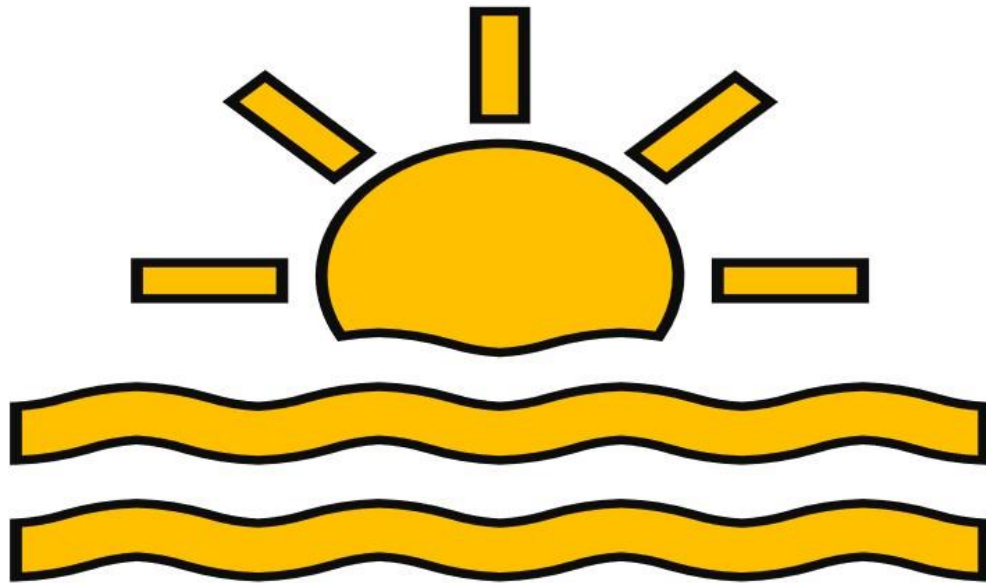


Raiders Horizon Honors Program Student Handbook

Revised July 2022



**ROSE
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Note about This Handbook

This handbook covers information relevant to the Raiders Horizon Honors Program and does not replace the Rose State College Student Handbook. Please locate the institution's handbook online at <https://www.rose.edu/media/12079/2021-2022-student-handbook1.pdf>. As an Honors Student, you are expected to follow all RSC procedures and policies.

Mission Statement for Raiders Horizon Honors Program

The Raiders Horizon Honors program nurtures and encourages the talents of motivated students to embrace ownership and autonomy in their education. With emphasis placed on collaboration with faculty and peers, students are given opportunities to have a deeper and more profound college learning experience that will have long-term benefits in career and life choices.

Core Values of Raiders Horizon Honors Program.

- **Intellectual Curiosity:** Students are encouraged to be inquisitive, explorative, and engage with discovery - based learning.
- **Student Centered:** Faculty are stewards for student education who also give students the tools to feel empowered for their education. The completion and success of the honors project is the student's responsibility; the mentoring professor provides guidance and support.
- **Research and Scholarship:** Honor students will continue to enhance and strengthen their foundational learning. Students will be encouraged to foster and recognize what is academic honesty and thoroughness, how to apply research (receiving, assimilating, and disseminating), and how to develop objectivity and enhance discernment of facts.
- **Innovation:** Honor students and mentoring faculty are encouraged to use their creativity, open-mindedness, flexibility, and adaptability for honors projects and assignments.
- **Building and Enriching Communities:** The Honors program is involved with larger campus and community outreach programs. Honors students have a responsibility to use their knowledge and

skills to build and strengthen their communities and their residents. Rose State continues to be committed to making an overall contribution to the future of our community and its capacity to compete globally for business, talent, and culture.

HONORS PROGRAM OFFICE

The Honors Program is part of and overseen by Academic Affairs. The Honors Program office is located in the Communication Center in Room 121. It is directed by Professor Suzanne Thomas. You can contact her at sthomas@rose.edu or sthomas@raider.rose.edu or call (405) 733-7515.

