In an exciting development for Rio Hondo Honors students, they now have priority registration starting in Fall 2013. In order to qualify, students must have successfully completed two Honors courses with at least a 3.0 GPA. Once this is achieved, Honors students will have priority registration throughout the rest of their time at Rio Hondo. We will attempt to contact all Honors students who qualify for priority registration prior to each semester’s registration period.

Congratulations go out to recent Honors and Rio Hondo graduate Henry Guerra. Henry, a Political Science major who finished with a 4.0 GPA at Rio Hondo, was one of only three winners of the Goodman TAP Scholarship to UCLA. For his stellar academic accomplishments, Henry was awarded with a yearly $5000 scholarship for his junior and senior years at UCLA. Rio Hondo is a member of TAP, the Transfer Alliance Program. TAP encourages Honors transfers from California community colleges and provides priority consideration in admissions to those who have completed their Honors Transfer Program. Only 63 students across the state of California were awarded with TAP scholarships. Congratulations Henry! Congratulations also go out to Gabriela Ledezma. Gabriela was the first recipient of the Outstanding Honors Student Award, presented at the Outstanding Student Awards last May. Gabriela is a Psychology major who was admitted to, among other schools, UC Irvine. Congratulations to Gabriela and best of luck to both Henry and Gabriela!

The numbers are in and clearly show that transferring through the Honors Transfer Program really pays off. Using the admission numbers from 2012 & 2013 for UCLA and UC Irvine, it is clear that Honors students are in high demand and chances of admission go way up by choosing Honors!
By Martha De La Mora

In choosing this year’s topic for the newsletter I revisited the past newsletters on the Honors Program page of the Rio Hondo website. The page is housed either under the Academic Programs or Student Services tab. I realized that the topics addressed in the past still hold relevance and value and current students might not have read them. I would like to extend that offer and benefit to all of our new participants.

It is transfer application time again and many of you are not only worried about getting your application and supporting materials in by the deadlines, but are also thinking about the costs associated with attending particular universities. Keep in mind that a university will provide you with a Financial Aid Offer letter once they have admitted you. The letter will include all costs and a detailed breakdown of amounts from various sources that you are eligible for. These sources could be federal or state grants, university scholarships, work study, or loans. Your offer letter should reflect a zero balance, since it is a university’s goal to show you that you can indeed attend their campus. This is a topic we will cover in a “Congratulations” workshop we usually provide at the end of the spring semester. All Honors students who are transferring will be asked to attend.

As always, have a great semester.

Counselor’s Corner

Alternate Ways to Complete Honors Courses

While the Honors Transfer Program has several requirements to successfully complete the program (see the article at the bottom of the page), there are two other unwritten ways to complete the six required Honors courses. First, several of our students in the natural and life sciences have taken part in summer research programs in which they take part in hands on research opportunities with faculty from four-year universities. Successful completion of such a program can be used to fulfill one of the six required Honors courses. An Honors student merely needs to answer some questions explaining and evaluating their experience and send their responses to Martha and Colin. If you have completed such a program or intend to participate, please contact Colin and/or Martha for more information on how you can translate your experience into one Honors class credit.

Rio Hondo’s Honors Transfer Program will also accept up to two Honors courses from another Honors community college program. This is most helpful when Rio Hondo does not offer an Honors course in a certain discipline or you are unable to enroll in our version of that Honors course. If you have completed one or two Honors courses at another community college, please inform Martha of this during your regular semester appointments and send Rio Hondo the transcripts from the community college you attended. You still will need to complete up to six Honors courses total to be certified as completing the Honors Transfer Program.

