

RUTGERS

UNIVERSITY | NEW BRUNSWICK

Honors College

Student Handbook

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Welcome Letter

Dear Honors College Students,

Welcome to the Honors College at Rutgers University–New Brunswick! Here, we celebrate taking chances in the pursuit of discovery, asking questions when we don't know the answers, being open to others' experiences and perspectives, and supporting one another in our successes and in tough times.

Combining residences for our first-year students with the advising and administrative offices of the College, apartments for live-in faculty fellows, high-tech seminar rooms, and extensive common space, our Honors College home lies at the core of our mission to bring together the highest achieving students from across the nation and around the world into one diverse and creative community where all can thrive.

Drawing undergraduates from Engineering, Arts and Sciences, Fine Arts, Pharmacy, Business, and Environmental and Biological Sciences, the Honors College redefines interdisciplinary education and prepares talented students for the challenges of the 21st century with special curricula and opportunities. With our emphasis on interdisciplinary thinking, hands-on research, diversity, and creative problem solving, students work closely with Rutgers' world-renowned faculty in small classes, workshops, and mentorships.

The Honors College is a four-year experience that extends far beyond the classroom, incorporating global education, service projects, peer mentors, tutoring, and extracurricular activities from get-togethers with faculty and friends to pre-professional counseling. We combine the intimacy of a small learning community with the power and opportunities of a great research university—the model of what undergraduate education can be.

Our hope is that the Honors College will inspire you, academically and otherwise, to explore the world from a variety of perspectives, to follow your interests wherever they take you, and to develop in ways you may not have imagined.

With all the opportunities and resources that Rutgers and the Honors College provide for you, we also expect a great deal from you. Being an honors student means much more than being academically gifted or making good grades. It means being committed to your community at the local level and to addressing critical issues globally. It means exemplifying the highest ethical standards both in the classroom and in your everyday conduct with your peers. It means being respectful of others' values and experiences. The Honors College is an adventure and a privilege.

CURIOSITY. KNOWLEDGE. PURPOSE.

That's what we stand for.



Paul Gilmore

Dean of the Honors College

About Us

The Honors College at Rutgers–New Brunswick, established in 2015, is built on a legacy of honors education at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. The Honors College redefines interdisciplinary education by inviting students from across the liberal arts and professional schools to live and work together to tackle global issues. Attracting the highest achievers from New Jersey, across the country, and around the world, the **Honors College** is a community where intellectual curiosity, hands-on knowledge, interdisciplinary collaboration, service, and compassion for one another are central to their experience. We are committed to advancing a diverse, inclusive, and equitable community where all members have the opportunity, understanding, and support to thrive and to pursue a career with purpose.

The schools that participate in the Honors College are the:

- **School of Arts and Sciences (SAS)**
- **School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS)**
- **School of Engineering (SoE)**
- **Rutgers Business School: Undergraduate-New Brunswick (RBS)**
- **Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy (EMSP)**
- **Mason Gross School of the Arts (MGSA)**

What We Stand For

Our Motto

CURIOSITY. KNOWLEDGE. PURPOSE.

Our Pledge

As a member of the Honors College, I pledge that:

- **Where there is something to learn, I will explore.**
- **Where there is a new voice, I will listen.**
- **Where there is a need, I will help.**

We're Here For You

The Honors College provides a network of support to you on every level from academic advisers and the academic and administrative staff, to live-in faculty and peer mentors—all of whom are located right here within the Honors College community. We provide this support to help you pursue your intellectual curiosity—and to even take risks—while staying on track with your overall academic goals and requirements.

Academic Advising—Putting a Plan Together

The academic advisers are located on the first floor in the administrative offices of the Honors College. Your academic adviser is your primary resource for discussing your course of study, course selection, major selection, graduate and professional school preparation, scholarship applications, and more.

You will be assigned an adviser when you arrive on campus. You should plan to meet with your adviser on a regular basis to discuss your schedule, plan out your academic and personal goals, or just to talk. You should use your adviser as a resource, so please be sure to schedule time to meet with them through the [on-line scheduler](#).

