

Welcome from the Dean



“Tell me and I’ll forget;
Show me and I may remember;
Involve me and I’ll understand.”

Chinese proverb

This famous Chinese proverb summarizes the quest of our Honors College: to involve students in active, hands-on learning that fosters critical reflection on the richness of the human experience. Such inquiry nurtures, in turn, a deeper understanding of our shared world, whether we examine our bodies’ cells through a microscope or travel to China to experience the living legacy of the Confucian tradition that inspired this quotation.

Dr. Diane Snow
Wassenich Family Endowed Chair
Dean of TCU John V. Roach Honors
College

Welcome to the John V. Roach Honors College at Texas Christian University, which started as a program in 1962 and became a college in 2009. Since becoming a college, we have built a firm foundation for a thriving community that supports dedicated students who are prepared to compete for recognized markers of academic and human excellence. Indeed, the Honors College attracts students of excellence who contribute significantly to the intellectual life of the campus and who seek to embody the university’s core mission: to educate individuals to “think and act as ethical leaders and responsible citizens in the global community.” Within that broader mission, the Honors “village” strives to advance undergraduate scholarship and encourage an abiding gratitude and reverence for all life that fosters, in turn, a generous spirit of service. We promote a robust program of critical inquiry and research that values creativity and innovation.

The college offers students a committed and professional faculty and staff who create a safe and welcoming environment that encourages them to constantly challenge themselves by exploring territories outside their comfort zone. To this end, our teacher-scholars offer creative and challenging honors courses and colloquia to our talented and curious students; small class sizes promote in-depth discussion that can lead, for instance, to faculty-mentored research projects that

can serve as the platform for post-graduate work. The accomplishments of our students in these courses and their post-graduation success testify to the value of the Honors experience.

The college receives enthusiastic support from our distinguished Honors College Board of Visitors. Likewise, TCU's administrators share a collective vision and engage in a collaborative relationship with the Honors College, which they view as "value added" to their academic mission.

I invite you to visit us on the first floor of Scharbauer Hall; please come take a look—our doors are always open!

*Diane M. Snow, Ph.D.
Dean and Wassenich Family Endowed Chair
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Core Values, Vision, and Mission

Core Values

The John V. Roach Honors College encourages its students to develop a deep understanding of the ideals, principles, and beliefs that guide their behavior and shape their decisions. To promote this high level of self-understanding, the John V. Roach Honors College encourages collaboration and values:

- *Diversity
- *Equity
- *Responsibility
- *Courage
- *Integrity
- *Commitment
- *Empathy
- *Curiosity
- *Engagement
- *Respectfulness

Vision

To be a world-class, values-centered Honors College characterized by critical, creative, cultural and cross-disciplinary inquiry.

Mission

Dedicated to enriching the intellectual life of TCU, the John V. Roach Honors College seeks to empower, inspire, and motivate high-achieving students to become leaders in our global society.

Honors Student Contract

All JVR Honors students endorse the following promise:

“As a member of the John V. Roach Honors College, I pledge to dedicate myself to intellectual inquiry, life-long learning, and critical thinking, to demonstrate personal and academic integrity, and to engage others in earnest and respectful discussion with an open mind.”

Likewise, the John V. Roach Honors College pledges to:

- Promote self-discovery, critical thinking and conscientious understanding of world cultures through a rigorous academic curriculum and creative inquiry in the context of big questions, great ideas, and relevant issues that transcend the curriculum.
- Offer unique residential, curricular, and co-curricular opportunities, fostering a community of scholars for whom vigorous engagement with local, national, and global communities becomes a way of life.

STRATEGIC PLAN for the John V. Roach Honors College at Texas Christian University

Goal 1 - Elevate the academic profile of the John V. Roach Honors College

Outcome 1: The John V. Roach Honors College will be comprised of outstanding teacher-scholars and students.

Action step: Identify, recruit, support, and retain teacher-scholars who are globally minded and intellectually stimulating to provide educational experiences for students that will increase their understanding of the value and practice of research, global issues, and cultural competencies.

Action step: Develop initiatives that encourage, support, and sustain scholarly interaction among Honors faculty.

Action step: Increase the number of “Connected Faculty” (those who have an appointment in another college and teach Honors courses or sections) in a unified effort toward achieving academic excellence at TCU.

Action step: Obtain support for the creation of endowed chairs/professorships in Honors.

Action step: Recruit and retain superb students so as to create a vibrant cohort.

Outcome 2: The Honors College will embrace and include students from historically underrepresented groups.

Action step: Recruit and support (academically, financially, and emotionally) Honors-eligible first generation students, students from low-income backgrounds, and other underrepresented groups.

Action step: Identify, explore, and implement best practices nationwide for achieving full diversity.

Action step: Develop and implement specific recruitment plans for high school sophomores and juniors with a focus on academic readiness, equity, and diversity.

Action step: Involve Honors students from diverse backgrounds in recruitment efforts.

