

The Honors College

Ivelaw L. Griffith, *Dean*

Lesley A. Northup, *Associate Dean*

John S. Kneski, *Associate Dean*

Sharon Placide, *Assistant Dean*

Larissa Ramos, *Director of Development*

Elizabeth Williams, *Director of College Relations*

Isabel Dávila, *Assistant Director of Student Services and
Medical Education Program Manager*

Ruben Garrote, *Coordinator of Student Services*

Sachin Gursahani, *Coordinator of Student Services,
Advisor, Medical Education Program*

Juan Lopez, *Coordinator of Information Technology*

Talented students often are forced to choose between the exciting opportunities and challenges offered by large, research-oriented universities and the close, personal environment offered by small liberal arts colleges. FIU offers the best of both worlds. The Honors College is a small community of dedicated scholars—outstanding students and committed teachers—who work together in an atmosphere usually associated with small private colleges, but they do so with all of the resources of a major state university readily at hand.

The College provides an important foundation for students who want to get the most out of their undergraduate years. Transition into higher education is made easier by the student's immediate association with a small group of students and teachers with similar capabilities and aspirations. The undergraduate experience is significantly enhanced by the broad liberal arts focus of the curriculum and the opportunity to work closely with experienced faculty from the first day on campus; and the opportunities for graduate and professional study or employment are greatly expanded because of the range of activities and experiences made available to students in the College. The Honors College at FIU offers the very best in undergraduate education.

Location

The Honors College operates at both University Park and the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Admission Policy

Admission to The Honors College is selective and limited. Students are admitted only at the beginning of each academic year (fall term).

Freshmen: Students with a 3.5 overall high school GPA and commensurate scores on the SAT or ACT are eligible for admission to the College.

Transfer and Continuing FIU Students: Students who have maintained a 3.3 GPA in all college-level work are eligible for admission to the College. To be eligible for admission, students must have at least two full academic years remaining in their undergraduate programs.

Academic Policy

Students are required to maintain a cumulative 3.3 GPA for satisfactory standing in the Honors College.

Graduation Policy

Students are eligible for a transcript notation indicating that they "*Graduated Through The Honors College*" if they have completed with the following requirements:

1. met all other requirements for graduation from the University;
2. were continuously enrolled in honors seminars;
3. completed at least 24 credits of honors courses (if entered program as a freshman) with a cumulative GPA of at least a 3.3.
4. maintained an overall GPA of at least 3.3.

The Honors Curriculum

Students in the College possess dual academic citizenship. They pursue any major available in the University and at the same time complete the honors curriculum. In most cases, participation in the College does not increase the number of credits required for graduation. Each term through the third year, students enroll in one honors seminar that is designed to stimulate thoughtful discussion and creativity and to develop communication skills. Honors seminars are limited to a student/faculty ratio of 20:1 and are taught by some of the best teachers in the University. In the senior year, students may choose from several options including additional seminars, independent research, and foreign study.

Many classes are team-taught; all are interdisciplinary. Years I – II at University Park are structured similarly: all students and faculty at each level meet in a large group session one day a week for lectures, panel discussions, case studies, student presentations, etc.; the other class meeting each week is spent in small group preceptorials. At Biscayne Bay Campus, classes meet as individual seminars. Professors at both campuses meet with the same small group throughout the year. The third year provides a choice of individually taught seminars. The fourth year also provides independent classes with an emphasis on synthesizing the students' experiences during the previous three years and on introducing the students to graduate level research activities.

The curriculum emphasizes the following activities:

- Critical, integrative, and creative thinking;
- Group and independent research;
- Oral presentation;
- Close contact between students and faculty;
- Integration of class work with the broader community.

Year One

IDH 1001, IDH 1002 The Origin of Ideas and the Idea of Origins (6). The course is designed to encourage students to become self-conscious learners, exploring not only the what, but also the how and why of knowing. The course focuses on the nature of truth and reality and our role in the world each of us has constructed.

Year Two

IDH 2003, IDH 2004 Inhabiting Other Lives (6). This seminar exposes students to issues of human commonality and diversity, and invites them to investigate and to understand the interconnectedness of various cultures, times and life experiences.

