Advising Tips

Keep in Touch and Keep Informed!

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

Participate!

- Check the [CHC Events Calendar](https://www.honors.umass.edu) 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](https://www.honors.umass.edu).
- Serve as a [Peer Advisor](https://www.honors.umass.edu) 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](https://www.honors.umass.edu) through the International Programs Office.
- Research [internships and career opportunities](https://www.honors.umass.edu) through the Career Services Office.
- Familiarize yourself with the [honors thesis or project requirement](https://www.honors.umass.edu) and discuss potential research opportunities with faculty and advisors. Attend the [Undergraduate Research Conference](https://www.honors.umass.edu) 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**
- 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