

Dallas County Community College District



HONORS PROGRAM
E A S T F I E L D C O L L E G E

Honors Program Student Handbook

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Introduction

This handbook is for prospective Honors Program students, current Honors Program students or anyone who wants to learn more about Eastfield's Honors Program. The Honors Program is expected to grow and evolve, so the information will be updated as needed.

Prospective members: We are glad you are interested in finding out more information about the Eastfield Honors Program. This handbook gives you a basic overview of the benefits and requirements of the honors program and help you decide if it something you want to join. Please feel free to contact either of the Co-Directors, listed below.

Current members: You may use this as a guide, but also feel free to ask your mentor or one of the co-directors if you want additional information or clarification. Please familiarize yourself with all of the information available. You will be responsible for understanding the requirements explained here. Also feel free to offer suggestions you have to the co-directors. We want to make membership in the Honors Program as positive and enriching as we can for you.

Honors Program Co-Directors

Dr. Jessica Kerins
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Honors Program Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Honors Program is to offer students with exceptional abilities and dedication curricular and co-curricular opportunities for study, civic engagement, and leadership at the highest intellectual level and to enhance their successful transition into Honors Colleges at four year institutions.

This purpose will be set forth by providing an environment that is at once both challenging and supportive, meeting the goals, and reflecting the values described below:

Goals

The aim of the Honors Program is to better prepare students for university-level study and to help facilitate their acceptance into university Honors Programs. The specific goals of the honors Program are below:

- Attract and retain academically prepared, motivated, and intellectually curious students
- Grow the Honors Program in terms of students, faculty and course offerings
- Offer ongoing training to honors faculty/mentors and co-directors
- Establish transfer institution Honors College admissions for successful Eastfield Honors Program students

Values

- Academic Excellence
- Responsibility
- Leadership
- Community
- Diversity
- Character
- Creativity
- Innovation
- Curiosity
- Integrity
- Service
- Rigor
- Reflection

Benefits to Honors Students

- Access to honors classes that are limited to no more than 20-25 students
- Access to honors classes taught in an interactive and intellectually stimulating manner to promote greater depth of knowledge, understanding, and critical thinking
- Access to instruction which provides support for independent scholarly endeavors
- Access to the Honors Program Study Lounge designed to encourage a community of scholars by providing a space to meet for fellowship, study groups and informal seminars as well as small quiet spaces for individual study
- Fellowship with other motivated students who share common goals
- Assignment to an honors faculty mentor who will meet on a regular basis with assigned honors students for individualized program guidance, assistance with the transfer process and scholarship information
- Access to priority registration each semester to facilitate scheduling of honors classes
- Honors Program Completion Certificate
- Facilitation of the transition into a similar program at a transfer institution.
- Enhanced ability to qualify for transfer scholarships

Description of Honors Program

The Honors Program is designed for students who are interested in joining a community of scholars and improving their academic record in preparation for university transfer. Specifically, the Honors Program aims to prepare students for university-level study, facilitate their acceptance into university Honors Programs, and increase scholarship acquisition. Students apply for acceptance and must have a minimum 3.5 GPA and be on college level in their reading and writing skills to be admitted. In order to complete the program, honors students must complete at least 12 hours of honors courses and must fulfill service learning and leadership requirements. Honors students are assigned a mentor who meets with them regularly to help make sure they complete program requirements and serve as a resource for scholarship and transfer information.

Description of Honors Courses

Although honors courses are designed specifically for honors students, any motivated student may enroll in an honors course. It is recommended, but not required that they have a 3.5 GPA or higher. All students who enroll and pass an honors course will receive honors credit; however, simply enrolling in an honors course does not grant acceptance into the Honors Program. Any student who wishes to join the program must meet all requirements and complete the application process.

Honors courses are limited to courses that transfer as college credit, either as core courses or electives. Articulation agreements will serve as guidelines. Developmental courses are not included.

Applying to the Honors Program

Students may obtain an application form online at www.dcccd.edu/efc/honors. Take the completed application to either Dr. Kerins' office in C309, or Dr. Castañeda's office in C273. Alternatively, mail it to either co-director:

Dr. Jessica Kerins
Eastfield College
STEM Division
3737 Motley Drive
Mesquite, TX 75150

Dr. Cindy Castañeda
Eastfield College
Social Sciences Division
3737 Motley Drive
Mesquite, TX 75150

Student Eligibility Requirements:

- Entering Freshmen: Minimum high school GPA of 3.5
- Current Students: Completion of at least 12 hours with a minimum of 3.5 GPA2 (transferable college credit)* If a student has under 12 hours, high school GPA will be considered.
- Accuplacer must be met for reading and writing.
- Completion of the Honors Program Application Form and all accompanying materials by the deadline for each fall or spring semester
- Good standing with Eastfield College and/or previous institutions attended

**GPA2 refers to college level academic courses that may fit on a degree plan at a two or four year college or university. This may include dual-credit courses but not developmental courses or Workforce Education Courses. If in doubt, consult with one of the Honors Program Co-Directors.*

Honors Program Application Forms must include the following supporting materials:

- Two letters of recommendation with at least one from a former instructor or community leader indicating that the applicant is committed to learning and has skills for high quality academic performance
- A writing sample consisting of a 500-1000 word essay responding to the question on the honors program student application.

