other students with academics or finding a volunteer opportunity.

c. A student can ‘bank’ hours. For example, if you accumulate 30 hours this semester you can apply the ‘extra 6 hours’ to next semester’s requirement.

d. Community service must occur ‘locally’. We define local as the arc ranging from Greenville through Sulphur Springs.
Section Two: The Honors Scholar Program

Note: The Honors Scholar Program replaced the Honors Program in the Spring of 2008

The Honors Scholar Program provides students who are not in the Honors College with an opportunity to reap many of the benefits of the Honors experience and to graduate with an Honors designation. Student may enter the Honors Scholar program by many different avenues: including the Regents Scholars Program, self-nomination, nomination by department, Phi Theta Kappa transfers, or students who come to Honors later in their college experience. There are no entrance criteria – only graduation requirements. To apply, students need to complete an application for Honors at The Honors Office on the first floor of Prairie Crossing.

To graduate with the Honors Scholar designation, students must:

1. Have at least a cumulative 3.3 GPA at the time of graduation.

2. Take at least TWO Honors classes (i.e., enrollment is restricted to Honors Students) A student must receive a B or higher to receive Honors credit for the course. These courses will be marked by with an H on the student’s transcript. Occasionally, students may not be able to fit Honors only classes in their schedule. In this case, they may receive Honors credit by contract. The contract form is available at the end of this document and on the Honors webpage at (Insert Link)

3. Must take one semester of the Honors Colloquium: Thesis Preparation (HC300) for one credit hour.

4. Must successfully complete Honors Readings (491) and Honors Thesis (490).

a) Honors Readings (491)

- Students enroll in Honors Readings to prepare the Honors thesis proposal. Students enroll in Honors Readings (491) in the department in which they are planning to research and write an Honors thesis. Each student works with an academic advisor. The advisor and Dean of Honors must approve the Honors thesis proposal before it is submitted to the student’s thesis committee. The Proposal Pre-Defense form must be signed before the defense date is set. The thesis committee will consist of the student’s advisor, a second faculty member from the department (or an expert in the topic area), and a member of the University Honors Council. The University Honors Council member will be appointed by the Dean of Honors. Upon approval by the committee, the proposal must receive final approval from the Dean of Honors. Each semester, the Honors office posts a key dates and deadlines handout with proposal submission deadlines.

- The student must electronically submit the Honors thesis proposal to the Honors Dean so that it can be disseminated to the committee.

- Failure to Complete the Honors Thesis Proposal. Occasionally, personal or professional commitments prevent the student from completing the Honors thesis
proposal. If a student registers for Honors Readings 491, fails to submit the written proposal to the University Honors Committee Honors, and does not withdraw from the course, a grade of \textbf{I (in progress)} will be entered on the transcript and will remain unchanged.

\textbf{b) Honors Thesis (490)}

- Once the Honors thesis proposal has been accepted by the University Honors Committee, the student, under the direction of his/her Honors advisor completes the Honors thesis. The student must successfully defend the Honors thesis prior to graduation.

- To schedule the Honors thesis defense, the student must meet with the Honors director who will work with the student and the advisor to set up a mutually agreed upon date and time. The Honors office will provide you with more details about the Honors thesis defense, printing out your final thesis, and final preparations for graduation with Honors.

- \textbf{Failure to Complete the Honors Thesis.} Occasionally, personal or professional commitments prevent the student from completing Honors Thesis 490 even after the Honors thesis proposal has been approved. If a student registers for Honors Thesis 490 and fails to complete the Honors Thesis and does not withdraw from the course, a grade of \textbf{I (in progress)} will be entered on the transcript and will remain unchanged.
Section Three: General Honors Information

I. A Non-exhaustive Timeline for the Thesis Process

The following is not meant to be a complete description of everything that you need to know about the thesis process. Nor will every student experience the thesis in this exact order. Instead, its purpose is to lay out the basic steps that you will undertake and to get you thinking about what you need to do.

Step 1: Choose a major. Your thesis does not have to be done in your major. However, most people do the thesis in their major area for obvious reasons (e.g., familiarity with and interest in material).

