

Longwood University

Cormier Honors College

Student Handbook



2009-2010

My Notes

Welcome to Longwood University's Cormier Honors College

Congratulations! You are taking your first step toward a successful career at Longwood University and in the Cormier Honors College (CHC). This booklet is intended to give you a brief overview and introduction to the CHC and to serve as an information resource for you while you are here at Longwood. Please visit the website to locate information not included in this booklet.

Contact Information

Director

East Ruffner 142
395-2157

Dr. Geoffrey Orth
orthgc@longwood.edu

Assistant Directors

East Ruffner 140
395-2789

Dr. Michael Lund
lundmc@longwood.edu

Ms. Deborah McWee
mcweedl@longwood.edu

Administrative Assistant

East Ruffner 138
395-2904

Ms. Charlene Gaines-Cook
gainescookcy@longwood.edu

Website Coordinator

honors@longwood.edu

Website

www.longwood.edu/honors/

Resources

At Longwood, we are committed to developing Citizen Leaders for the future, and you have many resources at your disposal to help you along your path to becoming a leader. Please use these resources as you need them.

LSEM Peer Mentors for the CHC Class of 2013

Jana Davis	jana.davis@live.longwood.edu
Tom McArdle	thomas.mcardle@live.longwood.edu
Carrie Thomas	carrie.thomas@live.longwood.edu

LSEM Faculty for the CHC Class of 2013

Dr. Geoffrey Orth	orthgc@longwood.edu
Dr. Pamela Tracy	tracypj@longwood.edu
Dr. Alix Fink	finkad@longwood.edu

University Resources

Counseling Center	395-2409
Cook-Cole College of Arts and Sciences	395-2054
College of Business and Economics	395-2045
College of Education and Human Services	395-2051
Office of Leadership and Student Engagement	395-2414
Office of Volunteer and Service Learning	395-2397
Department of Public Safety	395-2091

Curricular Requirements

To continue in the Cormier Honors College and graduate “with Honors” (*cum honore*), you must successfully complete the curricular requirements, of which there are three key components: courses, senior-level project, and study abroad.

1. Courses

All CHC students must complete at least eight Honors classes, including at least three at the 300-level or above. To facilitate completion of the course requirements, at least three or four Honors classes should be General Education Goal courses. All first-year CHC students must complete Honors Longwood Seminar (LSEM 100). Students entering the CHC after the first semester must complete Fundamentals of Citizen Leadership (HONS 202). Additionally, all CHC students must complete Goal 14 by taking an Honors course option; most students complete that requirement by taking Honors ENGL 400 (Active Citizenship: An Advanced Writing Seminar).

2. Senior-level Project

All CHC students are required to complete a senior-level Honors project of at least one credit hour. Each CHC student will work with the CHC staff and his/her academic advisor to identify potential faculty mentors, outline a timeline for completion, and discuss the appropriateness of potential projects.

This requirement may be satisfied by participation in the University’s Senior Honors Research program, a year-long effort that involves enrollment in two 3-credit classes and completion of a written Honors thesis. That program is discussed in more detail elsewhere in this Handbook.

3. Study Abroad

CHC students are required to complete a credit-bearing study abroad experience of at least two weeks’ duration. Students should work with the CHC staff and the Office of International Affairs to identify potential programs.

GPA and Progress

The academic progress of all CHC students is evaluated in May, after Spring term grades have been posted. At that time, both GPA and Honors activity are reviewed.

To continue as a member of the CHC, all students must maintain a 3.25 GPA in Honors coursework and overall. Any student falling below 3.25 in either category will be notified in writing and asked to submit a detailed plan for the coming academic year.

Students must remain active in the CHC by taking Honors courses. Any student who begins a second semester without taking an Honors course also will be notified in writing and asked to register for an Honors course. However, a student should not depend on the Honors office for a reminder of this requirement, as it is very hard for the office to monitor more than 200 schedules continuously in the first few days of class each semester. Thus,

students are encouraged to use the checklist in this handbook to track their own progress. Please note that students will be dropped from the CHC for failing to complete Honors courses for two consecutive semesters. This is important to remember and plan for as professional semesters often do not allow for completion of Honors courses.

Failure to appropriately respond to these written notifications from the CHC could result in dismissal from the CHC and/or loss of Honors scholarships.

Graduating with Honors

As noted above, students successfully completing all Honors College requirements will graduate *cum honore*. Students may also earn additional honors at graduation for achievement of the final GPA, to wit:

Cum Laude: 3.35-3.54

Magna Cum Laude: 3.55-3.74

Summa Cum Laude: 3.75-4.0

Please note also that students completing a Senior Honors Thesis are recognized at graduation for earning departmental honors (e.g., Honors in Biology).

Honors Classes

The University offers a variety of Honors classes that can be used to satisfy General Education Goal requirements, major requirements, or as electives. The following is a list of classes generally offered for General Education. Complete listings of the classes being offered can be found on the Honors website.

Goal 1: Honors sections of LSEM are offered every fall. HONS 202 is offered every spring.

Goal 2: Honors sections of ENGL 150 are offered every fall.

Goal 3: Upper-level English courses are generally offered in the spring.

Goal 4: Honors MUSC 224 is offered each fall. Other courses are offered periodically.

Goal 5: Honors sections of MATH 121, 131, and 171 are offered frequently.

Goal 6: Honors sections of GNED 261 are offered every year (usually in the fall).

Goal 7: Honors sections of both HIST 100 and 110 are offered each year (100 in Fall, 110 in Spring).

Goal 8: Honors HIST 221 is offered, and Honors HIST 222 is offered in the spring.

Goal 9: Honors sections of ANTH 101 are offered every fall.

Goal 10, 11: No classes are offered at this time.

