**Why join the ARC Honors Program?**

Honors students have something to tell potential transfer schools and employers

“It shows, ‘I was not the typical student; I went above and beyond,’ and you’re going to have a heck of an opener in an interview. I am confident that with my Honors Program education I will have a smoother transition into the university of my choice.”

- Don Hampton

**You’ll experience a different kind of teaching**

“I was never the kind of student who could sit silently in class and blindly absorb information from a professor. Taking Honors classes allows me to ask questions about any part of the class or curriculum, uninhibited. Honors classes even allow the students a platform for discussion and intellectual dialogue, instead of silent, monotonous dictation. Through these Honors courses I can confidently say that my educational experience at ARC has been stimulating and worthwhile.”

- Jessica Sankus

**Instant community**

“The small class sizes really fostered connections both in the classroom and out. Study groups were much more fun with the friends I made in class.”

- Don Hampton

**It’s different work—not necessarily more—work**

“In the Honors Program, quality of work is always valued over quantity of work. An Honors course doesn’t qualify for its high rank because it demands a mountain of homework from its students. Instead, the work done in an Honors class is valued as more in depth and meaningful than typical classwork, because it requires more genuine insight, thoughtfulness, and passion. It’s quite liberating, the way the program makes education more than just taking notes and filling in Scantrons.”

- Jessica Sankus

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**Begin your academic adventure with a bang**

The standard courses offered at ARC can oftentimes be a little crowded, which can leave your professors with not much time to answer questions or give you personal attention during class. However, the Honors classes offered at ARC are limited to 20 students, giving you the opportunity to have more interaction with your instructors. The classes also have a different format from the standard classes.

The Honors classes have what is called a “seminar” style format. This is basically a format that allows you to interact with the instructor as well as your classmates as you discuss course topics. The small class size is also great because it helps you get to know your classmates, form study groups, and make new friends along the way.

Additional reading assignments are usually required to enrich your understanding of the subject material, which can be of great benefit to you! So now that you are ready to join the Honors Program and sign up for Honors classes you may ask yourself, am I eligible? Any student is eligible if he or she meets one of the following requirements:

- the student takes the assessment test and achieves a score that qualifies for ENGWR 480; or,
- an instructor in a regular class spots the student's ability and recommends that the student enroll in an Honors class.

That's it, it's that easy. So now where do you go to apply or to get more information you ask? Just get in touch with Kathy Rodgers at (916) 484-8166 or email her at rodgerk@arc.losrios.edu, or you can always go to the American River College Honors Program website: www.arc.losrios.edu/Honors_Program. We hope to see you in class!
What can an Honors mentor offer you as a student?

An Honors mentor offers insight into how to pursue your upper division education and how to tackle the obstacles along the way. ARC's faculty mentors have a wealth of experience to share with aspiring students, and are eager to answer all of your questions—even questions you wouldn't have thought to ask. No student should have to stumble through the jungle of our educational system alone. The ARC Honors Program provides access to dozens of professional educators willing to give you a helping hand.

Honors Program Course Listing

Listed below are the most commonly offered Honors courses at American River College, with corresponding professors on the previous page. For a complete listing of Honors classes offered please refer to the ARC Honors website at ARC Honors classes offered. (Just hold control and click the link.)

ANTH 480  Honors Physical Anthropology
BIOL 482  Honors Introduction to Marine Environment
ENGWR 480  Honors College Composition
ENGWR 481  Honors College Composition and Literature
ENGWR 482  Honors Advanced Composition and Critical Thinking
PSYC 480  Honors General Principles
PSYC 481  Honors Abnormal Behavior
HIST 483  History of the United States - Honors
HIST 484  History of the United States - Honors
POL 481  Introduction to Government: United States - Honors

Stay connected to the ARC Honors Program online!

More information about the Honors Program can be found online at www.arc.losrios.edu/HonorProgram. Our website includes a complete updated course listing for the Fall 2012 semester, as well as information about upcoming courses. Our program is continually expanding its horizons and adding new Honors classes every semester.

Like us on Facebook!

Stay connected to news about the ARC Honors Program during the summer and weekends by liking the American River Honors page on Facebook! Weekly updates to our page keep you informed about the changes and updates to the Honors Program, the Honors Club, and other affiliated organizations.

Can a student suggest that a specific Honors course be created?

