

Welcome to
The Honors College at Oakland University
2018-2019



WELCOME

Welcome to Oakland University and The Honors College!

In this guidebook, you will find valuable information to help you become a successful honors student.

Use this book to find tips for success in the classroom and information about the various resources available to you as an OU student. These will help you to get the most out of your academic experience at Oakland.

Your success is our priority!

YOU BELONG HERE

The first (and most important) tip: you belong here.

You've done enough to get here, to meet the requirements.

You belong in every class that you take.

Maybe you're in a class, you're talking to other students, you're thinking, "Wow, they're so smart, I don't belong here." *That's the wrong conclusion to draw.*

Having a rough time now and then, or often, is normal.

It doesn't mean you don't belong here.

Maybe you need some extra help. Maybe you need to study more efficiently.

But you do belong.

If you've made it here, you belong in The Honors College!

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

The second tip: You can't do it alone.

Your life will be so much easier if you work with other students and with your professors.

This is going to be hard for many of you.

Social anxiety is real and normal.

Everyone is fearful, just to a different degree.

Don't worry too much what other people think of you.

Talking to people, even when you're afraid, will help you do your job better. Your job of learning knowledge and skills that you can sell later.

Asking for help is not a sign of weakness. It's a sign of maturity. Accepting what we all know to be true: we can't do it alone.

If someone asks you to explain something, do it. That will help you understand it better yourself.

If you're getting a “B” in a course, and you want an “A”; go find a tutor. Tutors are not just for people who are failing.

So, the first thing: you belong.

The second thing: don't be afraid to ask others for help. Connect with people. Start today.

STUDY TIME

The third tip: You need time to study.

You have to know the material before you get into the exam or start your assignment. The only way you'll learn is if you take the time to study thoroughly.

If you spend the time, then you'll succeed.

Even better, you'll learn a skill that you can sell.

If you're a full-time student, try not to work more than 20 hours a week.

Yes, we know, you need the money. We have no magic answer.

If you want to learn skills, you need to invest the time. That's just the way it is.

Use Study Time Well.

Use your study time efficiently.

When you study, do things that are compatible with the way human brain works.

For example, spending a half an hour reading the yellow highlights in your textbook five times is not an efficient use of that half an hour. A more efficient use of that time is to hand your textbook to someone else, and have them ask you questions. Preferably someone taking the same class. Why just talk about studying for a half an hour, and not an hour, or three hours? Because after a that period of time, you should switch subjects, or at least ask your brain whether it wants to switch subjects. A bit of accounting, then a bit of econ, then some management.

How do we know about efficient studying?

Because researchers have been studying learning for more than a century.

We know a lot about how our brains learn, and how to help them learn efficiently.

If you spend a few hours learning how to learn, that will amplify the effect of every course you take.

TIME MANAGEMENT

The fourth tip: Find a way to balance your academic, personal and professional obligations early in the semester.

College is a busy time in your life. The way you handle your schedule has a lot of impact on whether or not you remain successful in your coursework. A few tips to consider include:

□ □ Plan ahead. Write down everything you have to do in the upcoming weeks. Invest a few minutes of your time in adding important dates to your planner. The example below clearly outlines what needs to be done in a week's time.

□ □ Locate an ideal space that keeps you focused and productive during your study time. Pro tip: Kresge Library has *different floors to meet various styles of learning such as the quiet floor*.

□ □ Reduce procrastination habits. Do your homework and submit assignments ahead of time. If you run into a problem, you'll have ample time to reach out to your professor.

□ □ Prioritize your tasks. Ask yourself, "What is the most important thing that needs to get done right now?" This keeps you on track and organized.

□ □ Find out if you're an owl or a rooster. Use that energy boosting time to do your most important tasks each day whether it's studying for a quiz or finishing up house chores.

