



Honors Transfer Program Advisory Committee

Meeting MINUTES

Tuesday, Feb 11 2025

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm, Building 13-233

Via Zoom: <https://smccd.zoom.us/j/81226368340>

In attendance: Soraya Sohrabi, Ameer Thompson, Howard Qin, Ramin Ekhtiar, Rance Bobo, Ray Lapuz, Sarah Harmon, Frederico Costa, Gustavo Costa

Absent: John Perez, Michael Stanford, Paul Roscelli, Salumeh Eslamieh, Julie Luu, Amira Alkeswani

Note taker: Frederico and Rebekah

Time keeper: Rance

ITEMS

Agenda approved

HTP Successes and Reports from Program Review

- Five students were accepted to present at The Western Regional Honors Conference (WRHC), and we are in the process of planning their trip and fundraising for the costs
- [Honors Coordinator Reassigned Time was approved](#)
- [Our Comprehensive Program Review was completed and commended](#) highlights include:
 - Honors Contract proposal numbers are up with a record 71 in 2023-2024 and already 41 in fall 2024
 - Contract Completion up especially for IDST 150 students: College average: 66% - IDST 150 student average: 83%
 - Enrollments and headcount up- increased demand post pandemic
 - Membership up to 120 and event attendance up – 60 at last kickoff event
 - Increased honors presentations including 31 in 2023-24. BHC acceptance strong
 - Created significant streamlining processes for contracts, tracking student transfer goals, marketing (we have an annual marketing plan), events, and more
 - Hired Honors Ambassadors
 - Enrollment increased in IDST
 - Grads numbers up to pre-pandemic. 10 Honors grads in 2024 - 80% were in the IDST cohort
 - UCLA TAP was 86% compared to non-TAP at 21st-HTP students 65% more likely to be accepted to UCLA

- HTP student acceptances: UCLA, UC Berkeley, UCSD, UCI, UCSB, UCSC, Cal Poly, Stanford Univ., Univ. of Michigan, SF State, and SJ State
- Success and retention strong
- Equity strong for BIPOC students and important to continuously work on equity, representing and involving students from underrepresented backgrounds
- Data suggests that we need to do more for Filipino and Asian Pacific Islander, students ages 29-30, non-binary students

Discussion of Requiring IDST 150 Honors Research Seminar

Students who take IDST 150 at Cañada are:

1. Finish at 80% whereas college average over the past ten years is 66%
2. 14% percent *more likely* to finish their Honors contracts
3. Successful in their honors research for honors classes
4. Learn about research across disciplines
5. More tuned into the program and likely to finish HTP (8/10 grads took IDST 150 in 2024)
6. In a cohort which is key for honors programs and student motivation
7. More likely to apply and get accepted to honors conferences
8. Gain valuable research and writing skills that apply to their current and future courses - several grads have come back to thank us, and the student anonymous feedback is very positive

Additionally:

- CSM and Skyline require IDST 150
- Significant energy and time are needed for marketing IDST 150 when it is only recommended and not required-regular flyers, social media, videos, announcements, counselors, etc.

Previously, we did not want to require it out of concern that it could create financial barriers. However, the cost of this 1-unit course for an international student is about \$400 while at UC California 1 semester unit is around \$1000, and the course is transferable, so students could potentially save somewhere around \$600 in the long run.

The afternoon time does not work for some students in sports, but students can take IDST 150 in any fall or spring semester, and we can also waive it if student schedules make it impossible or they can take it at CSM or Skyline at a different time.

We surveyed students on their preferred modalities for IDST and got about 30 responses. The majority said multimodality (it is currently synchronous and in person) and several requested asynchronous. We did spend a lot of time and get support from IT to develop a strong asynchronous version of the courses, but it has not been approved yet since we did not have sufficient enrollments for that. However, if we require it and continue to offer currently

synchronous and in person, the enrollment should grow and then maybe we can request asynchronous again if more students request that.

Soraya asked the students opinion. Gustavo and Frederico did not take it/could not at the time but Rebekah gave them course to them individually via office hours. Howard had an honors literature class when he took it. However, they agreed to require it in the future.

Vote to require IDST 150 in fall 2025:

Agree: Rance, Soraya, Ameer, Rebekah, Sarah, Frederico, Howard, Gustavo

No objections

HTP Doings

- [Honors Pods 2024](#) [2025 Agenda](#)
 - Honors Pods are part of the faculty learning program and designed to support faculty in supporting honors students. Faculty exchange ideas and have gathered resources. E-Portfolio linked in the agenda shows the topics, resources gathered, and faculty take aways. Three of the 4 students accepted to WRHC were working with professors in the pods.
 - This semester we are going to have case study interviews starting with Ray Lapuz on 2/27.
 - Faculty in the pods can be compensated for up to 4 meetings with each honors student. There are certain requirements, and they should come to the sessions to find out more.

Honors Workshops

- [BHC Workshop Jan. 28th](#)
 - BHC on April 26. Proposals due Feb. 17. Students can get help from Sarah and Rebekah with their proposals. BHC is an exciting opportunity for students. Our students have won top awards, and it's a great confidence, resume builder. All honors faculty and students welcome to attend and HTP will pay the registration.
- [January Newsletter](#) [NCHC Nov.](#)
 - See newsletter for more about Honors Conferences coming up
 - NHCH is the big national one in Nov. Proposals are due 2/28. Please encourage honors students who will be here in the fall to submit. We hope to get a group together with faculty and students. There is a tremendous amount of training and mentoring at the conference and we will leave motivated with new ideas.

Ameer mentioned that they are looking for funds to make the conferences more inclusive

- [Honors Research Showcase](#)
 - Coming up on Thurs. April 10 3-5pm and April 11 10 am – 12pm followed by a lunch. Students accepted to present at BHC are required/given priority and then a few other honors students can present. Students can see the linked events for proposal submission link – due March 28. Rebekah just started to advertise so that students would not confuse this with the other conferences.
 - Rebekah is looking into a caterer for the event

Canvas

- [Canvas module template](#)
 - Faculty can go to the Commons, click import, search “Honors Opportunities” and download the Honors Canvas module. It will go at the bottom on their Canvas shells. They can move it and edit it as they please.
 - Soraya suggested we send this out to all faculty. Rebekah said she would do that again – maybe we need to remind people each semester
- [HTP Canvas Shell](#)
 - The Honors student ambassadors shared the tasks for honors students in the shell, how it is helping students get information and how they have to keep on top of it, sending messages
 - They posted their office hours: Gustavo M/W 1-2pm, Howard T/H 2-3p

Requests

- [HTP Advisory Council Membership](#)-Rebekah asked: how does our membership look? Who should we add? Please let her know if there’s any gaps you see or anyone else you think we should add. We are happy to have Ramin as a new member to represent Business. That was our ask last spring.
- The Mission Statement on our [HTP website](#) is different from that in our Program review: [p. 1 PR](#) Rebekah asked if anyone wanted to look at it and if everyone is ready to make the change to the one agreed to at PR? Sarah mentioned that we need to have the same one for accreditation. We agreed to update the website.
- Need Honors only course workgroup- we need to continue strategizing about additional honors classes especially in STEM and to think a year or more ahead. Chem. 210 and Bio 250 or 225 were mentioned. We have Math 200 in the fall. It was cancelled this spring due to logistics, but we will try again in the future to have an Umoja Honors for Math 200.

Our Next meeting was scheduled for: Tues. April 9 2:30-4pm but Rebekah polled members and found that several members cannot make it. She will send a doodle to try to find a better time/day.

Adjournment