Yes! Students may suggest that a class be created by contacting the Honors coordinator Kathy Rodgers.
Program Eligibility Requirements

Students who achieve a score of 90 or above on the ARC English Assessment Test are automatically eligible to earn the ARC Honors Transfer Certificate by completing 15 units of approved Honors coursework. Students who successfully complete five Honors courses receive a transcript notation showing that they have earned the certificate.

Students who do not meet the eligibility requirements may be considered for certificate candidacy on a provisional basis by completing the application form at the link below and submitting it along with the supporting documents.

Students will need to provide:
- a letter of recommendation from a college instructor or counselor
- a writing sample from a transfer-level composition class with instructor comments

And also meet at least one of the following:
- Have a high school G.P.A. of 3.5 or better, with successful completion with a C or better in AP, IB, or Honors
- Have a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0 or better in nine or more transfer-level units
- Have special circumstances that they would like the committee to consider (describe in a 250 word essay)

Please note: all supporting documentation must be included with your application form! Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Requirements to Receive the Honors Transfer Certificate

To graduate and receive the Honors Program Certificate each candidate must:
- complete a minimum of 15 units of approved Honors course work.
- receive a grade point average of no less than 3.5.
- apply for the ARC Honors Program certificate through ARC counseling.

Enhance Your Transfer Opportunities

By completing the Honors Program and receiving the ARC Honors Certificate you are setting yourself apart from the crowd and showing your desire to learn and work hard. This could be the competitive edge you need to transfer into the college of your choice. In addition to earning the certificate you will receive a notation on your transcript that prospective universities will see whenever you are ready to send them your application.

- The ARC Honors Program currently has a unique TAP agreement (Transfer Admissions Partnership) with the University of California, Los Angeles that can be a gateway for ARC Honors students who wish to transfer to UCLA.
- Any student at ARC can complete a TAG agreement (Transfer Admissions Guarantee); however, the Honors Certificate of completion on their transcripts can give significant advantage into schools such as:
  - Santa Clara University
  - UC Davis
  - UC Irvine
  - UC Merced
  - UC Riverside
  - UC San Diego (No TAG after FALL 2014)
  - UC Santa Barbara
  - UC Santa Cruz
  - University of the Pacific
The ARC Honors Program is a member of the Honors Transfer Council of California (HTCC). The HTCC negotiates special transfer agreements linking community college Honors programs to specific universities, large and small, public and private. Students completing these programs enjoy enhanced transfer consideration at the partner-campus, such guaranteed or priority acceptance, special scholarships, housing priority, and a range of other academic and social benefits.

The ARC Honors Program is also building new bridges with universities such as University of California, Davis. UC Davis has an Honors program known as the Davis Honors Challenge (DHC), which is very similar to the ARC Honors Program and would be a great pathway for students who wish to transfer to UC Davis.

For more information regarding the Honors Transfer Council of California click [Link].

For information on transfer opportunities click [ARC Transfer Center].

Dr. Rick Ramirez, Transfer Center Director
Dr. Ramirez has been a faculty member at ARC since July of 2000. He brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to our campus and we are fortunate to have him. Dr. Ramirez currently represents the Student Services Division on the Academic Senate in addition to his dedication to the ARC transfer center.

Alumni Perspectives on Transfer

"People come to community colleges from all walks and stages of life, and it was understood that we were coming from different places and had different needs. The Honors Program is a place to find common ground and work as teams, to share diverse opinions and challenge each other, and to set and achieve goals and grow as individuals."

-Hazel Rogers

"My eligibility to take honors classes meant that my academic potential was acknowledged, and that was a great incentive for me to work harder. I feel that the Honors Program at ARC is a great platform for those who are motivated towards their studies and plan to transfer to a four year university."

- Smriti Mehta
In addition to extracurricular activities offered here on the ARC campus, the ARC Honors Program also works to connect students to a wider learning community. The Honors Program offers students access to events such as the annual Bay Area Honors Research Symposium, which is an event completely dedicated to the research and prestige of Honors students studying at community colleges throughout California. Involvement in the ARC Honors Program grants intellectually curious students access to academic adventures and further educational opportunities such as the Research Symposium, as well as the Delta English Studies Consortium (DESC), and the UC Davis Honors Challenge.

**ARCH Club**

**American River College Honors**

The Honors Program here at ARC has a club presence on campus titled American River College Honors or (ARCH). The club is a great way for students who are in or interested in the Honors Program to meet and connect with other like-minded individuals. Club membership is encouraged for all students who are in the Honors Program.

