

Valdosta State University
Honors College
Strategic Plan 2014-15 Revision Fall 2014

Mission Statement

The mission of the Honors College at Valdosta State University is to provide for the stimulation of academically motivated students so that they achieve their full academic potential, while at the same time providing recognition for such students' endeavors. The Honors College encourages meaningful connections between disciplines, innovative and unusual approaches to subject matter, and reliance upon experiential learning and global awareness that are fully integrated into the course content and lead to opportunities for strong undergraduate research and creative endeavors. The Honors College also provides extra-curricular opportunities for students to broaden themselves through lectures, service opportunities, and other forms of activity that relate to their education. Finally, the mission of the Honors College is to attract the best students to Valdosta State, and to assist in retaining those students through all four years of their undergraduate experience. In this way Honors College students will make a visible and positive impact on the entire university community, thereby enriching the diversity of the Valdosta State University community as a whole.

Goal	Description	Timeline	Progress
1	Engage students in undergraduate research and scholarship opportunities		
	Objective		
	Align Honors curriculum to facilitate and connect to research and scholarship opportunities – Strategy 1.2.2	Fall 2014	In-progress
	Action Steps		
	1) Revise HONS Seminar courses – HONS 1990 create outcome to include research inquiry – Strategy 1.2.2	Revise to Spring 2015	Ongoing – Goal for IDEA Teaching Circle
	2) Honors Option Contracts must include specific guidelines and criteria included the expectation that the work should be at least presentation/conference ready – Strategy 1.2.2, 1.2.3	Fall 2013	Fall 2014 – assigned to Honors Committee – Completed with IDEA Teaching Circle
	3) Revise Honors admission application and standards – Strategy 1.2.2	Fall 2014	Completed
	4) Revise Honors exit survey – 1.2.2, 3.2.1	Spring 2014	Ongoing – HONS 4990 Revised – Completed Fall 2014
	5) Revise the Global Experience and Understandings requirement to include specific guidelines and criteria – also to include collaborative partnerships with international institutions – Strategy 1.2.2	Spring 2014	Completed by Charles Johnson
	6) Develop faculty standards and guidelines (including skills and learning objectives) for teaching in Honors – Strategy 4.1.1	Fall 2014 – Revise to Fall 2015	Ongoing – assigned to Honors Committee
	Connection to the Institutional Strategic Plan		
	Goal 1 – Recruit, Retain, and Graduate a Quality, Diverse Student Population and Prepare Students for Roles as Leaders in a Global Society		
	Goal 3 – Promote Student, Employee, Alumni, Retiree, and Community Engagement in our Mission		
	Goal 4 – Foster an Environment of Creativity and Scholarship		

Goal	Description	Implementation	
2	Establish service learning opportunities in Honors related activities		
	Objectives		
	1) Reorganize the Honors Student Association (HSA) – Strategy 3.2.2	Fall 2013	Completed by HSA
	2) Revise Honors Scholars requirements – Strategy 3.2.2	Fall 2013	Completed by Dean Savoie

Action Steps			
	1) HSA mentor program to engage in service learning activities – Strategy 3.2.2	Fall 2013	Piloted in Fall 13 Recommendations - <i>ongoing</i>
	2) Honors Scholars must complete 10 to 20 hours of service learning – Strategy 3.2.2	Fall 2013	Piloted in Fall 13 Recommendations – <i>completed Fall 2014</i>
Connection to the Institutional Strategic Plan			
	Goal 3 – Promote Student, Employee, Alumni, Retiree, and Community Engagement in our Mission		

Goal	Description	Implementation	
3	Foster Leadership in Honors program requirements and activities		
Objective			
	Increase participation and retention of junior and senior level students – Strategy 1.2.3	Fall 2014 – <i>Revise to Spring 2015</i>	Ongoing – assigned to Dean and Coordinators
Action Steps			
	1) Make the HSA mentor program mandatory for all Honors students – Strategy 1.2.3	Fall 2014	Ongoing – <i>completed with moderate success. Needs to be revisited with different structure.</i>
	2) Establish incentives and participation awards such as the Literary Guild book award, Bailey Scholarship, and Bartram Scholarship – Strategy 2.2.2	Spring 2014	Ongoing
Connection to the Institutional Strategic Plan			
	Goal 1 – Recruit, Retain, and Graduate a Quality, Diverse Student Population and Prepare Students for Roles as Leaders in a Global Society		
	Goal 2 – Increase Financial Support for the Institution		

Goal	Description	Implementation	
4	Provide interdisciplinary activities and opportunities to better prepare students for the future – Strategy 3.1.2		
Objective			
	Align the Honors curriculum to specific disciplines and units to provide students with opportunities outside of intensive and restrictive degree programs – Strategy 1.2.2	Fall 2014 – <i>Revise to Fall 2015</i>	Ongoing – meet with Department Heads – <i>In progress with the development of a service learning program/track</i>
Action Steps			
	1) Partner with other interdisciplinary programs such as International Studies, African American Studies, and Women and Gender Studies – Strategy 1.2.2	Spring 2014 – <i>Revise to Spring 2015</i>	Ongoing – Dean and Coordinators
Revised	2) Discussion of a degree track in Interdisciplinary Studies in Honors – this would be a competency-based degree with a senior thesis project supervised by an Honors faculty committee – Strategy 1.2.2	Fall 2015 Revised – <i>Revise to Spring 2015</i>	Ongoing – Dean and Provost
Connection to the Institutional Strategic Plan			
	Goal 1 – Recruit, Retain, and Graduate a Quality, Diverse Student Population and Prepare Students for Roles as Leaders in a Global		

	Society		
	Goal 3 – Promote Student, Employee, Alumni, Retiree, and Community Engagement in our Mission		

Yellow highlighted areas are ongoing and/or require action

Blue highlighted areas are completed and/or sustained

OBJECTIVES for 2014-15

- ~~Honors Coordinator guidelines and full implementation of loading for Honors~~
- ~~Representation on the Department Heads Council~~
- Complete course and material guidelines for faculty teaching Honors Option contracts – *completed for students, guide for faculty still in development.*
- Faculty guide for teaching in Honors including a complete faculty list (per semester) and email list – *not yet completed.*