Action step: Search for and hire an academic advisor with real-world experience working with diverse student populations.

Outcome 3: The Honors College will achieve the size and demographic profile in line with current best practices for Honors Colleges.

Action step: Work cooperatively with the Office of Admissions at TCU to achieve the appropriate size and profile for each entering class.

Action step: Work cooperatively with the Office of Admissions at TCU to support a separate admissions process from within the College to recruit each annual cohort.

Action step: Monitor student demographics and take steps to achieve balance through internal recruitment, scholarships, and other incentives.

Action step: Work with academic departments to offer sufficient course options in the core and in majors to best support full participation of all students who are Honors eligible.

Outcome 4: The Honors College will increase its visibility on the TCU campus and beyond.

Action step: Promote the value of the Honors experience on the TCU campus.

Action step: Promote the value of the Honors experience with and through alumni.

Action step: Promote the value of the Honors experience locally, nationally, and internationally.

Goal 2 – Explore the complexities of knowledge by providing high impact practices¹ and innovative educational opportunities for all Honors students

Outcome 1: Enhance undergraduate research and publishing opportunities.

Action step: Engage TCU’s teacher-scholars in supporting the Departmental Honors Project, thus facilitating research and inquiry.

Action step: Increase students’ understanding of research methods.

Action step: Seek and promote existing opportunities for publication of Honors student work across the TCU campus.

Action step: Engage and collaborate with other campus units to provide new opportunities for research and publication.

Action step: Formalize undergraduate research opportunities inside and outside the College.

¹ *High impact practices, as defined by Kuh (“[High-Impact Educational Practices: What They Are, Who Has Access to Them, and Why They Matter](#),” by George D. Kuh (AAC&U, 2008) are teaching and learning practices that research suggests increase rates of student retention and student engagement; that is, student success.

Outcome 2: Create and support *signature* learning opportunities locally, nationally, and internationally.

Action step: Formalize existing and seek new service learning and internship programs on campus and beyond.

Action step: Expose students to a diverse, globally-minded faculty so as to increase student understanding of global issues and inculcation of cultural competencies.

Action step: Increase the number and quality of opportunities for Honors students to have educational experiences leading to a better understanding of international issues.

Action step: Increase the number and quality of opportunities for Honors students to have educational experiences leading toward improved cultural competency.

Action step: Create and promote experiences that lead to improved applied skills in areas such as communication (writing, speaking, composing, etc.), critical thinking, and problem solving.

Outcome 3: Support teaching, research, and creative activity locally, nationally, and internationally.

Action step: Identify and rigorously mentor candidates for prestigious scholarships, such as the Rhodes, Truman, Goldwater, and Fulbright.

Action step: Formalize procedures for education abroad enrollment and participation.

Action step: Formalize and articulate outcomes and assessments for all Honors courses and programs.

Action step: Increase funding for domestic and international high-impact programs in the areas of teaching, research, and creative activity.

Action step: Strengthen the endowment to support domestic and international high-impact programs in the areas of teaching, research, and creative activity.

GOAL 3 - Develop the infrastructure to support the Honors College in implementing its strategic plan in the service of the TCU Mission

Outcome 1: Address the physical and personnel needs of the Honors College.

Action step: To allow for cohesion of the Honors experience for all students, faculty, and staff, advocate for a new Honors College building and support the existing living-learning community.

Action step: Increase the number of “Honors Faculty” (those who have an appointment in the College and teach Honors prefix courses) to establish a fully vested college structure with in-house advisory bodies.

Action step: Continue to hire and support personnel needed for administrative positions in the College: for instance, Director of Advising, embedded Full-time Advancement Officer, embedded full-time Marketing/Communications/PR Director, and dedicated graduate assistants.

Action step: Gradually increase the number of academic advisors to achieve the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) recommended student-academic advisor ratio (currently 156 to 1).

Action step: Increase staff diversity through targeted recruitment efforts.

Outcome 2: Further the integration of the Honor's College into the TCU Community.

Action step: Develop a clear communication structure for *involving* as well as informing the greater TCU community of Honors activities and learning the needs, relative to Honors, of all campus units.

Action step: Inform the greater TCU community of Honors activities and learning the needs, relative to Honors, of all campus units.

Action step: Develop a customized template for the College annual report to provide comprehensive information about the academic year to the Provost, Chancellor, campus community, and other stakeholders.

Action step: Augment current efforts to facilitate and improve communication between Honors academic advisors and other academic advisors across campus.

Outcome 3: Institute policies and procedures that will enhance the operation of the College in a manner consistent with the TCU Mission.

Action step: Develop and maintain a detailed set of procedures that will inform operations and make the workings of the College more transparent to the TCU community.

Action step: Adhere closely to all policies and procedures established by governing committees. Edit and/or and create new policies and procedures where needed.

Action step: Continue to work closely with the TCU Faculty Senate to maintain communication with the faculty at large and consistency with the overall academic mission of the institution.