□ □ Practice self-care. You are a student that deserves good grades AND some fun. Do something that makes you happy regularly.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7 am	Workout	Workout	Workout	Workout	Workout
8 am		WRT 1060		WRT 1060	
9 am		WRT 1060		WRT 1060	
10 am	MTH 1221		MTH 1221		MTH 1221
11 am	MTH 1221		MTH 1221		MTH 1221
12 noon	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1 pm	ECN 2010		ECN 2010		ECN 2010
2 pm	ECN 2010		ECN 2010		ECN 2010
3 pm					
4 pm	Study	Study	Study	Study	Study
5 pm	Study	Study	Study	Study	Study
6 pm	Dinner	MIS 1000	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
7 pm		MIS 1000			
8 pm		MIS 1000			
9 pm					

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION WITH PROFESSORS

The fifth tip: Make a good impression. Use professional communication tactics with these 10 best practices.

1. Ask questions if you do not understand something!
2. Find out how your professors want to address questions in class. Not everyone does things the same way.
3. Some may want you to ask a question at any time during the lecture, others may want questions at different times. Know what the rules are. Professors want students to ask questions if they need clarification.
4. Know your professor's name.
5. Find out how your professors want you to address them.
6. Start out by addressing them as Professor XXX. Some professors prefer that students address them formally while others prefer a more informal style. Do not call a professor by their first name unless they tell you to!
7. Go to your professor's office hours. This gives you a chance to get your questions clarified. It also gives you and your professor an opportunity to get to know each other! This is very important in your learning process. You and your professor share the common goal that you should maximize your learning in the class.
8. Be polite
9. Choose your words carefully.
10. Do not use slang, or profane or derogatory language. That does not belong in any setting.

The fifth tip: Make a good impression. Use professional communication tactics with these 10 best practices.

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8. Be polite
9. Choose your words carefully.
10. Do not use slang, or profane or derogatory language. That does not belong in any setting.

The sixth tip: Maximize your time in the classroom.

☐ ☐ Be on time! Most professors go over key announcements at the beginning of class. You will miss those announcements if you are late.

☐ ☐ Walking into class in the middle of a lecture is disruptive and disrespectful. Your peers and professors will not appreciate the disruption.

☐ ☐ Some professors come to class early and allow students to ask questions before class.

Take advantage of this opportunity. It also gives you an opportunity to know your classmates and make new friends.

☐ ☐ Leave class only when it concludes. If you need to leave early for a scheduled appointment, inform your professor ahead of time and sit in a place where you can leave easily.

☐ ☐ Once your professor starts class; pay attention. Take notes and participate!

☐ ☐ Do not engage in other conversations with your friends.

Understand the professor's policy for laptop and other electronic device use during lectures.

☐ ☐ Your professor is always trying to help you learn the material. Cell phones and oth

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er distractions hinder their ability to teach. Put your cell phones away.

☐ ☐ Do not sleep in class or put your head down. If you are sleepy before class starts, bring a cup of coffee if the room allows food and drinks.

☐ ☐ Follow the syllabus and read ahead. This will help you to understand the material better during lectures. If you have a question, raise your hand and be recognized.

☐ ☐ Many professors give participation points. Know the rules for how to effectively engage in classroom conversation.

☐ ☐ This is a great opportunity to learn how to participate in groups. Practice and get the most out of the experience. Most professors like students who are engaged in their learning. This is a great way to communicate that you care about your learning.

Honors College Staff

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Benefits of Honors College Membership

An Honors College member in good standing receives many benefits. Here are a few of them!

Relationships with Faculty

Being a member of the Honors College allows students to develop close working relationships with faculty from their first semester at OU. These relationships lead to myriad opportunities for mentorship, research, networking, and involvement.

Enhanced Honors Advising

Honors students are offered access to close advising and support from the Faculty Fellows and staff of The Honors College. Honors College staff strives to assist our students with a wide array of support including help selecting courses, supporting research, and intervening (as possible) to help work with various offices on campus.

Priority Registration

Honors College members in good standing enjoy the opportunity for priority or early registration. The purpose of this benefit is to allow Honors students to build schedules around Honors courses while space is still available; unlike many other sections, Honors classes are typically capped at 20 students, making early registration a must. While students can expect to obtain a favorable course schedule, keep in mind that the aim is to ensure that you can take honors sections. If membership is probationary or if a student has completed University Honors and is not pursuing departmental Honors nor continuing to earn Honors credits, they are no longer an active member of the Honors College and would lose this benefit.