Year Three

IDH 3005, IDH 3006 Aesthetics, Values, and Authority (6). Building on the investigations of the first two years, the third course examines the aesthetic underpinnings of culture and foundations of what commonly are held to be "western values." Discussions focus not only on these

paradigms, but on the authority and power relationships that surround them.

Year Four

Prerequisites

1. admission to The Honors College;
2. 3.0 GPA in prior honors course work;
3. and a cumulative GPA of at least 3.3.
(these requirements may be appealed in writing to the Dean of the Honors College)

Option 1

IDH 4007, IDH 4008 Looking to the Future (6).

Discussion of contemporary issues within the framework provided by the first three years of study;

Option 2

Departmental Honors Requirements—Honors course work or honors thesis opportunities offered by individual departments;

Option 3

Independent Study—Individual research projects under the direction of a faculty member from the student's major department;

Option 4

Foreign Study

Students may choose to complete the fourth year of the honors curriculum at one of the College's summer study abroad programs. During the summer programs are offered in Spain, Italy, and Jamaica;

Option 5

Engineering Courses

Engineering Majors may apply specific engineering courses to Honors College graduation requirements. Students must meet with an Honors College Advisor to discuss options.

Honors Place

Honors Place at Panther Hall was named Outstanding Living – Learning Community this year by Florida Student Leader Magazine in 2004. Honors Place provides Honors College students the opportunity not only to live together, but to study, socialize and work together as well.

Student Research and Artistic Initiatives (SRAI)

The Honors College has launched the SRAI Program to engage students in research and artistic projects during their undergraduate studies at FIU. SRAI will provide cutting-edge primary and advanced research as well as artistic opportunities to Honors College students, enhancing their knowledge of and access to research and artistic arenas.

FIU/USF Medical Education Program

The FIU/USF Medical Education Program offers eligible freshmen who have been admitted to The Honors College at FIU an opportunity to receive guaranteed admission to the University of South Florida College of Medicine. Students can complete a medical degree and a Bachelor's Degree in 7 or 8 years, provided they continue to meet all the requirements of the program.

International Baccalaureate Extended Essay Academy

The Academy offers high school IB students the opportunity to research and write their extended essays in an in-depth two week course of study during the summer on the FIU campus.

Student Information Technology Centers

For use by Honors College students, student information technology centers are located in The Honors College office on both University Park and Biscayne Bay Campuses. Students may use the computers and software available, or may simply stop by to study.

Gamma Epsilon Phi & Alpha Sigma Tau

Open to all Honors College students, Gamma Epsilon Phi at University Park, and Alpha Sigma Tau, at Biscayne Bay Campus, move the honors experience beyond the classroom by organizing social and cultural activities and community service projects. The societies provide community and opportunities for leadership development.

Mentoring

For students in the College, the facilities and programs available at the University, extensive as they might be, are only the beginning. The faculty and staff of the College feel a personal responsibility to see that every student is aware of and prepared for the many fellowship and internship opportunities available to undergraduate students. It is not uncommon for Honors College students to be involved in some sort of funded off-campus activity during each summer of their undergraduate careers.

Graduate and Professional School Placement

The College provides placement assistance in two very important ways. The staff is knowledgeable and eager to help students find out about graduate and professional programs and the application process. More importantly, however, students who have completed the honors curriculum will have participated in a small seminar with a number of faculty members who will be able to offer guidance to the students and personal, detailed evaluation in support of their applications.

Other Privileges

Because of the special nature of their contribution to the university, Honors College students enjoy other privileges as well, including

- Priority registration
- Library privileges as graduate students
- Opportunities for scholarships and fee waivers
- Participation in Honors Convocation
- Funding to attend conferences
- Internships and mentoring, and
- Special recognition at commencement ceremonies.

Pre-Collegiate Summer Institute

The Summer Institute offers high school students the opportunity to attend college classes during the summer prior to their senior year. Acceptance into the Institute includes a scholarship for 6 credits, which covers tuition, registration fees, and textbooks. The Institute may enable students to graduate from college in under four years. Any credits earned will count toward graduation from FIU and are transferable to other universities. Students also may arrange to apply these credits toward high school graduation.

Students who successfully complete the Summer Institute are guaranteed priority consideration for admission into The Honors College.

