

HONORS COLLEGE

Strategic Plan

2020-2025



Our values

Inclusive excellence is our foundation | We believe that innovation and accomplishment emerge from an environment that values, hears and respects diverse voices and perspectives. Higher education should address, confront and oppose systemic inequities and biases.

We are an inclusive community open to diverse perspectives, backgrounds and abilities. The Honors College will create educational opportunities that lead students to examine, understand and challenge systems of oppression, inequality and racism.

We work and grow together | We strive to form an Honors College community that supports every individual in the authentic expression of their identity and in the pursuit of their personal, academic and professional goals. We believe that individual and collective achievement go hand-in-hand.

Team success emerges from a culture of individual respect, initiative and development.

Experience that transcends boundaries | Solving today's problems and creating tomorrow's innovative breakthroughs requires thinking that combines deep expertise, cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural experience and an openness to collaboration and new ideas.

We work as a team to realize our common vision of an extraordinary Honors College experience. Innovation and the limits of the possible will never be constrained by hierarchies, positional and organizational boundaries or conventional thinking.

This journey takes you further | The honors degree is the culmination of a highly-engaged experience that adds value and meaning to an undergraduate education. The honors experience provides skills and perspective that will serve students in their next steps and beyond.

As a team, we uphold standards that challenge and support our students as they engage with community, curricula and research. Maintaining the integrity of the degree ensures students have the meaningful experience that gives the Honors Baccalaureate value.

Making a difference takes work | Success is not accidental – it requires flexible thinking, accurate assessments of what works and what doesn't and a desire to relentlessly and continuously improve.

As a team, we are committed to thoughtful assessments of what needs to be kept, abandoned and improved.



Mission

At the Oregon State University Honors College, outstanding students from each of the university's academic undergraduate colleges at all OSU campuses participate in enhanced curricular and co-curricular opportunities designed to help them explore their major areas of interest, work collaboratively across differences and evolve into creative problem solvers with world-class abilities and global perspectives. The Honors College experience equips students with both the ability to engage in pursuits that produce new knowledge and the capacity to engage in meaningful dialogue with other disciplines.

Within this context, the mission of the Honors College is to

- Serve undergraduate students in the state of Oregon and beyond by supporting the achievement of their personal, academic and professional goals;
- Provide a transformative educational experience through an innovative curriculum featuring individualized and engaging learning opportunities with talented and dedicated faculty, staff and peers;
- Create a multifaceted honors experience that includes a compelling residential experience; diverse community opportunities and support; and comprehensive co-curricular programming offering leadership, service and global learning opportunities;
- Provide meaningful undergraduate research, scholarship and creative work experiences that leverage OSU's three signature areas of distinction – advancing the science of sustainable earth ecosystems, improving human health and wellness and promoting economic growth and social progress;
- Produce graduates who have a positive impact on society, their communities and their fields and
- Advance Oregon State University's strategic priorities and goals.



Strategic Priorities

The Honors College is the premier home in Oregon for the intellectual innovators and visionary changemakers of today and tomorrow. This will be a place where all students embrace the challenges of creating a better future for all people in the state and in the world. Building on our core values and mission, we have identified four strategic priorities to guide our efforts over the next five years:

Strategic Priority I

*Make a transformative honors experience accessible to **all** Honors College students.*

To ensure that honors degree completion can be a reality for all students, we must remove the financial, social, cultural and structural barriers to student success. This strategic priority is in support of OSU's Strategic Plan 4.0, Goal 2 (Transformative education that is accessible to all learners) and Oregon State's Diversity Strategic Plan 2018-2023, Goals 3 (Create an inclusive university climate to support the retention and success of all students and employees) and 4 (Provide innovative and transformative learning experiences enabling all students and employees to advance inclusive excellence).

Goal 1: The Honors College experience will provide all graduates with disciplinary and interdisciplinary skills and perspectives that support their long-term success and the college's learning outcomes of scholarly and engaged inquiry.

Goal 2: We will increase and equalize honors thesis and degree completion across all student populations.

Goal 3: We will have scholarships available to support all students with significant financial need.

Goal 4: Honors College courses, co-curricular programs, community opportunities and support systems will be accessible to all students and speak to their diverse interests and goals.