Housing

The official Honors College residence is Oak View Hall. This Community of Scholars offers students the opportunity to reside with peers committed to academic achievement.

Curriculum

The Honors College (HC) curriculum offers a distinctive undergraduate experience that integrates the arts, sciences and professional fields. Students are required to take HC 1000, plus two of The HC core courses that take the place of OU general education courses.

*Honors College students majoring in a department in the College of Arts and Sciences are exempt from the College of Arts and Sciences College Exploratory requirements. (See undergraduate catalog under College of Arts and Sciences.)

Course Requirements

In addition to achieving a minimum GPA of 3.5 to graduate from The HC, students must take at least two Honors College core courses in different general education field categories (HC 2010, 2020, 2040-2080). All incoming freshmen are required to take HC 1000. HC 1000 meets the requirements for Art or Western Civilization General Education course. This First Year Experience course is designed to build community and to provide an education in areas fundamental to the making of a bright, curious, engaged student, ready to undertake the challenges and responsibilities of an academically prepared HC student.

Students may take more than two Honors College courses, in which case the additional courses will count toward satisfying the overall university general education requirements. Students should take at least one core course during their freshman year. It is expected that course requirements will be met by the end of their junior (third) year.

Frequently Asked Questions

Are there extra fees to be a member of The Honors College?

There are no additional costs for being a member of The Honors College or for taking Honors courses. In fact, The Honors College awards many special fellowships and grants to support undergraduate research, study abroad, the senior thesis, and conference travel.

Do I have to take an Honors course every semester?

We require that students earn Honors credit on a regular basis in order to assist them in completing their Honors requirements. Honors students tend to do especially well in Honors courses, so consider taking as many of your classes through Honors as can be accommodated into your academic program.

Are Honors courses more difficult?

Honors Courses aren't designed to be "more difficult" than other courses. Rather, they're capped at 20 which provides opportunity for them to be discussion-based, helping to create a sense of community between students and the faculty teaching the courses. These discussion-based courses create more opportunity for students to get help when they may have questions about a concept. Because they have only 20 students, a lot of our students have reported that they get to know their instructors and feel comfortable contacting them when they do have questions or concerns. In this sense, Honors courses aren't "more difficult" but create a collaborative, interactive, engaging learning community.

How often should I see an advisor?

You should meet regularly with your Honors College advisor for your general education and honors requirements. You should meet regularly with your departmental advisors also, in order to build an effective advising relationship. Advising appointments are an opportunity for you to plan for the next semester and to ensure that you are complying with your degree requirements. You should also seek out your advisors for any other questions you may have, because they are a great resource.

You can meet with your advisor anytime during the semester. Remember that during peak times (like registration), advisors will be very busy, so it is a good idea to plan ahead and schedule an appointment early on.

How do I schedule an appointment with an Honors advisor?

You can schedule an appointment easily and conveniently by calling 248-370-4450.

When are scholarship applications due?

For a list of scholarships and their due dates, see <https://espace.oakland.edu/login/index.php>.

Can International Students apply to The Honors College?

Yes. Please contact us at 248-370-4450.

How many students are in The Honors College?

There are approximately 1400 students in The Honors College.

What kind of activities count as Honors community service hours?

The Honors College is strongly committed to the value of community service. In order to graduate with the Honors College, our students must perform a minimum of 10 hours of approved community service annually. For a list of organizations please refer to the [Center for Student Activities & Leadership Development](#).

Who can I contact for any other general questions that were not listed?

Please contact the Honors College at 248-370-4450

Advisor FAQs

Mission of The Honors College

The Honors College at Oakland University actively supports the aspirations and goals of all dedicated, high-achieving and gifted students to excel in everything they do, to contribute to their own success and to the world at large, and to make a decisive difference through the advancement of knowledge and understanding. Aspiration, Inspiration and Celebration influence our mission, which is supported by the strong pillars of disciplinary and multidisciplinary innovation, undergraduate research and creative practice, community and community engagement and positive mentorship.