Through the club you are able to interact with other Honors students, work on community service projects and help create a well-rounded individual. Transfer universities also like to see this type of involvement on their applications.

Pictured at left: Professor Sweet’s Honors Marine Biology Class. Students explore Bodega Bay’s marine research facilities. Fall 2011.

For a complete listing of clubs click the link: [Clubs at American River College](http://www.arc. edu/clubs/)

Some of the active clubs on campus are:

- ARC Accounting Society
- ARC Biotechnology Club
- ARC Chemistry Club
- ARC Engineering Club
- ARC English Club
- ARC Law Club
- E.C.O.S. Environment Club
- Model United Nations
- Phi Theta Kappa, Beta Zeta Chi
- Transfer Student Organization

Interest in campus life, clubs and other extracurricular activities? Here are some programs and organizations to get you involved and boost your success as a student!

**MESA**
Mathematics, Engineering, & Science Achievement

**PHI THETA KAPPA**

**Journey Program**

The ARC JOURNEY Program is a Student Support Services program designed to help first generation, low-income students, including students with disabilities, transfer to a four-year college or university.

**Want more information about the Bay Area Honors Research Symposium?**

Click [Honors Research Symposium](http://www.arc. edu/honors/)

**Want more information about the Delta English Studies Consortium?**

Click [DESC](http://www.arc. edu/desc/)

**Want more information about the ARC Honors Club?**

Click [ARC Honors Club (ARCH)](http://www.arc. edu/honors/)

Interested in campus life, clubs and other extracurricular activities? Here are some programs and organizations to get you involved and boost your success as a student!
Meet Your Professors & Meet Your Classmates

What is Honors? What does Honors mean to you?

Kathy Rodgers
Honors Program Coordinator & English Professor
_degrees held: B.A. (Smith College) Ph.D. (Yale)_

The first value listed in the college's _Vision, Mission, and Values Statement_ is the word _access_, and for me, the Honors Transfer Certificate Program might best be defined as a means through which our most high achieving students can gain access to an education at competitive four-year colleges and universities. Certainly the program is not the only route to successful transfer, but it offers a place for students who thrive on vigorous and lively discussion in a seminar-style class and in-depth, research-based investigation of course material.

Richard Cappel
Honors student
BAHS/DESC Presenter 2012

I entered Honors with a now-or-never, all-or-nothing attitude: “If not now, when?” To call it the right choice would be an understatement. Participating in the program has not only changed the way I approach college, it also allowed me to apply my abilities and enhance them in ways I had never imagined, both vocationally and scholarly. Rather than telling you what to do, it encourages you to become what you are.

“At its heart, the program is not about a fancy mark on your diploma, for this is only the marker of the accomplishments which the program will help you achieve at ARC and beyond. The question isn’t to go or not to go, it’s “What are you waiting for?” And if you don’t know, it’s certainly a great way to start looking.”

Richard Cappel
FAQs

What’s the buzz around campus about the ARC Honors Program?

Q: Do I have to take English 480 first?
A: No, ENGWR 480 (Honors College Composition) is not required to be accepted into the ARC Honors Program.

Q: What if I don’t score 90 or above on the English Placement test?
A: If you did not score 90 or above on the English placement test and want to be accepted into the ARC Honors Program, you will need to fill out the application for provisional admission to the ARC Honors Program. Just click the link: Provisional Admission Application.

Q: Are Honors classes harder?
A: The workload in the Honors classes is the same as the traditional classes that they mirror. However, the honors classes may have you read an additional text that will give you a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

Q: Does it cost to participate in the Honors Program?
A: No, the ARC Honors Program has no membership fees or dues.

Q: What if I don’t do well in my Honors classes? Will it hurt my GPA?
A: The ARC Honors classes are structured for motivated students who take responsibility for their coursework and come to class prepared (i.e. read the book, etc.). If you put forth the effort you will have no worries in any class you take. Of course, as with all college classes, the grade you earn directly affects your cumulative grade point average.

Q: Can I take more than 15 units of honors coursework?
A: Yes, you can take as many Honors classes as you wish. The 15 units mentioned is the requirement to receive the Honors Transfer Certificate and graduate from the program. You are welcome to take as many Honors classes as you like.

Q: What if Honors isn’t right for me?
A: To be sure if the Honors Program is a good fit for you, you can attend an ARCH club meeting, or speak to the Program Coordinator, Kathy Rodgers.