Step 2: Enroll in HC300

Step 3: Choose an advisor. This is the single most important step in the process. There are numerous things to consider in making this choice. Is the person knowledgeable in the area that you want to pursue? Is their personality a good match with yours? Does their working style complement yours? Do they have the time to commit to the thesis process?

Step 4: Enroll in 491 and write your proposal. See separate sheet for thoughts on writing the proposal. Your advisor and the Dean of Honors must approve your proposal before moving on to your proposal defense.

Step 5a: If necessary, get the appropriate institutional approval to conduct your project. That is, if you are using human or animal subjects you’ll need to get ethical approval to begin collecting data (IRB and IACUC, respectively).

Step 5b: Form your committee and defend your proposal. The thesis committee will consist of the student’s advisor, a second faculty member from the department (or an expert in the topic area), and a member of the University Honors Council. The University Honors Council member will be appointed by the Dean of the Honors College. Upon approval by the committee, the proposal must receive final approval from the Dean of the Honors College. The defense generally consists of a 10-15 minute presentation followed up by questions and suggestions from your committee.

Step 6: Enroll in 490 and write your thesis.

Step 7: Defend your thesis. At a minimum, students should aim to defend their thesis in the Fall of their Senior year. The thesis process will take longer than you expect. Do not aim to finish at the very end of your senior year. You may find that you need to enroll for one more semester (Remember: Students in the Honors College can not receive a bachelor’s degree until they have successfully defended their thesis project).
II. A Shortened Guide to Honors Proposals, Theses, and Defenses

Although a thesis is a large process that requires attention to detail, many of the most important points can be boiled down to a few key ideas. I will try to provide these highlights below.

Thesis Proposals

- Should not be lengthy. The best proposals tend to be in the 6-10 page range (not including references, appendices, etc.). You are providing a “roadmap” to your project – not writing a term paper.
- Although an exhaustive review of the literature should occur before any project is undertaken, the student should only provide a brief review of the relevant literature in their proposal. This summary of the literature should clearly lead the reader to the proposed project.
- Methodology should be as detailed as possible. This section, if done right, will be cut and pasted into your final thesis.
- Proposals will be defended in front of a committee that includes an outside member who is unlikely to be an “expert” in the proposed field. Thus, proposals should be written so that “non-experts” can understand them.
- Grammar and syntax matter. The expectation exists that Honors graduates should demonstrate above average writing ability.

Theses

- Grammar and syntax matter (see above 😊)
- There is no single correct format for the thesis. That is, the dictates of your field should guide the presentation.
- Choose the style manual most relevant to your field of study and then use it assiduously. APA, MLA, Turabian – whatever you use, use it well and consistently.
- Assume that you will make changes before the thesis is sent to the library to be archived.
- Certain projects may benefit from different thesis formats. For example, a process journal (in conjunction with a gallery show) may be a more appropriate written document than a thesis for a photography student. If you and your advisor believe that this may be the case please contact the Dean of the Honors College to discuss the matter.

Proposal and Thesis Defenses

- Oral defenses are an opportunity for students to demonstrate their ability to talk intelligently in an academic setting.
- Students should provide a brief (10-15 minute) overview of their project. Then the floor will be opened for questions, comments, and suggestions.
- Although questions will generally focus on the research project, students may be asked to assimilate other relevant information (e.g., relation of their research to the “real world”) into the defense.
- Defenses typically last between 45-60 minutes.
- Committee members should include: the student’s advisor, a member of the Honors Council (chosen by the Honors Dean), and a faculty member chosen by the student. This faculty member chosen by the student should, optimally, be well versed in the topic being
defended. The Dean of the Honors College may participate in the defense, but is a non-voting member unless invited unto the committee.

- If a student has technical requirements (e.g., power point, DVD player) for the defense, the Director should be notified as early as possible.
- Certain majors and disciplines may benefit from different defense formats (e.g., music, photography). If you and your advisor believe that this may be the case please contact the Dean of the Honors College to discuss the matter.
- All defenses are open to the public.

III. Honors Thesis Proposal Pre-Defense Form

The Honor College Process for Thesis Proposal Submission of the thesis proposal is a major step in the academic history of a honor college student with a thesis at Texas A&M University-Commerce. Below are guidelines to help you navigate through this important time. Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of research conduct and strictly adhere to all federal, state, and local regulations involving research.