What type of majors are designed for The Honors College?

We are proud to offer The Honors College experience for ALL students, to complement ALL majors on campus, which ultimately will lead to your success! Talk to an HC Academic Adviser about how our unique, individualized curriculum is seamlessly woven into whatever major program you are pursuing!

Who is invited to join The Honors College?

In order to be accepted to The Honors College, high school seniors must first apply to, and be accepted by, **Oakland University**. High School students with 3.7 or higher GPA and a 27 or higher 1100 or higher new SAT.

What about students that are just below this acceptance criteria?

We do offer an application for interested students that do not meet the minimum criteria.

1. 3.3 or higher GPA and a 27 or higher ACT
2. 3.7 or higher GPA and below 1100 new SAT
3. Below a 3.7 GPA with an 1100 or higher new SAT

How do students get credit for AP, IB and CLEP scores?

AP, IB and CLEP equivalences <https://www.oakland.edu/registrar/collegecredit/>

Honors College Good Standing Guidelines

Freshman Year:

- HC 1000
- Language Requirement
- Research & Scholarship Day
- HC Event
- Good Standing Report- begin profile and record freshman progress on Aspire
- Resume/CV

Sophomore Year:

- HC Gen Ed
- Imagination Lab-attendance **mandatory**
- Language Requirement-continue as needed
- Research & Scholarship Day
- Community Service
- HC Event
- Good Standing Report- record sophomore progress on Aspire
- Resume/CV- update

Junior or Year before Graduating:

- HC 3900- Intro to Thesis
Must have mentor and topic. Requires appointment with an HC advisor to enroll
- Thesis Proposal- Submitted & approved
- HC Gen Ed
- Language Requirement- completed
- Research & Scholarship Day
- Community Service
- HC Event
- Good Standing Report- record junior progress
- Resume/CV- update

Senior Year:

- Research & Scholarship Day- **present** your thesis research (fall or winter)
- HC Event
- Good Standing Report- Report senior progress
- Resume/CV- finalize
- Thesis submission

Thesis

THESIS TURN IS ELECTRONIC

DECEMBER Graduates:

- Thesis due to mentor by Sept. 15th (for revisions)
- HC Thesis Turn in Day is ELECTRONIC.
- Oct. 15th

APRIL Graduates

- Thesis due to mentor by Jan. 15th (for revisions)
- HC Thesis Turn in Day: Feb. 15th at hcthesis@oakland.edu

SUMMER Graduates

- Thesis due to mentor by May 15th (for revisions)
- HC Thesis Turn in Day: June 15th at hcthesis@oakland.edu
- Poster will need to be uploaded June 27th (or sooner) to hcthesis@oakland.edu
- Presentation day is July 11th (Noon?) at Summer Experience.

DIGITAL COPY OF YOUR THESIS

Mentor's Evaluation

See Final thesis checklist for correct format, etc.

Turn in your DIGITAL THESIS on **THESIS TURN IN DAY (hcthesis@oakland.edu)**

Community Service

Students may choose any non-profit organization to complete their service requirement of 10 hours each academic year. Any setting other than a non-profit organization will not be approved.

- First year and second year students will utilize the Aspire Moodle page to document their community service hours.
- Student that entered the Honors College prior to 2017 must use E-space to update their community service hours.

Annual 10 hours requirement must be completed with **ONE** service organization and submitted by the end of the winter semester.

Students must choose a different type of non-profit organization each year for satisfactory completion of the requirement.

****Summer service is only permitted for the upcoming academic year****

Parent FAQs

The Honors College at Oakland University actively supports the aspirations and goals of all dedicated, high-achieving and gifted students to excel in everything they do, to contribute to their own success and to the world at large, and to make a decisive difference through the advancement of knowledge and understanding. Aspiration, Inspiration and Celebration influence our mission, which is supported by the strong pillars of disciplinary and multidisciplinary innovation, undergraduate research and creative practice, community and community engagement and positive mentorship.