Goal 12: Upper-level options in the Humanities and Social Sciences are offered regularly.

Goal 13: Honors sections of PHIL 308 are offered each semester.

Goal 14: Completing Honors ENGL 400 is a program requirement.

Enhancements

Many students choose to enhance a class to complete their Honors requirements. This means the student takes a regular class for Honors credit. Three of the eight required Honors classes can be taken by “enhancing” regularly scheduled classes, particularly upper-level courses in the student’s major for which there are no equivalent Honors section.

Enhancing a class allows students to study intensively some aspect of their field that they would not otherwise cover in the regular class meetings and to receive Honors credit for doing so. Research completed in enhanced courses is also an excellent source for presentations given at regional and national Honors meetings. The student must submit a proposal detailing how the class will be modified to be in keeping with Honors expectations.

Proposals, which are developed by the student working in close collaboration with his/her faculty member, must be submitted before the end of the third week of classes.

Additional information about enhancements and a sample proposal can be found at the “Current Students” link on the Honors website.

Checklist for Honors Requirements

The CHC staff tracks the progress of each student using a form very much like the one below. All students should update this abbreviated tracking form at the end of each semester.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Professor</u>	<u>Grade</u>
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
✓	Minimum of eight classes total		
✓	At least three at the 300-level or above		
✓	Plan for three or four Honors sections of Goal courses		
✓	You must take Honors LSEM 100 (Longwood Seminar) or HONS 202 (Citizen Leadership)		
✓	One of the three courses numbered 300-level or above must be an Honors section of ENGL 400		

Senior Honors Research

Senior Honors Research (SHR) allows students to complete in-depth research in an area of study and thereby practice key research techniques and present research outcomes in a scholarly manner. SHR counts as two Honors classes at the 300-level or above and is completed over two semesters. To participate, students must work with a faculty mentor to develop a research proposal that is evaluated by the SHR faculty committee in the Spring term of the student's junior year. If the proposal is accepted, the student enrolls in Honors Research 498 and 499, worth six credits towards graduation. Students work closely with a professor in their field of study who serves as the research sponsor and guide throughout the research process.

Completion of the SHR thesis results in graduation with Departmental Honors in the student's field of study and is contingent upon completion of the following:

- Completion of Honors Research 498 and 499 with the grade "A" or "B."
- Maintenance of a 3.0 GPA in the major.
- Passing of an oral examination on the research topic.
- Meeting of any other requirements which the major department may have for graduation.

More information can be found in the Longwood Undergraduate Catalog, which can be accessed at:
http://www.longwood.edu/academic/affairs/catalog_home.htm

Honors Scholarships

Each year, incoming students are considered for Honors scholarships, including Cormier Citizen Scholars, Hull Education Scholars, and Longwood Scholars awards. These competitive scholarships are awarded to incoming students through an on-campus interview process.

CHC upperclassmen are eligible for the Advanced Honors Scholarship. This award is given to one rising junior and one rising senior every year. These scholarships, which are awarded in the spring, are among the highest merit-based scholarships Longwood offers. As such, they are very competitive.

In general, Honors scholarships are renewable as long as the student remains in good standing with both the CHC and Longwood University.

Other various awards may become available based on the amount of funding available for a fiscal year. These awards are given at the discretion of the Director.

Governing Bodies

CHC students have many opportunities to be involved with the organization and progress of the College.

Honors Advisory Committee

The purpose of the Honors Advisory Council (HAC) is to support and provide guidance to the CHC. The HAC is an official University committee appointed by the Faculty Senate. Membership includes faculty from each of the three colleges, an at-large faculty member, the Director and Assistant Director of the CHC, and three Honors student representatives. The HAC can work to plan activities in conjunction with the HSA to further the goals of achievement and camaraderie among the members of the CHC. The HAC plays a key role in recruiting incoming students through the President's Day Open House event. It meets monthly.

Honors Student Advisory Board

The Honors Student Advisory Board (HSAB) is composed of two elected representatives from each class. The HSAB has the key role of electing officers for the Honors Student Association (HSA).

Current HSAB representatives are:

- **Class of 2010:** Bobby Markey and Colleen Barnes
- **Class of 2011:** Tom McArdle and Katie Bowman

- **Class of 2012:** Catherine Daniels and Stephanie Skipp

In the Fall semester, the Class of 2013 will elect two HSAB representatives.

Honors Student Association

The HSA has a key function: to further Honors students in their goals of the exchange of ideas, the enrichment of educational and cultural experiences, and leadership in public and community service. All students in good standing in the CHC are members of the HSA, making it a large campus organization. The organization is managed by an Executive Board, which is composed of the members of the HSAB and five officers. New officers are elected each December. Current officers and the organization's constitution can be found through the "Current Students" link on the Honors website.

Honors Travel Opportunities

The CHC offers many opportunities to travel, including local, regional, and national conferences; participation in research projects and competitive internships; National Honors Semesters; and study abroad opportunities.

Conferences

The broader Honors community offers many conference opportunities to students. Each year students in the CHC may seek to participate in one of three Honors conferences: the Virginias Collegiate Honors Council (each spring), the Southern Regional Honors Council (each spring), and the National Collegiate Honors Council (each fall).

To attend, students must submit a proposal for a presentation to be given at the conference. These proposals are generally based on work done in an Honors class, but the topic can be from any discipline, ranging from the natural sciences to business or music.

National Honors Semester

Each academic year, the National Collegiate Honors Council sponsors two National Honors Semesters at institutions affiliated with the national organization. The semester programs have a theme, such as the program in New York City entitled “The City as Text.” The program is open to Honors students in good standing

at Longwood. While participating in the National Honors Semester, Longwood students retain their enrollment status at their home campus and are eligible for all normal financial aid support.