Requirements to Complete the Honors Transfer Program

1. Attend an honors orientation before or during the first semester you take honors classes.
2. Meet with the Honors Counselor twice every semester while you are in the program.
   You should meet with the Honors Counselor three times during the semester in which you are applying to schools for transfer.
3. Earn an A or B in English 101 or English 201.
4. Complete six honors classes with a grade of C or better.
5. Achieve an overall GPA of at least 3.2 for all transferable courses.
6. Complete all general education courses required by the transfer school.
7. Fulfill all prerequisites for your major required by the transfer school.
8. Participate in an exit interview with Honors Program staff members.
Two Rio Hondo faculty members closely associated with the Honors Transfer Program are enjoying or will soon be enjoying retirement. Humanities Professor Martha Carreon retired at the end of the 2012-13 school year after a 38 year teaching career at Rio Hondo College. Professor Carreon was the long-time instructor of Humanities 125H, Introduction to Mexican Culture (Honors). She also taught Humanities survey courses, held a number of administrative duties over the years, is former President of the Latina Leadership Network and advisor to Latinos United for Voting, and was instrumental in organizing numerous campus events. Luckily Martha is not leaving, as she will be back teaching part-time in the Spring. We also wish a happy retirement at the end of the Fall semester to the long-time professor of Math 130H (Honors Statistics), Ray Esquivel. Professor Esquivel began his teaching career at Rio Hondo in 1975 and among his many roles at Rio Hondo was as chair of the Curriculum Committee. Thank you to Martha and Ray for their years of dedicated service to both Rio Hondo and the Honors Transfer Program and we wish them both the best in retirement!

Martha Carreon

Honors Program Wishes a Happy Retirement to Faculty

To provide more ways to communicate with us, the Rio Hondo College Honors Transfer Program now has a page up on Facebook. We encourage you to visit and like us at https://www.facebook.com/RioHondoCollegeHonorsTransferProgram

On the Facebook page you will find the latest Honors news, links, and contact information. We’d also like to put up pictures of you, Honors students! We can’t do this without your permission, so please send us pictures of yourself that you would like displayed (appropriate pictures only please).

You can do this through our Facebook page or e-mail them to the Honors Coordinator, Colin Young, at cyoung@riohondo.edu. This is the first but not last technological change to the program, as Rio Hondo, and therefore the Honors Transfer Program, will be getting a new website in the Spring. We look forward to hearing from you online!

Rio Hondo Honors is Now on Facebook

Join the Honors Transfer Society

The Honors Transfer Society is an on-campus club for members of the Honors Transfer Program. The main purpose of the club is to facilitate communication between students and faculty to assist students in the transfer process by sponsoring on and off campus activities. It also happens to be a lot of fun! Students wishing to join HTS are required to have a 3.0 GPA. The HTS participates in many on-campus activities including RiOlympics, Club Scene, pizza sales, sponsoring blood drives, etc. We have also developed a relationship with Mills Elementary School whereby members of HTS volunteer their time at the school assisting students who are struggling with their reading skills. Much of our club leadership from the last few years has transferred, so if you would like to join or even lead the club, please come to our meetings this semester on Wednesdays at 2:30PM in A225. Hope to see you there!
The second it goes live in early November, you can search for Honors classes on Access Rio, the college's Portal and home to its Schedule of Classes. Just follow these easy steps:

1. Select Term: Choose the semester you want (for example, Fall 2013)
2. Subject: Select <all>
3. Part-of-Term: Select <all>
4. Instructional Method: Select <all>
5. Instructor: Select <all>
6. Attributes: Scroll down and select Honors
7. Sessions: Select <all>
8. Click the Search button

Are you proud of the work you've done in your Honors classes? How would you like the possibility of sharing what you've learned, gain professional experience, and have the opportunity for awards and scholarships?

Why not consider being a presenter at the 12th annual Honors Student Research Conference, April 5, 2014 on the beautiful campus of the University of California, Irvine? This research conference is unique in that only community college honors students are eligible to participate. Presenting a paper at a research conference is an incredible opportunity for you, and it looks GREAT on your college applications.

Speak to your honors instructor about mentoring you through the process. An orientation meeting for the conference will be held on Wednesday, November 6th at 2:30PM in A212. For more information, contact Colin Young or Martha De La Mora & visit the conference website at htc.ca.org

Search for Honors Classes on Access Rio

HTCC Student Research Conference at UC Irvine

HTCC
HONORS TRANSFER
Council of California

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