We are proud to offer The Honors College experience for ALL students, to complement ALL majors on campus, which ultimately will lead to your success! Talk to an HC Academic Adviser about how our unique, individualized curriculum is seamlessly woven into whatever major program you are pursuing!

<https://www.oakland.edu/hc/>

What about campus safety?

Oakland University again ranks among the safest college campuses in the nation according to The National Council for Home Safety and Security. Its [2018 list of Safest College Campuses in America](#) ranks Oakland second, behind only Brigham Young University, Rexburg, Idaho.

“Oakland has been steadily ascending a number of campus safety lists and now celebrates our highest ranking to date,” said Oakland University Police Chief Mark Gordon. “This is certainly a point of pride for the [police department](#), yet we also know it takes a commitment to safety by every member of the campus community to earn this type of recognition.”

On campus Police Department (248) 370-3331

- Blue light emergency call boxes throughout campus. Push the button to be connected directly with the OU Police Communications Center.
- The SAFE walk program provides a visual escort while you are walking on campus. To request a SAFE walk escort, call OU Police at (248) 370-3331 and a Police Officer or Police Service Aide will respond to the area while you walk to your location.
- **Sign up for alerts:** <https://oupolice.com/em/alerts/>

How do I learn more about scholarships?

Today, more than half of all OU students receive financial assistance totaling more than \$150 million annually. You can benefit from those funds, too

Download the [2018 Scholarships and Financial Aid booklet](#) for award details, plus information on legacy scholarships and need-based aid.

Are all scholarships renewable?

OU scholarships and grants are awarded to domestic, incoming freshmen and transfer students, and may be renewable if you meet the Oakland University [scholarship and grant renewal criteria](#).

Where can I find out about campus events?

<https://www.oakland.edu/calendar/>

I have questions about what items are allowed in student housing and changing a meal plan

Please contact University Housing:

Hamlin Hall, Room 448
550 Meadow Brook Road
Rochester, MI 48309-4452
(248) 370-3570
housing@oakland.edu

Undergraduate Fellowships and Scholarships

David and Marion Handleman Academic Achievers and Leaders Honors College Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Requirements:

- Full-time undergraduate students in the Honors College
- Minimum GPA of 3.7
- Minimum ACT score of 27 or SAT score of 1100
- Declared major
- Demonstrate financial need

Amount: varies

Application: This scholarship requires an [application](#). Application deadline is 1-Mar-18.

Selection Process: Awarded by the Honors College

Renewal: Eligible for renewal.

Contact Information:

- Karen Conn
- 248-370-4450
- conn@oakland.edu

David and Marion Handleman Academic Promise Honors College Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Requirements:

- Full-time undergraduate students in the Honors College
- Must demonstrate academic promise
- Minimum ACT score of 25 or SAT score of 1050
- Demonstrate financial need

Amount: varies

Application: This scholarship requires an [application](#). Application deadline is 1-Mar-18.

Selection Process: Awarded by the Honors College

Renewal: Eligible for renewal.

Contact Information:

- Karen Conn
- 248-370-4450
- conn@oakland.edu

Donald C. Hildum Communication Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Requirements:

- Undergraduate students with junior or senior class standing
- Majoring in Communication
- Consideration will be given for GPA and career goals
- Consideration may be given for participation in the forensic team or staff of WXOU

Amount: varies

Application: This scholarship requires an [application](#). Application deadline is 19-Feb-18.

Selection Process: Awarded by the Department of Communication and Journalism

Renewal: Not eligible for renewal.

Contact Information:

- Robert Sidelinger
- 248-370-4120
- sideling@oakland.edu

Donna and Walt Young Study Abroad Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Requirements:

- Undergraduate students enrolled with the Honors College
- Minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA
- Achieved sophomore, junior, or senior class standing at the time of application
- Have an approved educational plan by Honors College faculty
- Communicate with the donors about the impact of the experience
- Preference given to students who exhibit leadership and involvement in the Honors College

Amount: varies

Application: This scholarship requires an [application](#). Application deadline is Summer: March 15, 2018; Fall: April 15, 2018; Winter: October 15, 2018.