HONORS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES

The Honors Program Committee is comprised of a professor from each division, a division dean, and a representative from the Student Senate. The committee's duties include reviewing and approving honors contracts, supporting and attending honors presentations, as well as encouraging participation in the honors program itself.

HONORS PROGRAM EVENTS AND AFFILIATIONS



NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL

Rose State College is a member institution of the National College Honors Council. The National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) is the professional association of undergraduate Honors programs and colleges; Honors directors and deans; and Honors faculty, staff, and students. NCHC provides support for institutions and individuals developing, implementing, and expanding Honors education through curriculum development, program assessment, teaching innovation, national and international study opportunities, internships, service and leadership development, and mentored research.



GREAT PLAINS HONORS COUNCIL

Rose State College is also a member of the Great Plains Honors Council. Each year Honors students, Honors program directors, Honors professors, and other interested individuals with two- and four-year Honors programs in a five-state region attend and participate in presentations and discussions relating to Honors projects and other topics relevant to the Honors experience.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Students interested in admission to the Honors Program must meet at least **ONE** of the following requirements:

1. High school cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
2. ACT score of 27 or above **OR** SAT score of 1200 or above **OR** equivalent COMPASS scores certified by the Honors Director.
3. Completion of six credit hours of Honors coursework with an **A** or **B**.

Any student eligible for admission to the Honors Program may apply online through an electronic application form available at www.rose.edu/honors-program. Applications for admission to the program will only be accepted in the fall and spring semesters. Deadline to apply for admissions is the 3rd week of the fall and spring semesters. Once admitted to the program, students will need to fill out a renewal form each semester. Students will be notified via email of their admission status.

Please note that any Rose State College student in good standing may enroll in any Honors class or do an Honors contract without being admitted to the program. Once a student has completed 6 hours of honors credit, admission to the program is automatic.

GRADUATION WITH HONORS

Admission to the program does not mean automatically graduating with honors. Students admitted to the honors program are expected to pursue honors credit for at least one course per semester. Students in the Honors program are expected to maintain high academic standards and to enroll in Honors-approved coursework at Rose State College. Each student's Honors status will be noted in the graduation commencement program and announced as the student walks across the stage. The Honors work is also recorded on the student's official transcript.

To graduate with honors students must

- Earn at least 12 credit hours in coursework at Rose State College.

- Have a cumulative 3.5 GPA. **Students with GPAs below 3.5 will not graduate with the Honors Designation even if sufficient hours of Honors credit have been completed.**
 - Earn A's or B's in all Honors-designated coursework.
 - Meet all college graduation requirements.
 - Complete a student honors profile found in the handbook. That form should be turned into the Honors Director no later than the 8th week of the graduating semester.
 - Completed an honor student profile form consisting of:
 1. A listing of all Honors courses and Honors contracts successfully completed at Rose State College.
 2. Specific and correct course prefixes, numbers, names, and hours of credit.
 3. A listing of all honors, awards, and recognized achievements earned up to that point.
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SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to keeping our members up to date on school-wide scholarship opportunities, the Honors program offers a merit-based scholarship to its students. Information concerning these scholarship opportunities is available on the Honors program website at <http://www.rose.edu/honors-program>.

TRANSFER OF HONORS CREDIT

Rose State College transfer students may often apply their successfully completed Honors hours to program requirements in four-year institutions once they have been admitted to the four-year Honors program. Please contact the Rose State College Honors program to inquire about any established relationships for transfer of Honors credits with area institutions.

Honor Contracts:

The most common way for students to earn honors credit is to submit an honors contract to the Honors committee. This contract will specify more advanced work in a course to be completed along with regular coursework and requires approval from the professor as well as from the Honors Committee.

Special Permission Only:

For those students unable to attend classes on campus, or in other special situations when a student cannot earn Honors credit through advanced work in a course, an Academic Explorations project can be completed to earn Honors credit. This project will be connected to a course and will involve immersion in reading assignments exploring an important topic within a specific academic discipline. This work will result in a minimum 15-page critical, cumulative analysis of the literature reviewed.

