San Diego Mesa College Honors : Frequently-Asked Questions

1. What is the Honors Program?

We offer academic leadership and service opportunities through deeper exploration of topics, learning through self-discovery and independent investigation, and association with a motivated community of learners.

There are three main parts to the Honors Program: the Honors Club, which is a student run club that helps organize and hold honors related events and services on and off campus; the Honors Core, which consists of 15 classes that are strictly honors, and Honors Contracts, which turn almost any non-Honors course into an honors course for honors credit.

2. Who is eligible to be in the Honors program?

Everyone! However, we do recommend at least a 3.25 GPA. If you don't have a 3.25, feel free to take an Honors course (anyone can enroll) or do an Honors contract to see if you're a good fit. Talk to one of the coordinators or your Honors professors if you are not sure.

3. What are the benefits of being in the Honors Program?

- Scholarships
- Specialized academic advising
- "Honors" designation on your transcript
- Advantages in university transfer
- The Honors Program Completion Certificate
- The Honors Certificate of Global Competencies
- Research presentation at conferences
- Opportunities for publication
- Community service opportunities
- Visits to UCLA and other off-campus events
- A community of like-minded students

4. What are Honors Courses and Honors Contracts?

Courses:

Honors courses are offered each semester in a variety of subject areas. They vary according to discipline, but all increase the range and depth of the learning experience by stimulating strong critical thinking skills, generating lively discussion, facilitating student collaboration, and teaching advanced research and writing skills. Courses we offer: sdmesa.edu/honors/courses.cfm

Contracts:

You can potentially turn almost ANY class into an honors class through an honors contract. (**Exceptions:** Any courses numbered below 100, Chemistry courses numbered below 200, and summer and short-term courses). Students and faculty design a syllabus for independent study in conjunction with course requirements. Students/instructors meet regularly, and transcripts note honors credit. Remember, a professor may decline to do a contract. Professors who do honors contracts: sdmesa.edu/honors/contract.cfm

5. How does the Honors Program help with Scholarships and where do I find them?

The Honors Program provides scholarship opportunities: sdmesa.edu/honors/scholarship.cfm

6. How are my chances of getting accepted into a university increased?

It depends on where you wish to apply. Go to our transfer site to see if we have an agreement with your chosen university (most agreements differ slightly). A popular agreement we have is through the Transfer Alliance Program (TAP), which gives you the opportunity to enhance your UCLA transfer. Students are certified after completing the Mesa Honors Program and given priority consideration for admission to UCLA.

7. **How do I get involved in the Honors Club activities and events?**
   - Come by the honors office or show up to an honors club meeting, it's never too late to join! A list of the honors club meeting dates can be found at sdmesa.edu/honors/club.cfm
   - A list of events can be found at sdmesa.edu/honors/events.cfm

8. **What is the difference between being in an Honors course and in the Honors club?**
   The Honors Club is an option for students get involved by partaking in events and community service. An honors course is an actual class that you take to receive honors credit. While these can operate independently, meaning, a student can be in an honors course without being in the club, we strongly encourage you to do both.

9. **If no honors course is being taken for the current semester are you removed from the honors program?**
   No, but you do have to reapply every semester and although you cannot apply for certain scholarships such as the book award, you can still attend club meetings.

10. **Can you be in the honors club without being in an honors course?**
    You can be a part of the Honors Club without taking an honors course. Meetings: sdmesa.edu/honors/club.cfm

11. **Is it mandatory to attend honors club meetings?**
    No, though it is recommended and can count as an "Honors Event" for the Honors Completion Certificate.

12. **What does it mean to complete the honors program?**
    It means completing requirements for the Certificate of Completion: sdmesa.edu/honors/pdf/completion-info.pdf

13. **How do I earn an Honors Program Certificate of Completion? What does the Honors program require every semester and when is it due?**
    You can achieve honors by filling out a completion application in the honors office after all the requirements have been met by the time you transfer:
    - 10 Community Service hours
    - 15 honors credits
    - 4 activities by (activities include 1 club meeting, workshops, and helping with events /activities)

14. **Do honors students also graduate with honors?**
    Graduating with honors has to do with your GPA, rather than the Honors Program. You could graduate with honors without being in the honors program; similarly, you could earn an Honors Program Certificate of Completion, but not graduate with honors. You could also be awesome and do both.

15. **Which colleges accept honors students and what advantages do they offer?**
    A list can be found at honorstcc.org/transfer/agreements.html

16. **Do Honors Courses create a weighted GPA? Do they affect GPA at all?**
    No, all honors courses are weighted the same as non-honors courses.

17. **Does the honors program affect my veteran status?**
    We welcome veterans into the Program. We seek to meet their needs and provide them opportunities to use the skills they have gained through their service.

18. **How difficult are honors courses?**
    An honors course typically has 25% of additional coursework compared to the same non-honors course. You may also be doing alternative work that aligns with your interests

19. **Would meeting with an honors coordinator be helpful?**
    Yes!