Faculty Fellows

Select faculty not only teach at the Honors College—they also live here. In fact, these tenured and tenure-track faculty fellows are integral to the Honors College curriculum. You may see them in your seminar, for open kitchen night at their apartment, and later in the Honors College Makerspace. You can talk classwork, share what's on your mind, or bounce your ideas off of them if you like.

Mentoring Programs

The Honors College mentoring programs connect you with a range of mentors from your first days on campus, including Rutgers' distinguished faculty; other students in their second year and beyond; graduate students from programs across the New Brunswick and Piscataway campuses; the deans of the Honors College; and Honors College and Rutgers alumni and partners working in business, law, medicine, and other professions.

- **Changemaking Mentors**—Selected honors students who are in their second year and beyond will also be living in the Honors College community, and will be available one-on-one to help with navigating Rutgers overall, your classes, and student life issues.
- **HC Ally Mentors**—Trained in socially responsible leadership, HC Ally mentors guide first-year students through their transition to college and prepare them for success, introducing the many opportunities available through the four-year Honors College experience and working on a personalized level with mentees in similar majors, schools, or career goals.

- **Professional Development and Mentoring**—Led by Andrea Rydel, Assistant Dean of [Professional Development](#), the Honors College provides support in career mentoring and networking throughout your undergraduate years. Through Honors College [professional development programs](#), students can connect with industry professionals as well as pursue a yearlong Mentoring Pod opportunity with a Graduate Mentor Fellow in their field of interest. Among the many opportunities for students to engage with upperclassmen, HC alumni, graduate students, and professionals are the annual Mentorship Weeks in October, Internship & Research 101 Mixer, and Networking Soiree. Throughout the year, C-suite level executives visit the Honors College to share their career stories and provide advice on how to navigate top leadership roles.

Academics and Opportunities

The Honors College is a residential college made up of a community of scholars drawn from the participating schools at Rutgers as noted above. Members of the Honors College are granted their degrees by one of the participating schools.

As an Honors College student, you must complete all core requirements for the Honors College, for your academic school of enrollment, and for your chosen major(s)/minor(s).

Students who complete all Honors College requirements will have the designation “Honors College Scholar” on their diplomas. For more information about school- and major-specific requirements, please refer to the individual school and departmental websites.

Honors College coursework is integrated into your course of study so as not to conflict with or add additional credits to your school/major requirements. And don't forget, your academic adviser will help you navigate through all of these opportunities.

Honors College Core Requirements

Membership in the Honors College is a four year experience. Following are the core requirements:

- **[Honors College Forum](#)**
Every first-year Honors College student takes the Honors College Forum, a truly interdisciplinary mission course focused on tackling global issues. The Forum is the academic and curricular expression of our mission and our motto: *Curiosity. Knowledge. Purpose.* Its goals are to provide a foundation for our students in working in teams with diverse team members, critical research and writing, formal public speaking, and interdisciplinary knowledge. Through the Forum, students develop traits and non-cognitive skills, such as critical thinking, problem solving, social interaction, persistence, creativity, introspection, and more, which are essential skills for contributing to society and succeeding in life in the 21st century. Students develop these skills through small workshop sections organized around project-based teams, each working over the course of the semester to develop and present a detailed plan of a change-making product, service, or initiative. ***You are required to take the Honors College Forum in your first year.***

- **Cultural Competency Course**

A one-credit course for first-year Honors College students, this class is intended to further develop students' understanding and awareness of others' experience and contribute to building a community where all can thrive. ***This course is a pilot beginning Fall 2021 and will fulfill the Byrne First-Year Seminar requirement.***

- **Byrne First-Year Seminars**

Byrne Seminars are small, one-credit courses offered only to first-year students. Taught by Rutgers' world-renowned faculty from departments and professional schools across the university, Byrne First-Year Seminars offer students the chance to experience the excitement of original research as faculty members share their curiosity, their intellectual passion, and how they develop new ideas and fields of knowledge. Byrne Seminars are graded Pass/No Credit, providing a low-pressure opportunity to get to know a professor and subject area in greater depth. Honors College students are able to take any traditional Byrne Seminar, and they will also have access to dedicated Honors College Byrnes each semester. ***To fulfill the Byrne Seminar requirement, you must receive a Pass grade in at least one Byrne Seminar in your first year.***

