

Administrative and Educational Support Report

University Honors Program

Annual Action Plan Annual Assessment Report

June 2004 – May 2005



Annual Action Plan: June 1, 2004–May 31, 2005

Unit: University Honors Program

UTPA Mission: The University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA) serves the higher education needs of a rapidly growing, international, multicultural population in the South Texas Region. The University preserves, transmits and creates knowledge to serve the cultural, civic, and economic advancement of the region and the state. The University provides students advanced instruction in academic programs offered through innovative delivery systems that lead to professional certification, and baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral degrees. Through teaching, research, creative activity and public service, UTPA prepares students for lifelong learning and leadership roles in the state, nation and world community.

Division: Academic Affairs **Unit Head:** Dr. Dora E. Saavedra

Unit Mission: The mission of the University Honors Program is to provide capable and interested undergraduate students at the University of Texas-Pan American a means of enriching their college education through honors classes, independents studies classes, guest speakers, seminars, educational travel, an honor society, and developmental seminars.

Unit Goal: To enhance the academic success of undergraduate students.

Link to UTPA Goal(s): 1: Ensure undergraduate student access and success

Unit Objective (Action Priority: #1 is highest)	Link to UTPA Objective	Expected Outcome for Unit Objective (AA-Measurable Objective)	Strategy(ies) to Achieve Expected Outcomes	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods for Expected Outcome	New Resources Needed in FY05
Increase graduation rates (1)	2	By the end of AY 2004-2005, there will be a 20% increase in the number of students graduating within the Honors Program framework.	<p>Send out a letter Fall 2004 to remind students of the independent study requirements.</p> <p>Conduct independent study orientation sessions for students and faculty members of committees.</p> <p>Expand the scholarship</p>	The Honors Program staff will produce a chart that compares graduation rates for 2004-2005 with the rates for 2003-2004.	<p>Mailing costs</p> <p>Packets of information</p> <p>Scholarship monies</p>

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			opportunities for students in the Honors Program.		
Improve the Honors Program (2)	2, 3	By the end of AY 2004-2005, the Honors Council and the Honors Program Director will have developed three specific objectives for modifying and enhancing the teaching, curriculum and program offerings in the Program.	<p>Provide the Honors Council the opportunity to brainstorm program enhancements, curricular modifications and teaching innovations; evaluate the feasibility of these ideas.</p> <p>Explore alternative means of offering Honors courses to maximize our limited faculty resources. Examples: compressed video, tele-courses, independent studies, on line courses, study abroad.</p> <p>Assign an Honors Council committee to research teaching innovations in Honors education.</p>	The Director will prepare a document that reports on the development of these three objectives by May 2005.	<p>Staff will research cost and feasibility of implementing ideas.</p> <p>Travel to a Honors faculty development meeting</p>

Unit Goal:

To enhance the quality, prestige and visibility of the Honors Program.

Link to UTPA Goal(s):

3: Improve UTPA's organizational effectiveness

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Publicize the Honors Program (3)	7	By the end of AY 2004-2005, initiate publicity/ media coverage of the Honors Program, e.g., its students' accomplishments, its fundraising efforts, research projects by Honors students and faculty, and the achievements of program alumni, Honors faculty and Honors mentors.	<p>Initiate contact with University Relations staff to identify possible media opportunities to publicize the program.</p> <p>Arrange for Honors Program students to be featured on cable TV program.</p> <p>Submission of news stories to local newspapers.</p>	The Honors Program staff will compile a "scrapbook" to document the media coverage of the program. In addition, documentation will be kept of any television or radio appearances by our students, faculty or staff.	None



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Increase graduation rates (1)	2	By the end of AY 2004-2005, there will be a 20% increase in the number of students graduating within the Honors Program framework.	The Honors Program staff will produce a chart that compares graduation rates for 2004-2005 with the rates for 2003-2004.	9 graduated 2003-2004; 24 have completed our program through May 2005, for an increase of 166%.	Activities planned for 05-06 include: revision of Guide to Independent Studies; the imposition of earlier deadlines on defense dates; recruitment of more faculty mentors; initiation of research projects during sophomore year as

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					opposed to waiting until junior year; additional orientation session to the program requirements for students new to the program
Improve the Honors Program (2)	2, 3	By the end of AY 2004-2005, the Honors Council and the Honors Program Director will have developed three specific objectives for modifying and enhancing the teaching, curriculum and program offerings in the Program.	The Director will prepare a document that reports on the development of these three objectives by May 2005.	For 2005-2006, an NCHC (National Collegiate Honors Council) Assessment Team has been engaged to perform an onsite evaluation in September to assess the Honors Program and UTPA's readiness to support an Honors College. Due to lack of a quorum at two meetings, the Honors Council postponed action on voting on the 3 specific objectives. One objective discussed was the initiation of \$500 travel grants to Honors faculty and mentors (2 per year).	For 2005-2006, plans to obtain the names of Honors Council members in early September have been made in hopes of having the Honors Council meet before the end of September. Other activities planned include: Council establishing an ad hoc committee to review curriculum needs for the next 5 years that may include the initiation of upper level honors classes, and investigating the possibility of a two tier Honors Program option such as the one offered by UTSA (thesis/non-thesis options).

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Additional Resources Needed (if any) that were requested for FY06 during the budget cycle: 5% increase for operating expenses