CONTRACTING FOR HONORS CREDIT

Contracting for Honors credit is an option students may use to complete more in-depth, specialized study in a course to receive Honors credit. It entails an agreement between the student, the course instructor, and the Honors Program. The student receives Honors credit when the course and project is successfully completed with a grade of A or B and the terms of the contract are fulfilled to the satisfaction of the mentoring professor and the Honors Program Committee.

Note: The instructor may or may not agree to work with the student throughout the semester. Because the Honors Contract is meant to give the student autonomy, this approach is acceptable. If the instructor agrees to meet with the student a few times, a tentative schedule of meetings should be agreed upon and included in the contract. Keep in mind that the instructor is free to decline the student's request to complete an Honors project.

If a student completes an Honors contract but receives a grade for the contracted class that is lower than a B, the student will not receive Honors credit for that class. Should a student be unable to complete an Honors contract, his or her grade in the course will not be affected.

For most Honors credit, mentoring professors will work closely with a student to develop a unique individual project related to the material of the course for which the contract is drawn. **The success of this contract approach to Honors work is directly related to the quality of the relationship between mentoring professor and Honors student.** Therefore, regular and frequent meetings, which produce substantial discussion of the proposed Honors work as well as related concepts and material, are highly desirable.

Honors Projects should have the following core components:

1. **Research:** Academic/ scholarly research should be emphasized; however, other forms of research are encouraged. This research should be primary rather than secondary. The honors work should clearly demonstrate how the Honors component complements the existing course syllabus, yet takes the Honors student beyond established requirements without simply adding work for the sake of work.
2. **Application/Action Research:** Tasks involving critical thinking and application of skills and knowledge are expected. Conducting surveys, interviews, experimentations, and similar activities are examples of such tasks.
3. **Acquiring and /or enhancing a Skill set:** Honors work should encourage and challenge students to strive toward fulfilling their potential and abilities. To that end, contracts should include tasks involving critical thinking, as well as development and application of new skills.
4. **Presentation/Demonstration:** How the honors work is shared needs to be clearly stated in the contract. It can be presentation in the class, symposium, conference or research presentation event. The work can be published online or as part of an overall report. An approximate date and time also needs to be included in the contract for this presentation.
5. **Self-Reflection/Critical Assessment:** Self-Reflection/Critical – Assessment is a great way to look over your experience with your project, your mentor and your struggle in completing the projects. This assessment is not to be graded and there are no wrong answers, but it must be done in order for the honors project to be considered complete. The form with leading questions is located in the handbook. It is to be turned in to the mentoring professor and to the Honors program.

CONTRACT DUE DATES AND GUIDELINES

- **Honor Contracts are due no later than the 4th week of the fall and spring semesters.**
- **2nd 8-week course (for fall or spring) honors contracts also must be turned in by the 4th week of the beginning of fall and spring semesters.**
- **Summer semester honors work is not recommended. However, contracts can be submitted by the 4th day of an 8-week summer course.**
- **No honors contract will be accepted for interim or 4-week summer courses.**
- **Students can submit up to two contracts per semester, excluding the summer semester.**
- **Students can contract with a professor who is not teaching course for the contract. Student must obtain written permission from the teaching professor.**

Past Honors Projects

This is a partial list of past honors projects completed by students. Some of these were research papers, some were class presentations, and a few ended up as poster presentations at conferences and symposiums. This list is just to give you an idea of some of the diverse honors projects that have been submitted and successfully completed.

- Research on the impact of Christianity on Indigenous North America populations. How the Indigenous population shaped Christianity.
- The seemingly normalization of child abuse and neglect in society.
- Research project on the physical and chemical properties of lipids by creating lotions from both soluble and insoluble components.
- Composition of new songs through collaboration with a music theory student, emphasizing poetry as song lyrics.
- Effect of domestic violence and an outline of strategies to leave an abusive relationship.
- Creating a new society.
- Research on the use of a new polymer material recently developed in the MIT chemical engineering department.
- If plant species distances are due to environmental factors, resistance to toxins or form allopathy.
- Ethics: How ethics develops in young children to adulthood.



