

SUNY COLLEGE AT OLD WESTBURY



HONORS COLLEGE

**STUDENT
HANDBOOK**

Honors College
2013

**Here are some student comments about the Honors College at
SUNY Old Westbury:**

Honors College helped challenge me academically and made me part of a community and a family as well.

Michael Carbuccia, Resident Student
Childhood Special Education Major

Honors College: Great opportunities, great advantages, great experiences, great friends.

Nicholas Maniaci, Commuter Student
Biological Sciences Major

I know the Honors College will help me get to where I want to be. The teachers and students are amazing and helpful.

Olanike Otegbade, Graduate
Mathematics Major

Being a member of Honors College at SUNY Old Westbury gives you a unique opportunity to be a part of one of the closest knit communities at Old Westbury. The Honors College provides academic and moral support.

Ravindranauth Persaud, Commuter
Biology Major

Honors College means having a place to belong in a new school.

Leanna Ladouceur, Commuter
English Major

The Honors College has been a positive place to learn among peers who are on the same academic level and also a place to expand our intellectual experiences.

Eysana Jones, Resident Student
Psychology Major

The Honors College offers students the opportunity to excel and distinguish themselves as exceptional students at Old Westbury.

HONORS COLLEGE AGREEMENT

I will work diligently to meet the academic requirements of the Honors College.
I will attend Honors College seminars each semester.
I will earn at least 6 *Participation Points* each semester as an active participant in the Honors College community.
I will meet with the Honors College Director at least once a semester.
I will check my Honors College email daily and respond promptly to requests for information.

HONORS COLLEGE BENEFITS

- \$750 Book Scholarship per year — \$3,000 in four years
- The Honors College notation on graduation transcript
- Registration priority for all courses
- Honors College Advisor
- Reserved parking spaces for commuter students
- Exclusive use of the Honors Study complete with state-of-the-art computer work stations and *free* printing
- Use of 700 volume Honors College Liberal Arts & Sciences Library
- FREE Cultural, educational and social activities and trips
- Luncheon seminars each semester

HONORS COLLEGE CURRICULUM

First-Year

Fall Term

First-Year Seminar
“Ethics of Engagement”
An introductory Arts & Sciences Course

Spring Term

English Composition 2
Past offerings include *Lyric Poetry of Emotion*
Psychological Themes in Literature

Second and Third Years

2 Honors Seminar Course
Choice of Experiential Learning Opportunity
Internship or
Study Abroad or
Directed Undergraduate Research

Fourth-Year

Senior Capstone Experience

HONORS COLLEGE STUDENT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Honors College Executive Board (E-Board) is an advisory and program committee for the Honors College. Many policies and programs that affect Honors College students are developed with E-Board recommendations in mind. Each E-Board member must create and execute at least one program a year. More than 2 absences from the E-Board make a student ineligible to remain on E-Board.

PARKING

A limited number of parking spots are reserved for Honors College commuter students. Obtain a parking permit in the Honors College Office. Be sure to get a permit for each car used on campus. Students will also need an official Old Westbury parking registration that can be purchased at the Bursar’s Office.

SURVEYS

Each semester students are asked to complete an Honors College survey. This helps us understand the needs and preferences of our students. It lets us know to what extent the Honors College is fulfilling students' expectations. It is important that each student completes a survey each semester.

**SUNY COLLEGE AT OLD WESTBURY
HONORS COLLEGE
NEW ACADEMIC BUILDING
ROOM 1025
516-876-2024
DR. ANTHONY DELUCA, DIRECTOR
DELUCAA@OLDWESTBURY.EDU**

INTERNSHIPS, STUDY ABROAD, DIRECTED RESEARCH

Honors College students are required to complete an Honors College Internship, or a study abroad experience, or engage in directed research. This is usually done in the second year.

INTERNSHIPS

An internship allows students to immerse themselves in a job setting that gives them a glimpse into a future career and real-life experience as workers and as observers in the field. Ideally, the internship should be related to a student's major and/or future career. Completing an internship in a field of interest will help make a student an attractive candidate for graduate schools and future employers. Wherever possible, the internship should provide hands-on experience rather than "chores." Students will be required to do 70 hours of field work, about five hours a week during a semester. Students will also attend an Honors Internship Class one day each month. Students will be required to submit 3 papers for the Honors Internship Class: one at the beginning, one in the middle and one at the end of the semester. For additional information about Honors College internships, there is an Internship Handbook available in the Honors College office.

The Honors Internship is a 2-credit course.

