

HONORS COLLEGE

As a student in the Honors College, you'll join a community of scholars in pursuit of academic innovation and social engagement. Here, you'll find creative thinking, global awareness, research opportunities, service, and lifelong friendships while leading the way as a campus scholar. Participation in the Honors College at VSU includes an exclusive residential and social community with dedicated facilities, smaller classes, scholarship opportunities, and rigorous interactions with faculty mentors.

OUR MISSION

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.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

Students in the Honors College should demonstrate competency in the following objectives by the time they finish the Honors College:

1. Students will learn the arts of inquiry and conversation, culminating in structured academic research/creative endeavors, academic writing, oral presentation and creative production;
2. Students will practice the organizational skills of collaboration, planning and assessment, and the personal skills of self-discipline and task management culminating in the capacity to guide or direct group-based work;
3. Students will understand the importance of civic involvement and giving back to the larger community, culminating in occasions of service that draw upon scholarship, creativity, and leadership capacities;
4. Students will incorporate an understanding of diverse global and cultural perspectives in their scholarly/creative inquiry, culminating in an international exchange of ideas and activities.

5. Students will incorporate an understanding of diverse disciplinary perspectives in their scholarly/creative inquiry, culminating in a collaborative, interdisciplinary project.

STUDENT GOALS

Students in the Honors College are expected to have personal goals that connect to the Honors educational outcomes. As part of an ongoing process, students should consider the Honors Objectives and Personal Goals in planning their activities and experiences as a member of Honors. Honors College advisors and department representatives are available to assist in refining and establishing these important educational milestones.

1. Develop *communication skills* including written, oral, interpersonal, and group as well as the purpose and context to communicate effectively.
2. Develop *self-directed learning* skills including making decisions about research, service, leadership, and community engagement.
3. Develop higher cognitive skills including the ability to synthesize interdisciplinary materials and engage in credible academic research, inquiry, and scholarship.
4. Develop an understanding and protocols for *academic presentations*. These skills include paper and poster sessions at academic conferences, engagement in primary research with faculty mentors, and thesis driven research similar to graduate-level experiences.
5. Engage in *community outreach and civic involvement*. As part of a broader community, students are expected to develop a framework of ethics and virtues of good citizenship. In particular, students should exhibit traits of responsibility, honor, tolerance, and respect for others. These qualities extend to being an engage and responsible member of the VSU community.
6. Engage in *self-evaluation* and analysis as a means for personal growth and problem solving. As part of the iterative process, growth in personal and academic pursuits is essential for life-long learning and development.
7. Develop a *global perspective*. As part of an increasing globalized society, 21st century students must have an understanding of the cultural and social differences to connect with others with respect and understanding.
8. Identify with a model of *leadership* and have the ability to work in *collaborative environments*. These qualities extend into social, academic, and research initiatives and endeavors. In particular, the foundation for academic scholarship is based in peer review and consensus.

HIGH-IMPACT EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES

The Honors College is committed to engaging students in high-impact educational practices as part of a broader liberal arts approach. For additional information, The American Association of Colleges and Universities provides an overview to high-impact practices in higher education at:

http://www.aacu.org/sites/default/files/files/LEAP/HIP_tables.pdf