- **Interdisciplinary Honors Seminars**

Interdisciplinary Honors Seminars are offered as joint initiatives between the Honors College and the Honors Program at the School of Arts and Sciences (SAS), and the Honors College and the Honors Program at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS). ***Regardless of your school of enrollment, you must take at least one Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar within your first four semesters.***

Interdisciplinary Seminars are also open to you in your junior and senior years and, in some cases, additional Interdisciplinary Seminars can be taken to fulfill honors credit requirements. These seminars provide students an opportunity to work closely with a faculty member and think about complex problems and issues across disciplinary boundaries or outside of traditional disciplinary trajectories. Interdisciplinary Seminars have an enrollment of no more than 18 students. All seminars involve critical writing, reading, discussion, and independent work, and they often include research as well as fieldwork opportunities. Most Interdisciplinary Seminars offered through SAS can be used to meet one of the SAS, SEBS, and Rutgers Business School: Undergraduate–New Brunswick core requirements for Writing and Communication (code WCd).

- **Service**

A university education is a privilege—and a place in the Honors College even more so. It is an earned place, to be sure, and it carries with it the responsibility to not only achieve academically, but be socially useful to others. As such, ***a minimum of 30 hours of logged and approved service work are required in your first three years.***

- **Capstone Project**

All Honors College students must complete a capstone project during their senior year. Because of the wide range of majors in the Honors College—from the humanities, social sciences, and arts, to business, engineering, and the life and physical sciences—a variety of different kinds of projects can fulfill the capstone requirement. Whatever shape it takes, the capstone is the culminating scholarly and academic experience of an Honors College student's undergraduate learning, an expression of the way all real scholarly and creative work is done, analytically, over time, and with many iterations, changes, and questions. Work on the project comprises at least 6 academic credits and takes place during the senior year, although in some cases you can begin during your junior year. All students must complete a capstone proposal by June of their junior year.

School-Specific Honors College Requirements

The Honors College provides a unique opportunity for scholars across schools and fields of study. Our interdisciplinary nature allows for participation among many Rutgers-affiliated schools. As such, Honors College requirements differ slightly by school. It is extremely important that you meet with your Honors College academic adviser on a regular basis to ensure the completion of school-specific [Honors College requirements](#).

Departmental Honors Courses, Contract Courses, and Other Honors Opportunities

- **Honors Sections and Honors Contract Courses**

You have the opportunity to take honors sections of traditional courses during your time at Rutgers. These include general courses that often meet core school or major requirements, such as Honors Calculus and Honors Microeconomics, and will provide a smaller, more intensive experience than the traditional, non-honors sections of these courses.

You will also have access to special departmental honors seminars that can fulfill major requirements and offer greater opportunities for high-achieving students to go in-depth into a faculty member's area of interest.

Finally, you can take honors contract courses. With the prior approval of the course instructor and the Honors College academic dean, you can take sections of traditional courses with an honors contract to perform additional assignments—research, independent study, and more. Graduate courses can also potentially be taken as contract courses.

The Honors College works collaboratively on programs, initiatives, and opportunities for our students with key offices of the university.

- **[Aresty Research Center and Other Research Opportunities](#)**

Partnering with the Aresty Undergraduate Research Center and other units, the Honors College provides numerous opportunities for students interested in research. The Aresty Center runs a science summer program for students after their first year, along with the peer-mentored, credit-bearing Aresty Research Program during the academic year, culminating in an Undergraduate Research Symposium. In addition, the Honors College provides a variety of research opportunities with university and corporate partners, including the medical school.