To ensure integrity and compliance in research, all students involved in research activities must successfully complete training in Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship (http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/gradschool/research/responsible_conduct_training.asp). Additional training is required for individuals (see #2 below) whose research involves human or animal subjects. Only students who have met the above applicable requirements will be eligible to obtain proposal approval. Proposal approval, not submission, by the Dean of the Honors College is required before any research/studies may be conducted.

Prior to submitting your thesis proposal:

1. You must complete the online training for Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship http://www.tamuc.edu/research/compliance/responsible-conduct-of-research-training.aspx before you submit your schedule form. This training is required of all thesis students and is good for three (3) years.

2. You must complete the following if your proposed research/study involves:
   - **Human Subjects**: Human Subjects research is defined as a systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalized knowledge, which involves the collection of data from or about living human beings. In addition, all student research involving human subjects outside the classroom is considered to be in this category (see http://www.tamuc.edu/research/ComplianceOverview/ProtectionofHumanSubjects/default.aspx).
     a. You must complete the Human Subjects online training. The online training can be accessed at the following website: http://www.tamuc.edu/research/compliance/human-subjects-research.aspx
     b. Although you don’t have to do so before you defend the proposal, you must gain IRB approval for your study before you begin the collection of data. The process to gain approval from the IRB includes completion, submission, and revisions (if required by your Departmental IRB Representative and/or IRB) of the IRB protocol form (see http://www.tamuc.edu/research/ComplianceOverview/ProtectionofHumanSubjects/default.aspx). IRB protocol forms must be submitted to the Office of Sponsored Programs through your Honors Thesis advisor – do not submit directly to the IRB. Final approval for the inclusion of human subjects in your research/study rests with the IRB.

   - **Animal Subjects**: Animal subjects are defined as any live, vertebrate animal (see http://www.tamuc.edu/research/ComplianceOverview/AnimalResearch/default.aspx).
     a. You must complete the Animal Subjects online training for the inclusion of animal subjects in your research/study from the Institutional for care of use of animals. The online training can be accessed at the following website: http://www.tamuc.edu/research/compliance/laboratory-animal-welfare.aspx
     b. Although you don’t have to do so before your proposal defense, you must gain IACUC approval for your study before the collection of data begins. The process to gain approval from the IACUC includes completion, submission, and revisions (if required by the IACUC) of the IACUC protocol form (see Research Protocols Form A at
IACUC protocol forms must be submitted to the Office of Sponsored Programs. Final approval for the inclusion of animal subjects in your research/study rests with the IACUC.

3. Submit the attached form (filled out and all signatures) and copy of thesis proposal to The Honor College after your thesis proposal defense and no later than one semester prior to your intended graduation. It is the responsibility of the student to get all required signatures.

If you have any questions concerning the training or research compliance, please contact Austin Templar at researchcompliance@tamuc.edu or 903/886-5143.

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<tr>
<th>STUDENT INFORMATION</th>
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<td>Student Name:</td>
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<td>Address:</td>
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<td>Email:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Title of Thesis Proposal:</td>
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<tr>
<th>COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>All students are required to complete the online training for the Responsible Conduct in Research &amp; Scholarship (attach certificate of completion of training to this proposal pre-defense form).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If human or animal subjects are involved in this proposed research/study you must meet the appropriate requirements listed below prior to you having any contact with human subjects/animals, and before your proposal will be approved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Completion of the online training for the appropriate area, human subjects or animal care and use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Approval must be gained by the appropriate committee: (1) Institutional Review Board for the protection of human subjects or 2) Institutional Animal Care &amp; Use Committee for animal care and use.</td>
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<tr>
<td>This research/study (select one):</td>
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<tr>
<td>Involve Human Subjects (Human Subjects research is defined as a systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalize knowledge, which involves the collection of data from or about living human beings. In addition, all student research involving human subjects outside the classroom is considered to be in this category.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Involve Animal Subjects (Animal subjects are defined as any live, vertebrate animal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Does not involve Human or Animal Subjects</td>
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Student’s Signature: ______________________________
IV. Honors Organizations

There are many Honors organizations at Texas A&M University-Commerce. Generally speaking, each academic department or specialized area has an affiliation with an Honors organization at the national level. For example, Sigma Tau Delta is the international Honors Society for English Majors and Minors, and Psi Chi is the national Psychology Honors Society. However, these and other specialized honors societies are not technically part of the Honors Program.

