

Honors Transfer Program: Did You Know?

- Honors Transfer Programs (HTPs) combine Honors-level coursework across disciplines, regular counseling support, Honors-specific transfer opportunities, access to scholarships/grants, foundational leadership opportunities, and academically and culturally enriching events like statewide community college honors research symposiums.
- HTPs are for all of our students. The Honors Transfer Council of California ([HTCC](#)) and the National Collegiate Honors Council ([NCHC](#)) ensure and require equitable practices everywhere from recruitment to course offerings and admissions practices.
- More than fifty two-year colleges around the state of California have an Honors Transfer Program.
- Honors coursework can be completed in almost every discipline! As long as the course is UC-transferable, it can count towards Honors work.
- Earning Honors credits can be very flexible. Students can complete work in cohorts/learning communities, individually in a non-honors course, or in an honors-specific course.
- Honors Transfer Programs are designed to reflect the values and commitments of the district. Many programs require service-learning and participation in campus events or clubs.
- Across the state, programs are reporting HTP students transferring at rates of 90-97%.
- Creating an HTP gives faculty access to nationwide professional development opportunities and conferences!
- Events like the Student Research Conference, the We the Future Conference, the Intramural Speech and Performance Tournament, Arts and Lectures Series, and various events put on by the Sawubona B.L.O.C. and Intercultural Centers are just some of the many opportunities we already have at SRJC that can pair beautifully with an Honors Transfer Program.
- According to the [National College Honors Council](#), “Honors colleges and programs can often serve as a ‘third space’ on campus that link Academic Affairs and Student Affairs (and other offices) because of the unique nature of the programming that takes place in the unit, thus allowing honors to serve as an important cross-campus conduit for information and ideas.”

Introduction: What is an Honors Transfer Program?

An Honors Transfer Program (HTP) offers students an enriching educational experience that prepares them for the academic expectations once they transfer, and currently, more than fifty two-year colleges across the state of California have an Honors Transfer Program. These programs combine Honors-level coursework across disciplines, regular counseling support, Honors-specific transfer opportunities, access to scholarships, and academically and culturally enriching events like statewide community college honors research symposiums. Altogether, HTPs create a synergized, supported, and motivating educational experience for our students, with several of these programs reporting 90-97% of their HTP students transferring to a four-year ([WVC](#); [GCC](#)). Every UC-transferrable course is eligible for Honors credit, meaning students can personalize and tailor their Honors experience to align with their passions and goals.

Historically, there have been concerns and issues with Honors Transfer Programs only serving certain populations within education, but as written by Richard Badenhansen and James Buss "While there may be some legacy perceptions of honors education as narrow, elitist and exclusive, these new standards present honors as inclusive, innovative, relevant and strategically positioned to advance institutional goals (if not lead some of them). The standards, which emphasize inclusive excellence, holistic admission processes and curricular flexibility, also reflect changes that have already been taking place in honors education, especially over the past decade" ([Insider Higher Ed](#)). Built into the expectations and requirements of the Honors Transfer Council of California ([HTCC](#)) and the National Collegiate Honors Council ([NCHC](#)) is the demand for equitable practices from recruitment to course offerings and admissions practices. As is already in place with many of the Puente learning communities across the state, embedding honors courses is proving to not only provide their students with excellent education, but also better preparing them for transfer.

Per [ASCCC](#): "Honors courses and programs are designed to offer students an enhanced community college experience [...]; California community colleges structure their Honors Transfer Programs in a variety of ways. Institutions may offer honors sections as a part of regular course offerings, have students contract to work with instructors while taking 'traditional' courses, or do a combination of the two. [...] Students who participate in Honors Transfer Programs have stronger transcripts which can increase their chance to transfer to the institution of their choice."

An Honors course does not necessarily mean it is a "harder course"; rather, it means the student will be engaging with more and different work. For example, if a

student is taking English C1000 for Honors credit, they will not only complete the work for a non-Honors English C1000 course, they will also complete an additional project. Students engage in self-driven research that can culminate in conference presentations, creating a podcast, making a short film, etc.

The scope of each Honors Transfer Program is tailored to the individual district and community; the values of the district are highlighted and celebrated as part of the program and structure. Requirements for earning an Honors Certificate can be designed to not only measure GPA and number of courses, but they can also encompass a level of community service, engagement with the campus, and utilization of counseling services, for example. Events like the Student Research Conference, the We the Future Conference, the Intramural Speech and Performance Tournament, Arts and Lectures Series, and various events put on by the Sawubona B.L.O.C. and Intercultural Centers are just some of the many opportunities we already have at SRJC that can pair beautifully with an Honors Transfer Program.

The scope of our Santa Rosa Junior College Honors Transfer Program will be defined through the efforts of our Academic Senate, All Faculty Association, and administration. As written by the [National College Honors Council](#), “Honors colleges and programs can often serve as a ‘third space’ on campus that link Academic Affairs and Student Affairs (and other offices) because of the unique nature of the programming that takes place in the unit, thus allowing honors to serve as an important cross-campus conduit for information and ideas” (2).

To be considered an Honors Transfer Program and able to offer our students the transfer opportunities and many benefits that come with being an HTP Scholar, it is important that our program aligns with the expectations/bylaws of:

- [Honors Transfer Council of California \(HTCC\)](#)
- [UCLA TAP](#)
- [National College Honors Council](#)

It is of note that these organizations intentionally highlight pedagogical innovation and equity practices as criteria for participation. They also allow for flexibility, encouraging each college to design the program that best fits their community.

This document has been prepared with the intention of sharing examples of the many options and approaches utilized by some of the more than 50 two-year colleges across the state of California with Honors Transfer Programs. Ultimately, the shape and

scope of the SRJC Honors Transfer Program is ours to sculpt and design for our students.

Sample College Programs

[Glendale College: Scholar's Program](#)

[MiraCosta College: Honor's Contract](#)

[Saddleback College: Honors Transfer Program/Benefits/Transfer](#)

[San Diego City College: Contracts/Guided Pathways](#)

[IVC: Honors Transfer Program](#)

[Miramar College Honor's Program](#)

[Sac City College](#)

[Las Positas College](#)

[Foothill College](#)