STUDY ABROAD

Students may choose to participate in a study abroad experience instead of doing an internship or directed research. There are many opportunities to study in a different environment ranging from spending a semester, a summer, or an intersession in a foreign country to participating in experiences more locally, like Washington, DC, or Boston, for example. These experiences can range from two weeks to a whole semester or year. The Honors College Staff will help students find an appropriate placement and make scholarship information available.

DIRECTED RESEARCH

Students may have the opportunity to conduct research for one semester under the supervision of a professor at SUNY Old Westbury. Please consult with the Director of the Honors College if you would like to pursue directed research.

INCOMPLETES and WITHDRAWALS

Honors College students should consult with the Honors College Director if they want to withdraw from a course or receive an "Incomplete." Grades produce a student's Grade Point Average, not "Incomplete" or "Withdrawal" designations. GPA determines continuing eligibility for the Honors College and for scholarships. Please be aware of Old Westbury deadlines for Withdrawal procedures.

CHATS

Another benefit of the Honors College is regular communication between students and the Honors College staff. The semester chats are mandatory. Each semester all students are expected to meet with the Director or the Assistant to the Director. We want to learn about Honors College students' accomplishments and deal with any problems they may be experiencing. It is important that each student schedules an appointment for a chat as soon as possible each semester.

EMAIL-CONTACT

Our primary means of communication with students is through email. We expect that the students will respond *promptly* to our inquiries and requests. It is important that we stay in touch! Scholarship opportunities and other issues of great benefit to our students are constantly becoming available *during* the semester. **It is very important that each student provides us with his/her Old Westbury email address and a current email address and checks for Honors College emails daily.**

THIRD-YEAR SEMINAR

In the spring semester of the third year, students will meet bi-monthly with the Honors College Director to discuss topics and procedures for their Honors Thesis. This seminar will be an interactive workshop that will help students identify thesis topics and acquaint them with research and writing techniques applicable to upper-level and graduate-level scholarship. This seminar is mandatory.

FOURTH-YEAR SEMINAR - HONORS THESIS

All fourth-year students are required to complete an Honors College thesis. The Honors Thesis Seminar will provide guidance and practical advice on how to research and write the thesis. Preferably, the subject of the Honors College Thesis will involve the student's major field of study. In any case, an Honors College Thesis must be completed and approved by the Director of the Honors College in order for a student to graduate with the Honors College notation on the College's graduation transcript. Students may be asked to make an oral presentation about their thesis. The Honors College will require that the thesis be submitted both electronically and in hard copy.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

To remain in the Honors College, a student must be an active and committed member of the Honors College community, and

- maintain an overall G.P.A. of a 3.3
- continue to be a full-time student (a minimum of 12 credits per semester)
- earn 26 Honors course credits. (Honors credits are NOT additional credits. They are a part of the 120 credits that all students need to graduate.)
- complete an internship, study abroad experience or directed research experience
- attend Honors College Thesis Seminars and complete an Honors College Thesis

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

The Honors College is a community of learners. Studies have shown that community creates a comfortable social and emotional environment that improves academic success. In an effort to develop and sustain our community, we require that students participate in a selection of workshops, programs, activities and events offered by the Honors College. In addition to the required workshops, "chats" with the Director and the Assistant to the Director are mandatory and are scheduled once a semester. Hosting is required of freshmen and first-semester sophomores. Hosting requires that students spend one hour a week in the Honor's Study at a pre-arranged time and day convenient to the student. Students are required to earn a minimum of **6 participation points each semester.**

Participation points are awarded as follows:

All programs, activities, and trips that you attend are worth 1 point each.

All programs, activities, and trips in which you actively participate and assist are worth 2 points each (including activities such as Orientation, Open House, Newsletter, Literary Magazine, etc.).

All programs, activities, and trips which you lead and/or arrange are worth 3 points each (including activities such as editors of the Newsletter, Literary Magazine, etc.).

Mentoring is worth 3 points.

Tutoring is worth 3 points.

Membership on E-Board is worth 2 points.

E-Board officers earn 4 points.

Prizes will be awarded at the end of the semester for three students who accumulate the most participation points.

The first prize is \$100 gift certificate

The second prize is \$60 gift certificate

The third prize is \$40 gift certificate

PROBATION

A GPA below 3.3 places a student on Honors College probation. The student will have one semester to satisfy the Honors College GPA requirements. A GPA below 3.3 may result in the student's dismissal from the Honors College. A student may also be placed on probation for failing to meet the requirements regarding participation in Honors College programs and