Fellows of The Honors College

- Alvarez, Daniel, M.A.** (*Harvard University*), *Religious Studies*
- Bailey, Regina, C., M.F.A.** (*Pratt Institute*), *Art*
- Bailly, John, M.F.A.** (*Yale University*), *Painting and Printmaking*
- Bass, Daniel, Ph.D.** (*University of Michigan*), *Anthropology*
- Beesting, William, K., Ph.D.** (*Florida State University*), *English*
- Brown, Christopher, Ph.D.** (*University of Delaware*), *Biological Sciences*
- Carvajal, Manuel, J., Ph.D.** (*University of Florida*), *Economics*
- Chatfield, David C., Ph.D.** (*University of Minnesota*), *Chemistry*
- Cornely, Helen Z., Ed.D.** (*Florida International University*), *Physical Therapy*
- Davies, Gwyn, Ph.D.** (*University College London*), *History*
- de Alonso, Irma, T., Ph.D.** (*University of York, England*), *Economics*
- DeFrancesco, Charmaine, Ph.D.** (*Florida State University*), *Education*
- Fain, Stephen M., Ed.D.** (*Teachers College, Columbia University*), *Education*
- Fingerhut, H. Scott, JD** (*Emory University School of Law*), *Law*
- Fjellman, Stephen, M., Ph.D.** (*Stanford University*), *Anthropology*
- Garrote, Ruben, M.A.** (*Florida International University*), *Religious Studies*
- Gerstman, Bernard, S., Ph.D.** (*Princeton University*), *Physics*
- Gonzalez-Reigosa, Fernando, Ph.D.** (*Florida State University*), *Psychology*
- Goraczko, Anne, M.A.** (*Florida International University*), *Comparative Sociology*
- Griffith, Ivelaw, L., Ph.D.** (*City University of New York*), *Political Science*
- Grof, Caryl, M.S.** (*Florida International University*), *English*
- Herriott, Arthur W., Ph.D.** (*University of Florida*), *Chemistry*
- Hoder-Salmon, Marilyn, Ph.D.** (*University of New Mexico*), *English*
- Hogner, Robert, H., Ph.D.** (*University of Pittsburgh*), *Marketing and Business Environment*
- Jayachandran, Krishnaswamy, Ph.D.** (*Kansas State University*), *Soil Microbiology*
- Kakar, Suman, Ph.D.** (*University of Florida*), *Criminal Justice*
- Kass, Scott, M.S.** (*Florida State University*), *Library Science*
- Kneski, John, S., M., Archll** (*Syracuse University*), *Architecture*
- Laha, Shonali, Ph.D.** (*Carnegie Mellon University*), *Environmental Engineering*
- Machonis, Peter, A., Ph.D.** (*Pennsylvania State University*), *Modern Languages*
- Mandakovic, Tomislav, Ph.D.** (*University of Pittsburgh*), *Decision Sciences*
- Markowitz, Pete, E. C., Ph.D.** (*College of William and Mary*), *Physics*
- Maurrasse, Florentin, Ph.D.** (*Columbia University*), *Earth Sciences*
- Northup, Lesley, A., Ph.D.** (*Catholic University*), *Religious Studies*
- Pasztor, Anna, Dr. Rer. Nat Degree** (*Darmstadt University, Germany*), *Computer Science*
- Peterson, Joyce, Ph.D.** (*University of Wisconsin, Madison*), *History*
- Placide, Sharon, M.A.** (*Florida International University*), *Hispanic Studies*
- Pyron, Darden, Ph.D.** (*University of Virginia*), *History*
- Riach, James, Ph.D.** (*University of Georgia*), *Anthropology*
- Ritzi, William, M.S.** (*Florida International University*), *Art Education*
- Rochelson, Meri-Jane, Ph.D.** (*University of Chicago*), *English*
- Schwartz, Bennett L., Ph.D.** (*Dartmouth College*), *Psychology*
- Stuart, John A., M. Arch, AIA** (*Columbia University*), *Architecture*
- Tansel, Ibrahim, Ph.D.** (*University of Wisconsin*), *Mechanical Engineering*
- Tsalikis, John, Ph.D.** (*University of Mississippi*), *Marketing*
- Veraldi, Lorna, J.D.** (*New York School of Law*), *Journalism and Mass Communications*