Advising Tips

Keep in Touch and Keep Informed!

- Schedule regular advising appointments with an Honors Advisor using our online ApptPlus booking system
- 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, the CHC Film Series and special Honors Seminar guest presentations
- Consider participating in the Internationals 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](http://www.honors.umass.edu/scholarships).
- Intensify planning for your **Honors Thesis or Project**; visit the W.E.B. DuBois Library to view examples of prior students’ thesis and project manuscripts
- 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

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