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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Engage students in undergraduate research and scholarship opportunities</td>
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**Objective**  
Align Honors curriculum to facilitate and connect to research and scholarship opportunities – Strategy 1.2.2

**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Implementation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Establish service learning opportunities in Honors related activities</td>
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**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1) HSA mentor program to engage in service learning activities – Strategy 3.2.2</th>
<th>Fall 2013</th>
<th>Piloted in Fall 13 Recommendations - ongoing</th>
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<tr>
<td>2) Honors Scholars must complete 10 to 20 hours of service learning – Strategy 3.2.2</td>
<td>Fall 2013</td>
<td>Piloted in Fall 13 Recommendations – completed Fall 2014</td>
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## Connection to the Institutional Strategic Plan

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

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<th>Goal</th>
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<th>Implementaion</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Foster Leadership in Honors program requirements and activities</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Objective</strong></td>
<td>Increase participation and retention of junior and senior level students – Strategy 1.2.3</td>
<td>Fall 2014 – Revise to Spring 2015 Ongoing – assigned to Dean and Coordinators</td>
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## Action Steps

| 1) Make the HSA mentor program mandatory for all Honors students – Strategy 1.2.3 | Fall 2014 | Ongoing – completed with moderate success. Needs to be revisited with different structure. |
| 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 |

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 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 – Revise to Fall 2015 Ongoing – meet with Department Heads – In progress with the development of a service learning program/track |

## 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 – Revise to Spring 2015 Ongoing – Dean and Coordinators |
| 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 – Revise to Spring 2015 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.