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HONORS  
PROGRAM

**MAY 2022**

# Experience the Uncommon

## MISSION

The mission of the University of Florida Honors Program is to connect, nurture, and engage the next generation of scholars who change the world. We do this by:

- Recruiting high-achieving students from around the world
- Inspiring curiosity, intellectual daring, and creativity
- Building a lifelong community of high-achieving peers, top-notch faculty, and supportive staff

## VISION

Our vision is to distinguish our program as the national leader in Honors and serve our students' needs as the first-choice public university for aspiring scholars in the US. We strive to cultivate the full intellectual growth of preeminent undergraduates across disciplines on their personal journeys to achievement. We believe that each Gator who meets their intellectual potential is a win for all – and betters our collective future.

## VALUES

The UF Honors Program promotes education with disciplinary depth and interdisciplinary competency by providing service rooted in the following values. We value the power of opportunity, the strength in community, and the love of a challenge. We recruit, support, and inspire high-achieving students to meet their fullest intellectual and disciplinary potential—and then push for more. We are a welcoming, family-like network of academic devotees with an appetite for growth. Sure, we're scholars – but the true measure of our strength lies in the value our esteemed students and alumni bring to the world for everyone, every day. These values inspire, inform, and ground the Honors Program.

Everything we do is rooted in the following 3 pillars:



# Strategic Goals

## **Goal 1: Recruit and support a diverse community of learners who will work together to solve the problems of tomorrow**

Bound together by curiosity and compassion, our purpose is to create lifelong connections among and for students from around the world, while encouraging each to maximize their potential, experiences, and horizons. Through the unique experiences and perspectives of others, we are better positioned to gain understanding, empathy, and appreciation for human experiences outside our own and progress in our shared mission to build a better world. It is not enough to recruit a diverse group of learners; we must support our students holistically so they will not just survive once they arrive on campus but thrive in our community and beyond. (Supports UF Goals 1, 2, 5, 6)

## **Goal 2: Create an (un)common environment that distinguishes and defines the honors experience**

In our mission to connect, nurture, and engage the next generation of scholars who change the world, we seek to create a unique environment that supports the intellectual potential and personal journey of each student. We are committed to creating tailored programming that is reflective and responsive to our students based on a deep and evolving understanding of their needs. Through continuous ideation and refinement, fueled by data, we will offer exceptional academic environments, holistic and transformative advising, valuable experiential learning opportunities, scholar development and support, and unique co-curricular and residential programs. (Supports UF Goals 1, 2, 6)

## **Goal 3: Maximize community resources to support operational excellence**

Our vision is to distinguish UF Honors as a national leader and to serve as a first-choice public university for aspiring scholars. Our commitment to excellence is fueled by our desire to cultivate the full intellectual growth of our students and enhance the preeminent status of Honors and the institution. Our strength lies in our community and we strive to build a structure that supports and informs honors education nationwide. Faculty housed in Honors share a strong commitment to supporting the personal and professional success of students and a reputation for their contributions to the field through publications, presentations, and national leadership. Effectual leveraging of internal and external resources is essential to operational excellence, scaling, and building a lifelong community of academic devotees. (Supports UF Goals 1, 3, 4, 7)

## **Goal 4: Transition to a fully developed academic and residential college**

As adopted by the UF Board of Trustees in December 2020, the Campus Master Plan 2020-2030 includes a significant investment in the Honors residential experience. Bolstered by the inclusion of a signature Honors residential college facility in the Housing Master Plan, the timing is ripe to transform the academic structure of the program in tandem with the physical structure. The concurrent metamorphosis of all aspects of Honors education at the University of Florida will signal a pre-eminent focus on recruiting and supporting high achieving students from all over the world. Indeed, the three previous goals all collide in the realization of a fully developed academic and residential Honors College. (Supports UF Goals 1, 2, 7)