

# **Administrative and Educational Support Report**

## **University Honors Program**

**Annual Action Plan**  
**Annual Assessment Report**

**June 2005 – May 2006**



**Annual Action Plan: June 1, 2005–May 31, 2006**

**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:** 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, independent studies classes, guest speakers, seminars, educational travel, an honor society, and developmental seminars.

**Unit Goal: 1** Provide a quality Honors Program grounded in the liberal arts that cultivate active learning, critical thinking, and interdisciplinary perspectives

**Link to UTPA Goal(s):**  
 1. Ensure undergraduate student access and success  
 3. Improve UTPA’s organizational effectiveness

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 FY06
Conduct comprehensive program assessment utilizing professional consultants to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the program. (1)	3,7	By May 2006, the Honors Program will undergo an assessment and will be provided with a report documenting program strengths, weaknesses, and recommendations for improvements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By September 2005, schedule on assessment visit by a team of consultants.</li> <li>Provide consultants with access to students, faculty, administrators, etc.</li> <li>Review the consultants’</li> </ul>	By May 2006, the administration will have a copy of the assessment report and a list of recommendations for the Honors Program.	\$4,000

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			assessment report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make recommendation to administration</li> </ul>		

**Unit Goal: 2**

To enhance the academic success of undergraduate honors 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 FY06
To expand the Honors Study Abroad Program. (2)	1, 2	The Undergraduate Honors Program (UHP) will have offered 2 study abroad programs for students during AY06.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer a mini term study abroad session</li> <li>• Offer a study abroad 3 week session during summer (Summer Session 1)</li> <li>• Provide Study abroad scholarships to qualified students</li> </ul>	2 study abroad sessions will have been conducted and grades submitted.	None

**Unit Goal: 3**

Facilitate undergraduate students' participation in scholarship, research and/or creative activities

**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 FY06
To initiate contact with Honors Program sophomores and juniors to encourage them to begin their senior projects earlier than their senior year. (3)	1, 2	There will be at least 10 sophomores or juniors engaged in their senior project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct individual visits with new students</li> <li>• Revise the guidelines for HONORS 3387 &amp; 4387</li> <li>• Assist students in identifying possible mentors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be enrollment data for Fall 2006.</li> <li>• There will also be documentation of meetings with students (emails, notes) who are beginning to work on their projects and their mentors or committee members</li> </ul>	None



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Unit Objective (Priority: #1 is highest)	Link to UTPA Objective	Expected Outcome	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods	Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance)	Use of Results (What change was made?)
Conduct comprehensive program assessment utilizing professional consultants to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the program. (1)	3,7	By May 2006, the Honors Program will undergo an assessment and will be provided with a report documenting program strengths, weaknesses, and recommendations for improvements.	By May 2006, the administration will have a copy of the assessment report and a list of recommendations for the Honors Program.	A comprehensive assessment report with recommendations was received in April 2006. Copies were provided to the President, the Interim Provost, the Assoc. V.P. of Undergraduate Studies, the Honors Council and	Based on the recommendations in the assessment: More active recruitment efforts have been planned for the 2006 Summer Orientation Program. The Director and an Honors student explored the chartering

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				the Honors Director.	of a new Honor Society to replace Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society. Specific recommendations to improve the UHP were submitted for Administrative consideration.

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To enhance the academic success of undergraduate honors students

**Link to UTPA Goal(s):**

1. Ensure undergraduate student access and success

Unit Objective (Priority: #1 is highest)	Link to UTPA Objective	Expected Outcome	Assessment Criteria, Evaluation Methods	Assessment Results (Use actual data to describe annual performance)	Use of Results (What change was made?)
To expand the Honors Study Abroad Program. (2)	1, 2	The Undergraduate Honors Program (UHP) will have offered 2 study abroad programs for students during AY06.	2 study abroad sessions will have been conducted and grades submitted.	As of May 17, 2006, 13 Honors students were awarded scholarships to participate in the 2 Study Abroad Programs. However, the Italy trip had sufficient participation. The Greece/Turkey trip was cancelled.	Scholarship funding for Study Abroad students has been increased from \$14,000 in 2005 to \$26,000 in 2006. \$30,000 in scholarship funds for study abroad have been set aside for 2007.

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To initiate contact with Honors Program sophomores and juniors to encourage them to begin their senior projects earlier than their senior year. (3)	1, 2	There will be at least 10 sophomores or juniors engaged in their senior project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be enrollment data for Fall 2006.</li> <li>• There will also be documentation of meetings with students (emails, notes) who are beginning to work on their projects and their mentors or committee members</li> </ul>	As of May 2006, Juniors and Sophomores have been enrolled in Honors 3187 or have signed up for this course during the 2006 Summer session or for Fall 2006. Honors Senior Thesis Orientation sessions have been held with students going into their Honors 3387, 4387 work.	\$30,000 of specially allocated monies was earmarked to fund undergraduate research projects and travel. The Honors Council committee on Faculty and Faculty Development designed a Request for Funds form for students requesting funds to be spent by August 2006.