Selection Process: Awarded by the Honors College

Contact Information:

- Karen Conn
- 248-370-4921
- conn@oakland.edu

Honors College Freshman Housing Award

Eligibility Requirements:

- Incoming freshman student
- Admitted to the Honors College
- Attended an Honors College Information Session
- Agree to live on campus
- Not in receipt of any other housing awards
- Demonstrate leadership
- Demonstrate financial need
- Minimum 3.7 cumulative GPA
- ACT composite score 27+

Amount: Up to \$4,000

Application: This scholarship requires an [application](#). Application deadline is 1-Mar-18.

Selection Process: Awarded by the Honors College

Contact Information:

- Karen Conn
- 248-370-4450
- conn@oakland.edu

Honors College Merit Award

Eligibility Requirements:

- Undergraduate students with sophomore, junior, or senior standing

- In good standing with the Honors College as defined by having attended one event, one Research and Scholarship Day, and completed community service yearly
- Minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA
- Exhibit exceptional academic achievement and leadership
- Preference will be given for student involvement/leadership in the Honors College

Amount: varies

Application: This scholarship requires an [application](#). Application deadline is 1-Mar-18.

Selection Process: Awarded by the Honors College

Contact Information:

- Karen Conn
- 248-370-4450
- conn@oakland.edu

Honors College Scholarship

Eligibility Requirements:

- Undergraduate students with sophomore, junior, or senior standing
- In good standing with the Honors College as defined by having attended one event, one Research and Scholarship Day, and completed community service yearly
- Minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA
- Exhibit exceptional academic achievement and leadership
- Preference will be given for student involvement/leadership in the Honors College

Amount: varies

Application: This scholarship requires an [application](#). Application deadline is 1-Mar-18.

Selection Process: Awarded by the Honors College

Contact Information:

- Karen Conn
- 248-370-4450
- conn@oakland.edu

J. Alford Jones Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Eligibility Requirements:

- Undergraduate students enrolled in the Honors College in the College of Arts and Sciences,
- Established financial need

Amount: varies

Application: This scholarship requires an [application](#). Application deadline is 1-Mar-18.

Selection Process: Awarded by the Honors College

Renewal: Not eligible for renewal.

Contact Information:

- Karen Conn
- 248-370-4450
- conn@oakland.edu

Miron and Haija Stano Scholarship

Eligibility Requirements:

- Undergraduate enrolled full-time in the Honors College
- Continuous enrollment in and completion of a minimum of 15 credits in fall and winter
- Maintain minimum cumulative 3.5 GPA
- Demonstrate leadership in school activities or student organizations or commitment to community service

Amount: varies

Application: This scholarship requires an [application](#). Application deadline is 1-Mar-18.

Selection Process: Awarded by the Honors College

Renewal: Eligible for renewal with application.

Contact Information:

- Karen Conn
- 248-370-4450
- conn@oakland.edu

<https://www.oakland.edu/hc/scholarships/>

Major Fellowships,
Scholarships, and Internships

Several major scholarships and fellowships are available to qualified Oakland University students annually. The Boren, Truman, Rhodes, and Goldwater Scholarships are highly competitive, and though students may apply on their own, they need to be sponsored by the institution. In addition to these,

The Michigan Honors Association (MHA).

MHA holds annual meetings in the fall to allow Honors students to meet, network, and share research.

The National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC)

NCHC holds annual national meetings that provide opportunities for students to present posters and oral presentations. As with any national conference, NCHC is very competitive. If accepted to present and endorsed by Oakland University, expenses for the conference will be covered by the Honors College as funds are available.

Professional conferences are held at the state, regional, national, and international levels.

Honors students have been privileged to present and publish collaboratively with faculty members. Partial financial support may be obtained through departmental scholarships and/or Honors travel requests. These represent a sample of the opportunities supported by the Honors College. We encourage our students to take full advantage of their Honors College experience.