- **[Study Abroad and Global Education](#)**

Go abroad for a year, a semester, or a summer. Study in English, or in a foreign language. Take regular classes, participate in an internship, or even teach in a school, work in a clinic, observe the wildlife, or savor the local cuisine, all while earning Rutgers credits. There will be inspiration anywhere you go, whether it's in a cathedral, the wilderness, the mountains, or a local community, and ***the Honors College has [dedicated scholarships](#) to help you do it. Honors students also have international travel opportunities embedded in Interdisciplinary Honors Seminars led by faculty each semester.***

- **Internships and Career Preparedness**

Andrea Rydel, Assistant Dean for Professional Development at the Honors College, in partnership with our colleagues at Rutgers' Office of Career Exploration and Success help you make connections between your academic and co-curricular experiences to pursue a career with purpose. Dean Rydel provides career counseling, resources, and programs to help you clarify career goals and academic options so that you intentionally build a strong professional portfolio, connect with mentors and industry networks, and build competencies to take your leadership and professionalism to the next level. Stay updated on resources and opportunities by reading the opportunity newsletter emailed each Thursday.

- **Distinguished Fellowships**

You've heard of them, the most prestigious fellowships for students in the world: the Rhodes, Goldwater, Mitchell, Fulbright, Luce, Gates-Cambridge. The mission of the Office of Distinguished Fellowships is to assist Rutgers students interested in graduate study, research, teaching, or internships in applying for prestigious national fellowships and to support and guide them through the application and interview process.

Academic Standing

In order to remain in good standing in the Honors College, you must maintain the minimum grade-point average (GPA) determined by your school of enrollment for honors status. Students who fall below this GPA will be placed on academic probation for one semester, during which they will have the opportunity to raise their GPA back to Honors College standards. Failure to return to honors standing after a probationary semester will result in expulsion from the Honors College (but not necessarily the student's academic school of enrollment). The Honors GPA for the participating schools can be found on the [Honors College website](#). Students must complete Honors College courses with a grade of C or better. In addition, all Honors College students must adhere to the [university's academic integrity policy](#) and the [code of student conduct](#).

Graduation Requirements

As noted earlier, students who complete all Honors College requirements will have the distinction of "Honors College Scholar" noted on both their transcripts and their diplomas. To graduate as an Honors College Scholar, you must complete the following:

- Core requirements in your academic school of enrollment
- All requirements for your major(s)
- All requirements for your minor(s), if applicable
- Successful completion of Honors College core requirements (Honors College Forum, Cultural Competency Course/Byrne Seminar, Interdisciplinary Seminar, Capstone Project, and Service)
- Completion of additional honors credits—through honors sections, contract courses, and/or additional Interdisciplinary Seminars—to meet the total honors credit requirement of your school of enrollment
- Good academic standing in your school of enrollment and the Honors College

Beyond the Books

Housing

For the first year, all Honors College students will live in the Honors College community with dedicated resident assistants and changemaking mentors. First-year residence is required in the Honors College community regardless of a student's school of enrollment or field of study.

Following the first year, you will have the opportunity to move into special honors cohort housing on the five campuses in New Brunswick and Piscataway: College Avenue, Busch, Livingston, Douglass, and G.H. Cook. This arrangement allows you to remain with a cohort of honors students drawn from the Honors College and the other school-based honors programs for the remainder of your time on campus. Typically, students choose to move to the campus where the majority of their major coursework is based, but you can also live in any campus honors community of your choosing.

Honors College students will also be able to move into traditional non-honors housing or off-campus housing after the first year.

Student Life

There's so much more to life at the Honors College, including joining student groups, participating in Honors College Changemaking Communities, finding your community through the HC affinity groups and Gen HC program for first-generation students, performing at open mic nights by the fire, and more. You can also pursue specific [leadership opportunities](#) in your second year and beyond. There are so many ways to [get involved at the Honors College](#). In addition, there are numerous organizations across Rutgers that you can explore, so don't hesitate to [get involved](#).