Raiders Horizon Honors Contract

Contract must be completed and submitted no later than the 4th week of the semester. Student and Professor will receive notification from Honors Program no later than the 6th week of the semester. Please refer to the student handbook for more information. All forms are located in the Honors canvas page and on the Rose State Honors Webpage.

Part I – Student and Course Information

Student Name and ID# _____

Rose State Student Email: _____

Mentor's Name and Email: _____

Course Title and Class Number: _____

Contract Semester and Year: _____

All honors projects MUST include an annotated bibliography and a self-reflection/critical assessment essay. Forms for both are in the student handbook and will be on the Honors Canvas page.

Below are general guidelines for honors papers and classroom presentation.

Research Paper – a minimum of 12 pages (or a minimum of 5000 words), including citations/bibliography, using 12-point text in Arial or Times New Roman font and have 1-inch margins.

Classroom Presentation (visual, verbal or multimedia) – Minimum of 15-20-minute presentation. Presentation must include visual elements (Power Point, Prezi, informational graph, handouts or combination of these).

Students are encouraged to discover and create new and/or different projects for honors.

Honors Project Terms and Information

Summarized Honors Project Description and Objective/Outcome. Be sure to add the number of sources and length of project.

Specific Tasks and Timeline

Final Presentation:

Location_____ **Date** _____ **Time** _____

Schedule of Mentor Professor/Student conference

Mentor's criteria for evaluating the work

Student understands that they must complete all assigned course work, and earn an A or B and complete the terms of this contract to earn honors credit for this course.

Student Signature



Raiders Horizon Honors Program



Annotated Bibliography

All honors projects **MUST** include an annotated bibliography. This form can be turned in with Honors contract or can be turned in by the 6th week of the semester. You can attach an additional citation on a separate paper.

First Citation:

Second Citation:

Third Citation:



Raiders Horizon Honors Program



Self-Reflection/Critical Assessment

All honors projects MUST include a self -reflection/critical assessment. This paper must be turned in after completion of Honors contract. You can attach additional paper if needed.

Honors is more than just a prestige grade-- it is meant to be a more focus and directed opportunity to understand course materials, ideas, subject matter and theories.

Once you have completed your honors work, write a minimum of a 750-word essay that answers the following questions. Copies of this essay are to be turned in to your mentoring professor and to the Honors office.

1. What are your first thoughts about the overall project and experience?
2. What were some of the most interesting discoveries you made about yourself, and/or the subject matter or both, while completing your honors work?
3. What were some of the most challenging moments and how (or if) were you able to overcome them? What were some alternative solution(s) you were able to find/use?
4. What was the most important thing you learned personally?



Raiders Horizon Honors Program



STUDENT PROFILE /GRADUATION CHECKLIST

This is a form is to be turned into the Honors director after student has successfully completed 9 hours of honors credit and/or the semester prior to graduation.

Student Name _____

Rose State Student ID# _____

Graduation Date _____

First Honors Credit Course:

Semester _____ Instructor Name _____

Course Prefix & Number _____ Final Course Grade Earned _____

Course Title _____

Project Title & Description _____

Second Honors Credit Course:

Semester _____ Instructor Name _____

Course Prefix & Number _____ Final Course Grade Earned _____

Course Title _____

Project Title & Description _____

Third Honors Credit Course:

Semester _____ Instructor Name _____

Course Prefix & Number _____ Final Course Grade Earned _____

Course Title _____

Project Title & Description _____



Fourth Honors Credit Course:

Semester _____ Instructor Name _____

Course Prefix & Number _____ Final Course Grade Earned _____

Course Title _____

Project Title & Description _____