1. Student Organizations: Two Honors organizations come under the supervision of the Dean of Honors:

   a) Student Honors Council (SHC). Application for membership is open to any student who is currently or has been actively involved in some phase of the Honors Program; or someone who has completed an Honors course, or a person who is taking or has taken Honors Colloquium, or a student who is actively engaged in some phase of the Honors Thesis. The SHC can accommodate up to 17 members. Members elect a president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary, historian, and special events chair for each academic year. Duties of the SHC include:

   - Proposing changes or modification to the Honors Program.
   - Publicizing the Honors Program through flyers, visits to Honors classes, etc.
   - Selecting the Honors Professor of the Year.
   - Recognizing contributions made by faculty and staff involved in the Honors Program.
   - Providing suggestions for programming including speakers, films, and field trips.
b) **Phi Kappa Phi**: The university was awarded a chapter of Phi Kappa Phi in August 2013. Phi Kappa Phi is the oldest, and perhaps most prestigious, general honor society in the country. Requirements include: (i) Completion of at least 24 semester hours at Texas A&M University-Commerce; (ii) Juniors (defined as 72 hours or better) must be in the top 7.5% of their class, seniors and graduate students in the top 10%. Final determination of suitability will be decided by the Chapter Officers at Texas A&M University-Commerce

2. **Faculty Organization**: The supervisory body for the Honors Program is the University Honors Council which consists of faculty members from across the university. The University Honors Committee is appointed by and serves at the discretion of the President and CEO of the University. The Honors Dean chairs the University Honors Committee. The duties of the committee include:

   a) Providing a representative to act as an outside committee member for all Thesis proposals defenses.

   b) Approving or disapproving initiatives forwarded by the SHC.

   c) Instituting changes or modifications in the Honors Program.

   d) Providing assistance in the interviewing and selection of Honors College applicants.

V. **Overview and Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **Why Should I Enroll in Honors?**

   It sets you apart from the average undergraduate. Even if you take only one Honors course, it is listed on your transcript with an H designation. If you pursue and acquire an Honors degree, you stand apart from the ordinary Texas A & M University-Commerce graduate, and you are immediately attractive to a graduate school or potential employer.

2. **Who Is Eligible to Take Honors Courses?**

   Registration for all Honors courses at the university are by permit only. Students in the Honors College are automatically permitted to enroll in these courses. Students in the Honors Scholar Program should contact the Dean of Honors to receive a permit to enter an Honors section. In addition, individual departments can “nominate” students for an Honors section. These nominations should be sent to the Dean of Honors so that information concerning Honors can be sent to the student. Please check the Schedule of Classes for a given semester to see which Honors classes are offered.

3. **What Are Some of the Benefits Involved in Being Part of the Honors Program?**

   a) **Small classes**. Each Honors course is usually limited to 20-25 students. The course is taught by a seasoned, full-time faculty member. Students can thus expect a letter of recommendation in the future because the instructor will remember the student.
b) **Mentoring.** Students who elect to pursue graduation with Honors have the unique opportunity to work one-on-one with a faculty member while completing their Honors thesis. Undergraduates are rarely afforded access to the excitement and personal fulfillment generated by such scholarly endeavors.

4. **What Will Graduation with Honors Do for Me?**

All students who graduate with Honors have their names, thesis titles, and advisors listed in the commencement program, and each Honors graduate receives a blue and gold *fourragere* from his or her advisor during the commencement ceremony. More importantly, an Honors degree follows a student for the rest of his or her life. Recent Honors graduates have confirmed that they had an advantage in getting a job, winning a scholarship, being hired in an ISD, etc., because they graduated with Honors.

5. **What Can I Do for the Honors Program?**

Promote the Honors Program on campus. All the advertising in the world does not match word-of-mouth praise for an instructor or a valuable Honors experience.

**Other Information**

It is important that you keep the Honors office informed of your current contact information and your progress as you complete the Honors Program.

Dr. Raymond J. Green, Dean  
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