Advising Tips

Keep in Touch and Keep Informed!

- Schedule advising appointments each semester with an Honors Advisor using our online booking system here or call 413-545-2483 to schedule an advising appointment.
- Read and respond to emails sent from the Honors College to your @umass.edu address
- Email an advisor with questions which don't require in-depth advising: advisor@honors.umass.edu
- Scan email sent from news@honors.umass.edu for important announcements and opportunities

Participate!

- Check the CHC Events Calendar for events and programs such as Pizza & Prof nights and special Honors Seminar guest presentations
- Consider participating in the International Scholars Program
- Attend a wide range of University and Five College activities: lectures, readings, performances, exhibits
- Engage in extracurricular activities via a group that matches your interests (marching band, intramural sports, etc.)

Contribute!

- Consider becoming a Peer Ambassador
- Serve as a Peer Advisor in the Honors College office
- Participate in a UMass Registered Student Organization (RSO)
- Assist a faculty member with his/her research (and maybe earn credit for it via an Honors Independent Study)

Plan Ahead!

- Investigate and plan ahead for study abroad through the International Programs Office
- Research internships and career opportunities through the Career Services Office
- Familiarize yourself with the honors thesis or project requirement and discuss potential research opportunities with faculty and advisors. Attend the Undergraduate Research Conference in late spring to see what other students are doing.
Ensure Your Academic Success!

- Make use of the campus' W.E.B. DuBois Library, including the Learning Commons (lower level), and the Learning Resource Center (10th floor)
- Keep copies of all coursework assignments until you receive your final grades on SPIRE
- Keep copies of contracts, forms and email exchanges with faculty and staff (e.g., Honors Independent Study, Change of Major)
- Find good study partners
- Build supportive relationships with faculty and advisors: read their website profiles and look for mutual interests then arrange a chat and maybe an Honors Independent Study
- Develop cross-cultural competency skills: learn a language and take advantage of University and Five-College cultural programs such as the Center for Multicultural Advancement and Student Success
- Regularly consult your online SPIRE “Academic Requirements Report” (ARR) for the status of your degree requirements. Meet with a CHC advisor to cross-reference the ARR with a status report of your CHC requirements.

Attention Sophomores!

- When you declare a major, meet with your department's Honors Program Director and explore the possibility of pursuing Departmental Honors (DH)
- Consider applying for a Research Assistant Fellowship
- If your GPA is 3.800 or higher, visit the Office of National Scholarship Advisement (ONSA) to explore nationally competitive scholarships such as the Rhodes, Truman, Fulbright, and Marshall
- Investigate options for your Honors Thesis or Project requirement

Attention Juniors!

- Consider applying for a Research Assistant Fellowship and later for an Honors Research Grant. See www.honors.umass.edu/scholarships.
- Intensify planning for your Honors Thesis or Project
- Explore the advantages of undertaking an individually contracted thesis or project to deepen your departmental or multidisciplinary interests, or to bridge toward a future career
- Register for your honors thesis or project in April of your junior year

Attention Seniors!

- Consider applying for an Honors Research Grant and other senior scholarships
- Take responsibility for your honors thesis or project. Keep appointments, meet agreed-upon deadlines, follow archive documentation guidelines
- Present your honors thesis or project research results at the Undergraduate Research Conference in late spring