Acceptance in the Honors Program is based on consideration of the applicants' total application package by the Honors Program Co-Directors. Meeting the minimum GPA requirement does not guarantee admission to the Honors Program. Conversely, applicants who are returning to college after a period of time without the minimum GPA but whose life experiences and current academic work indicate a good fit in the Honors Program, or other students in extenuating circumstances, may be provisionally admitted in the Honors Program at the discretion of the Co-Directors.

Completing the Honors Program

All students who complete honors course work will receive honors credit for their work that will be so noted on their transcripts and school records. In order to receive the Certificate of Completion and the Honors Program designation on their diplomas and transcripts, honors students must meet all completion requirements as shown below in addition to all other college requirements for graduation:

- Completion of at least 12 hours of honors courses in the Eastfield Honors Program, with a GPA of at least 3.35.
- Minimum GPA2 of 3.35 overall
- Completion of a minimum of 30 hours of approved Service Learning, or equivalent
- Completion of a minimum of 20 approved enrichment points, or equivalent

Honors Faculty Mentors

Each member of the Eastfield Honors Program will be assigned a faculty mentor. You will meet with your mentor at least once a semester or more as you and your mentor decide. Mentors will assist you with course planning and help you track your progress within the Honors Program and provide other relevant and useful information. They do not replace academic, personal or career counselors but will be there to refer as needed.

Student Guidelines

- Read your Honors Program Student Handbook carefully.
- Meet with your faculty mentor early in the semester and regularly as scheduled.
- Keep up with your program progress.
- Come to class prepared for the day's topic, with all assigned readings and/or written assignments completed.
- Remember that honors classes are not designed to be more work but are designed to be more intellectually stimulating and cover the material with more depth and analysis.
- Make sure that you understand all of your responsibilities as a member of the Honors Program as outlined in the Student Handbook and covered in the Orientation.
- Register early as possible to ensure that you can schedule classes that fit with your honors classes.

Articulation Agreements

In an effort to facilitate student transfer, the Eastfield Honors Program seeks to form articulation agreements with nearby institutions so that honors credit earned at Eastfield can be applied towards other institution's Honors Programs. Information on current transfer agreements is listed below:



UNT-Denton Honors College

Transfer students may pursue any of the three UNT Honors award levels:

1. The Honors College Recognition Award: This award requires a total of 18 honors credits. EFC students transferring to UNT-Denton will be able to count up to nine honors credits earned at EFC toward completion of this award.

2. The Honors Scholar Award: In addition to the 18 hours of honors credits required for the Honors College Recognition Award, the Honors Scholar Awardee completes a three hour capstone course, either in Honors or the major. EFC students transferring to UNT-Denton will be able to count up to nine honors credits earned at EFC toward completion of this award.

3. The Honors College Distinguished Scholar Award: This award requires 24 hours of honors credit, including an Honors thesis. EFC students transferring to UNT-Denton will be able to count up to twelve honors credits earned at EFC Honors College toward completion of this award.

Student Expectations

For an EFC honors class to count toward a UNT-Denton Honors College Award, the grade earned in the class must be B or better. Decisions about courses to be counted for transfer students will be made by the Dean or Associate Dean of the Honors College.

Students transferring honors credits to the UNT-Denton Honors College must have

- Grade Point Average of at least 3.35 at EFC and on all other college work.
- 72 or fewer total college hours when entering the UNT-Denton Honors College.



TXST Honors College

Transfer students may transfer up to 6 hours of honors credit from EFC towards the 15 hour minimum requirement of the traditional plan (which includes completing the thesis course, HON 4390B).

If the student wishes to minor in Honors Studies, 9 hours honors credit would be accepted towards the 21 hour minimum requirement of that plan (includes completing HON 4390A and the thesis course, HON 4390B).

Student Expectations

- Member of the Eastfield Honors Program and in good standing
- Grade Point Average of at least 3.25
- Completion the [online application](#)
- Request EFC Honors Director to notify TXST Honors College