Student Advisory Board

[The Student Advisory Board \(SAB\)](#) is the active student voice of the Honors College, providing the deans with a student perspective on the Honors College experience. A partnership between students, staff, and faculty, the SAB seeks to ensure that the student population has ample opportunities to make tangible impacts on both the university and our community. By helping to organize Honors College traditions, the SAB helps to form the identity of what it means to be an Honors College student. The SAB meets on a weekly basis.

Health and Wellness

Shan Reeves, from Rutgers CAPS (Counseling, ADAP, and Psychiatric Services), is available for one-on-one counseling at the Honors College to help address challenges and emotions that you may be feeling throughout the year. For drop-in hours, appointments, self-help support, or to share a concern about a fellow student, [see details and resources](#). Counseling sessions are private, free, and confidential.

Codes of Conduct and Academic Integrity

All members of the Honors College must uphold the highest standards of student behavior and academic integrity, as specified under the University Code of Student Conduct, and including but not limited to strict adherence to the terms of the University's Academic Integrity Policy.

Any Honors College student found "responsible" under the University Code of Student Conduct, including but not limited to violations of the University's Academic Integrity Policy, may be permanently dismissed from the Honors College after review by the Honors College deans and administration.

Please make yourself familiar with the [University's Academic Policies](#). Below are select policies of note:

- [Code of Student Conduct](#)
- [Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Policy Prohibiting Discrimination and Harassment](#)
- [Smoking Policy](#)
- [Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy for Students](#)

Residence Life

- [Policies](#)
- [Submit a room maintenance request](#)
- [Changing rooms requests](#)

Good to Know

Honors College

Main Office | [848.932.0990](tel:848.932.0990)

Academic Services for Undergraduate Schools

School of Arts and Sciences Office of Academic Services | 848.445.8888

School of Environmental and Biological Sciences Office of Academic Programs | 848.932.3000

School of Engineering Office of Academic Services | 848.445.2214

Rutgers Business School Undergraduate Office–New Brunswick | 848.445.3600

Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy Office of Academic Services | 848.445.2675

Mason Gross School of the Arts Dean of Students | 848.932.5208

Health, Wellness, and Safety

Public Safety (non-emergency) | 732.932.7211

Rutgers Health Services | 848.932.7402

Counseling, Alcohol, and Other Drug Assistance Program and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) | 848.932.7884

Office of Disability Services | 848.445.6800

General

Dean of Students | 848.932.2300

Office of Financial Aid | 848.932.7057

College Avenue Residence Life Office | 848.932.7209

Housing Assignments | 848.445.0750

University Facilities | 848.932.9625

University Career Services | 848.932.7997

Office of the Registrar | 848.445.7000

New Brunswick Computing Services Help Desk | 848.445.4357

Rutgers University Libraries | 848.932.6000

Rutgers Learning Centers | 848.445.0986

Dining Services | 848.932.8469

Office of the Ombudsperson for Students | 848.932.1452

Campus Information Services | 732.445.4636

Department of Transportation and Parking | 848.932.7744

RU Connection Office (ID Card, Dining, RU Knight Express) | 848.932.8041



[Rutgers Academic Calendar](#)

THE LEAVE OF ABSENCE/WITHDRAWAL POLICY FOR ALL HONORS COLLEGE STUDENTS IS DEPENDENT UPON THE INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL TO WHICH THE STUDENT WAS ACCEPTED.

Let's Stay in Touch

The Honors College faculty and staff will communicate with you directly through your Rutgers email, which you are expected to check daily in accordance with university policy. The Honors College will also communicate with the entire Honors College community through its weekly e-newsletter, **website**, and on **social media**. Please review these platforms as well on a regular basis to stay abreast of developments at the Honors College.

We're Here to Help

Honors College | Main Office

P: 848.932.0990 | **E:** honorscollege@rutgers.edu

Honors College Team

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us. For the full list of staff contacts, please visit:

[HONORSCOLLEGE.RUTGERS.EDU/MEET-OUR-TEAM](https://honorscollege.rutgers.edu/meet-our-team)

CONNECT WITH US:



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[HONORSCOLLEGE.RUTGERS.EDU](https://honorscollege.rutgers.edu)