



▲ *Honors Program
Updates &
Opportunities* ▼

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Faculty Senate: February 2024 Meeting

Honors Focus

Tagline: Experience the UnCommon

Pillars: Opportunity, Community, Challenge

Vision: To distinguish our program as the national leader in Honors and serve our students' needs as the first-choice public university for aspiring scholars in the US.

To cultivate the full intellectual growth of preeminent undergraduates across disciplines on their personal journeys to achievement.

To believe that each Gator who meets their intellectual potential is a win for all – and betters our collective future.

Goal: To equip high achieving students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to earn advanced opportunities post-graduation while concurrently fostering an affinity towards lifelong learning

Honors Focus

Goal restated:

Help our honors students level up through UnCommon Power Boosters (yes, like in Super Mario):

- **Honors Signature Experiences to add interdisciplinary breadth**
- **Tailored opportunities to gain disciplinary depth outside of the classroom**
- **An unparalleled community of student and faculty scholars**
- **Personalized support at all stages**

Honors Students

~3000 students, across all undergraduate colleges

Signature Merit Scholars:

- **Davis United World (108), John V. Lombardi (32), Stamps (12)**

Top 2 enrolled colleges, F23 (>70% total):

- **CLAS (1336), Engineering (954)**

Top 10 enrolled majors, F23 (>50% total):

- **Computer Science (337*), Biology (278*), Psychology (171), Mechanical Engineering (163), Chemistry (149), Microbiology (144*), Finance (123), Biomedical Engineering (112), Economics (97), Political Science (89) | *2 colleges combined**

Study Abroad, AY 22-23 (309 students):

- **92% full-term program | 74% summer**
- **Top destinations: Spain (54), Italy (38), UK (30), S. Africa (25)**
- **Top majors: CLAS (136), Engineering (73), Business/FSOA (47)**

Honors alumni enrolled in UF graduate / professional programs, F23 (405 alumni):

- **Includes: Engineering (82), Medicine - MD (75), Law (33), Vet Med (27), Business (26), Dentistry (25)**

1st Year Students

FHP Entrance Survey (self-reported; n=737; 100% completion rate)

Top 3 factors that influenced decision to enroll @UF:

- **Academic quality and reputation of UF (100%)**
- **Honors Program acceptance (91%)**
- **UF offered desired program of study (82%)**

Top 3 factors that did NOT influence decision:

- **Family connection to UF (71%)**
- **Sports teams and reputation (69%)**
- **Need-based financial aid / support (65%)**

Pre-Professional Interest

- **Pre-Health: 35% | Pre-Law: 13%**

Plans directly following undergraduate degree:

- **Graduate School (35%)**
- **Professional School (34%)**
- **Full-Time Work (19%)**

Top experiential learning Interests:

- **Undergraduate Research in STEM / Medicine (79%)**
- **Study Abroad (73%)**
- **Internships in Technical Fields (67%)**
- **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant (52%)**

Graduates

Honors Graduation Application, F21-Sp23 analysis (n=427 Honors Medallion recipients; Forbes & Johnson, forthcoming)

Prompt: How did participation in the Honors Program impact your undergraduate experience? Please be specific.

48% of responses focused on Belonging at UF:

- **People they met in Honors**
 - Lifelong friendships formed with peers
 - Faculty who became advisors and mentors
 - Programmatic examples: Retreats, course-based camps, student organizations, affinity groups
- **Challenges they were supported to pursue**
 - Identify as part of a group of go-getters and exemplars
 - Academically rigorous or thought-provoking coursework
 - Personal growth through opportunities
 - Programmatic examples: Honors courses, customizable completion requirements, UnCommon Learning emphasis

Faculty Partners

Teach for Honors:

- **Honors Sections | UnCommon Reads/Arts/Writes | Professional Development | Interdisciplinary* | Signature Seminars***

Collaborate with Honors:

- **UnCommon Classrooms | Course-Based Camps**
- **Summer study abroad**
- **Grant activities**

Promote Disciplinary Depth:

- **Signature experiences in the disciplines for upper-division majors**
- **Graduate / professional school preparation**
- **Graduate program recruitment**

Share Your Opportunities:

- **Info sessions / workshops**
- **Undergraduate research (esp. for new faculty)**
- **Announcements for the Honors on Wednesday News (HoW)**

Contact Us For:

- **Enrollment data**
- **News for communicators**
- **Presentations for faculty / staff - e.g. teaching / experiential opps**

Recognition



Nick Blumenthal

- **Major:** Nutritional Sciences
- **Certificate:** AI Fundamentals & Applications
- **Honors Highlight:** Honors courses
- **Awards:** Schwarzman Scholar (UF's 3rd ever), Rhodes Finalist



Patrick Grey

- **Majors:** Spanish and History
- **Minor:** Latin American Studies
- **Honors Highlight:** Honors Signature Experiences
- **Award:** Beinecke Scholar (UF's first in 15 years; 4th ever)



Julianne Owen

- **Major:** Aerospace Engineering
- **Co-ops / Internships:** 3 with NASA's Johnson Space Center; 1 with HawkEye 360
- **Honors Highlight:** Honors community / support
- **Award:** Matthew Isakowitz Fellow (UF's 1st ever)



Thank you!



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