

# Honors Program Admission Application



This application will be used to determine freshman selection for the Honors Program of Ocean County College.

The Honors Program at OCC is an elite, limited group of students. Students must be in the top 20% of a graduating class for Honors consideration. To be admitted to the Honors Program students must have completed the OCC admissions application and all required placement tests. Applicants should indicate Honors as the anticipated major when the application is returned to the Admissions & Records Dept.

The complete application packet will include the following items:

- Honors Program Application
- High School Transcripts with class rank, GPA, and standardized test scores
- Letter of Recommendation from Guidance Counselor
- Letter of Recommendation from an academic instructor in the junior or senior year

All materials should be forwarded by the high school as a single packet to:

Lynn Kenneally, Honors Program Coordinator  
Ocean County College, College Drive, Toms River, NJ 08754  
lkenneally@ocean.edu; 732.255.0400 ext. 2215

The Honors Program has a limited enrollment – so decide early to reserve your place!

# Honors Program Application

## PERSONAL DATA

Birth date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Gender Male Female

Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Jr., etc.

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## EDUCATIONAL DATA

High School(s) Attended 1. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Current Guidance Counselor \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Class Rank \_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_ after \_\_\_\_\_ semesters completed  
position # total in class 6, 7 or 8

Cumulative GPA \_\_\_\_\_ after \_\_\_\_\_ semesters completed

GPA (circle one) does / does not include weighted honors courses.

List AP, Honors, or advanced courses included in the transcript \_\_\_\_\_

List any college courses you have taken for credit that are not sufficiently explained on your high school transcript.

List any scholastic distinctions you have received, including any special programs in which you have participated.

List areas of service and leadership within the last two years \_\_\_\_\_

## INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Academic integrity is essential in the Honors Program of Ocean County College. Therefore, we expect the participants and applicants to act in accordance with this standard, by demonstrating integrity in the application process. Please review and sign the following statement: ***"My signature below confirms that all information contained in my application is complete, accurate, and honestly presented, and that the essay is my own work."***

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# The Honors Program at OCC



## Who should apply for admission?

The Honors Program is seeking individuals with strong academic potential, leadership ability, and self-motivation. The initial screening criteria is a minimum combined SAT score of 1100 or a ranking in the top 20% of graduation class. While most students entering the Honors Program meet or exceed both of these criteria, students meeting either of the criteria are encouraged to submit an application packet and arrange for an interview with the Program Coordinator.

## What are the Program requirements?

- Complete the designated Honors courses each semester
- Enroll in a minimum of 16 credits each semester
- Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 each semester
- Earn a B or better in the seminar courses and independent study
- Fulfill the requirements of the AA.LA.HON degree

## Why participate in the Honors Program?

Graduates of The OCC Honors Program receive a Liberal Arts Degree with special designation as an Honors Student. The Liberal Arts Degree is easily transferred to four-year colleges and universities.

Interaction with other talented, motivated students provides a climate that encourages achievement of their academic potential, as well as a support network to assist students in their quest for excellence.

The Honors Program coordinator works closely with each student as the faculty advisor. Student access to a faculty advisor from the first day of classes eases the transition into the college community.

Graduating sophomores consistently point to "smaller classes with the honors students" in designated sections of English and Western Civilization in the freshman year as a key strength of the program.

The Honors Independent Study Project allows the sophomore student to work one-on-one with an instructor of their choice to pursue a topic of interest to the student. The Independent Study Project is a highly regarded component of the Honors Program. Many transfer institutions view it as a demonstration of a student's ability to conduct independent research and produce a work of scholarship. The completed project is submitted to the Beacon Conferences of Two-Year Scholars for review.

Because the Honors Program is designed as a transfer program, assistance in building a strong transfer application begins in the first semester. The students in the Honors Program are encouraged to take advantage of the many opportunities available to students outside of the classroom. Honors Program students have diverse interests and are active in a wide range of programs including Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Student Senate, OCC Soccer and Golf teams, Intramural programs, Community Chorus, Seascape, Mathematics Club, and Student Leadership. Early in the sophomore year, students meet with the Transfer Coordinator to gain insight the application process and the components of a successful transfer application. The transfer coordinator is also available to work with students individually.

Scholarships from the OCC Foundation are available to Ocean County residents who are admitted to the Honors Program. Scholarship funding is renewable contingent on continued fulfillment of program requirements.

## **What do Honors Program Graduates say about....**

### ***The required classes?***

*"The honors program introduced me to a variety of opportunities. The required academic courses introduced me to courses I may not have taken otherwise. Working day in and day out with the same students and professors created a bond you do not normally find at a community college. In fact, it created a bond I failed to find at a four-year school."*

### ***The faculty and curriculum?***

*"The honors program curriculum, and dedicated faculty who provided quality instruction, guidance, and a "high-level personalized approach to education", helped to build upon and enhance my education."*

*"I would like to acknowledge the debt I owe Ocean County College and the Ocean County College Honors Department in particular for the very important role they played in preparing me for my future academic success. I feel the Honors program was extremely helpful because it encouraged my study in a broad number of diverse areas."*

*"The Honors Program exposed me to educators who believe in education as a process rather than education as a goal. I was able to develop an understanding and appreciation for the process of learning; once equipped with this the goal of "getting a degree" seemed rather pale."*

### ***The Honors Independent Study Project?***

*"I count my independent study project as one of the most important learning experiences of my entire college career. Few schools, beyond Ocean County College, would have given their students the chance to engage themselves in such a project—a project that was bound to have difficulties, but also great rewards. Independent study emphasized not just a final product, but more importantly, taught process. Research tells us that the most meaningful, educational exercises are those in which the students participate. Students must be given the chance to learn on their own; the teacher can guide them in the right direction, but not coerce them into a correct solution. The Honors Independent Study Program was one of the few college courses that has been able to turn this theory into effective practice."*

### ***The benefits after graduation?***

*"Graduation from Ocean County College as an Honors Program student endowed my degree with a greater amount of prestige and clout, enabling me to pursue my further academic goals with greater efficiency."*

*"Graduation from the Honors Program was the major difference in my being accepted in undergraduate and graduate schools. It has also been a critical indicator of personal and academic capabilities when I've been evaluated for various employment opportunities."*

*"The Honors Program instilled a sense of academic enthusiasm and incentive when I most needed it. The experience has continued to be a source of inspiration and self-confidence."*

## **How do I learn more about the OCC Honors Program?**

Contact Lynn Kenneally, Honors Program Coordinator:

Ocean County College, College Drive, Toms River, NJ 08754  
lkenneally@ocean.edu  
732.255.0400 ext. 2215  
www.ocean.edu