

McLennan Community College

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Reference:	G-X-s	Effective Date	09/29/2020
Subject:	Honors College Program/Scholarship		
Source:	Vice President, Instruction & Student Engagement		
Approval Authority:	President	Approval Date	09/29/2020
History:	Previously effective November 18, 2016		
Remarks:	Policy updated to new format.		

McLennan Honors College brings together a community of motivated and gifted learners whose interests are served through an interdisciplinary program of academic inquiry that is both challenging and nurturing.

I. The mission of the Honors College is threefold:

- A. To create a rich learning environment for students who are committed to excellence by offering courses, mentoring, campus support, and other educational pursuits with supportive faculty and in collaboration with equally committed students.
- B. To provide opportunities for honors students to exercise their critical, analytical, and creative talents, both independently and collaboratively, in pursuit of intellectual, social, cultural, and aesthetic growth.
- C. To create a community of scholars who develop leadership skills and engage with peers not only to gain a broader national and global perspective but also to exercise citizenship and demonstrate concern for social justice through local action.

II. Functions:

- A. Brings together campus scholars under the umbrella of the Honors College while providing tracks that allow students from diverse programs with diverse interests to connect with like-minded students. Participants in Honors College may include but are not limited to Presidential Scholars.
- B. Provides a program of coursework, exposure opportunities, and individual mentoring that increases both the breadth and depth of learning for the students involved.

III. Honors College Pursuits and Services:

- A. Great Minds Colloquium: Honors College Scholars will study with a group of professors who each select a book for reading, study, discussion, and written papers.

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- B. Independent Studies Project: Honors College Scholars may select a professor with whom to pursue independent study in addition to regular coursework.
- C. Research Scholars Project: Honors College Scholars may be allowed to work with a professor on research in a lab, on a research project of the professor, a scholarly or creative writing (or film or music) project, in an internship on or off campus under supervision by a professional, etc.
- D. Honors Designated Classes: Specific course sections are designated for Honors College Scholars.
- E. Volunteer Opportunities/Internships: Honors College Scholars may pursue an internship or volunteer opportunities with local organizations or national campaigns.
- F. Honors College Services: The Honors College provides mentoring, transfer advising, and other forms of faculty and staff support to Honors College scholars.

IV. Honors College Scholarship Application

McLennan Honors College brings together a community of motivated and gifted learners with diverse interests from diverse programs. Honors College Scholars are served through an interdisciplinary program of academic inquiry that promotes success by offering an environment in which students may exercise their analytical abilities and creative talents.

Interested students must fill out an Honors College application, available on the Honors College Web page (www.mclennan.edu/honors-college/). Applications are accepted after December 15 with priority consideration given to all applications postmarked by March 1 of each year. However, applications will be considered through the spring and summer as long as scholarships are available.

The Honors College is designed for students who have demonstrated exceptional academic performance. Ideal candidates have achieved a high grade point average (GPA) and have demonstrated an aptitude for learning, service, and leadership. The Honors College intends to accept motivated and committed students from multiple majors and programs. Anyone who intends to enroll full time (12 hours or more per long semester) and who meets the application criteria may apply. Because the process is competitive and numbers are limited, meeting the criteria is not a guarantee of admission.

Students who plan to apply for admission to the Honors College must submit all of the following to complete an application:

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- A. completed application form,
- B. transcripts from all previous and current institutions,
- C. SAT or ACT scores (other standardized test scores may be considered),
- D. campus/community activities,
- E. statement of personal and academic goals,
- F. academic writing sample, and
- G. three letters of recommendation, preferably from teacher/professor, counselor, and community leader/employment supervisor, and
- H. mail or email application packet to the Director of Honors College.

Applicants are interviewed by the Director of Honors College. Honors College Advisory Committee members are also invited to participate in the interviews. Each Honors College recipient will be notified of his or her acceptance and will receive a letter of intent/scholarship agreement form that must be signed and returned to the Director of Honors College.

Recipients are strongly encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), unless exempted by the President, and turn the results in to the Financial Aid Office. A review of eligibility will be made by the Director of Financial Aid, who shall determine the recipient's eligibility for other scholarship or grant funds and shall use such funds to cover as large a portion of the scholarship cost as possible.

Honors College Scholars shall be required to meet for an Honors course each regular semester they are enrolled in the program, unless extenuating circumstances do not allow it. All Honors coursework will appear on the student's transcript with an Honors designation. Additionally, the Honors College "Circle of Scholars" program matches scholars one-on-one with selected faculty and administrators. Scholars will receive individual assistance with course planning and preparation for transferring to a four-year institution.

The length of time that the scholarship is valid is determined at the time the selections are made and may vary according to the student's enrollment status, major, and other factors. A scholar may be enrolled full- or part-time and major in a variety of programs.

The amount, or value, of the scholarship will include tuition, fees (up to 18 hours), and a book allowance. Honors College Scholarships shall be paid in addition to any Academic Scholarship (i.e. music, science, speech communication, student government, and theatre) the student receives. The Honors College Scholarship shall pay those costs over and above the value of the McLennan Scholarship should the student be awarded both. The Honors College Scholarship shall not be duplicated with the General Educational Developmental Scholarship or the Upward Bound Scholarship, and shall pay only those costs above the value of these

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institutional scholarships.

The administration of the awarded monies for the Honors College Scholars Program shall be under the supervision of the Dean of Arts and Sciences. All scholarship awards shall be processed by the Financial Aid Office.

V. Procedures for Administering Honors College Scholarships

Each semester, the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences and or the Director of Honors College will provide to the Financial Aid Office the names of all Honors Scholars that are to receive the scholarship for that semester.

The Financial Aid Office will post the scholarship to the student's account to cover the approved costs of each student.