Goal 5: We will remove financial, structural and cultural barriers to honors students choosing research, scholarship and/or creative work in the humanities and social sciences.



Strategic Priority II

*Build and foster a community that inspires outstanding students and faculty members from **all** backgrounds, majors and colleges to want to be a part of the Oregon State University Honors College.*

The Honors College will be a top choice destination for Oregon's most engaged students. We will lead in advancing diversity at Oregon State University by building a community that welcomes and supports underrepresented populations, including students and faculty of color, Pell-eligible students, first-generation students and faculty, Ecampus students, international students, rural students and OSU-Cascades students. This strategic priority is in support of OSU's Strategic Plan 4.0, Goal 4 (A culture of belonging, collaboration and innovation) and Oregon State's Diversity Strategic Plan 2018-2023, Goals 2 (Improve recruitment of students and employees from underrepresented communities) and 5 (Communicate Oregon State's accomplishments, initiatives and innovations as the university advances inclusive excellence).

Goal 1: We will identify and mitigate barriers to application, admission and matriculation and create an Honors College community that all students experience as welcoming, accessible and inclusive of diverse perspectives, goals and interests.

Goal 2: We will have renewable, four-year tuition scholarships for incoming students with demonstrated financial need, supporting the development and success of a diverse and vibrant honors community and the establishment of the Honors College as a top choice destination.

Goal 3: We will enroll a student population that reflects the diversity of the Oregon State University student body and advances the university's diversity and equity initiatives.

Goal 4: We will communicate a recognizable identity that clearly conveys our values and our unique community, research and experiential opportunities.



Strategic Priority III:

*Make experiential learning accessible to **every** honors student. Provide Honors College students with transformative learning opportunities in research, scholarship and/or creative work and in at least one other area: internships, leadership, service learning and/or global learning.*

The Honors College will provide and facilitate experiential learning opportunities that allow students to engage directly with contemporary challenges. The honors experience will include engagement in research, scholarship and/or the arts through the honors thesis and will provide students with at least one other experiential learning opportunity created through honors coursework and/or honors co-curricular programming. We will, in partnership with faculty and staff from academic colleges, academic affairs and student affairs, connect every honors student to experiential learning opportunities such as internships, leadership, service and global learning. This strategic priority is in support of OSU's Strategic Plan 4.0, Goals 1 (Preeminence in research, scholarship and innovation) and 2 (Transformative education that is accessible to all learners) and Oregon State's Diversity Strategic Plan 2018-2023, Goals 1 (Integrate and advance inclusive excellence within all aspects of the university) and 4 (Provide innovative and transformative learning experiences enabling all students and employees to advance inclusive excellence).

Goal 1: Every student will have the resources, mentorship, support and opportunities they need to complete an honors thesis.

Goal 2: Faculty and staff will have the financial and logistical resources needed to create, sustain and improve experiential learning opportunities.

Goal 3: We will have processes, financial resources and support systems in place so that all honors students have the opportunity to participate in at least one significant experiential learning opportunity in addition to the honors thesis, such as engagement in internships, service learning, global learning or community leadership.



Strategic Priority IV:

Increase the impact of the Honors College on Oregon State University and advance the Honors College's and OSU's reputation by developing and cultivating partnerships with external stakeholders and alumni and by communicating the accomplishments of our programs, students and graduates. Ensure that the honors experience provides all graduates with abilities, opportunities and perspectives that offer long-term value.

The impact of the Honors College will be felt and understood by honors graduates, the university and the broader community. This strategic priority is in support of OSU's Strategic Plan 4.0, Goal 3 (Significant and visible impact in Oregon and beyond) and Oregon State's Diversity Strategic Plan 2018-2023, Goal 5 (Communicate Oregon State's accomplishments, initiatives and innovations as the university advances inclusive excellence).

Goal 1: We will increase the size of the Honors College student population on each Oregon State University campus toward a goal of 7% of all OSU undergraduates being enrolled in the Honors College.

Goal 2: We will expand our impact on OSU by incubating and sharing across campus innovative and cross-disciplinary teaching practices, community opportunities and residential programs.

Goal 3: We will create and deploy mechanisms for positive and deep engagement with OSU and the Honors College for families, alumni and community and business leaders.

Goal 4: We will track and increase awareness of the positive impact of honors students, faculty and alumni on society, their communities and their fields.

