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Salem State College Honors Program Backgrounder

The Honors Program fulfills Salem State's commitment to provide a stimulating academic environment that offers Ivy League quality at an affordable cost. It's designed to offer a more challenging curriculum to students whose abilities and previous performance are demonstrably higher than the norm. All majors are eligible to participate in Honors.

The program enables motivated and talented students to work with our most accomplished and enthusiastic faculty. Honors courses are qualitatively different in design and content, and smaller class size allows you greater interaction. A seminar format is used in most Honors courses, giving you the opportunity for independent research, class presentations, and the chance to learn from one another. Field trips and visiting scholar sessions add to a rich academic experience. You are encouraged to think independently and creatively, and complete a senior honors project, typically a capstone experience that stands as an education high-water mark.

In a typical year, Honors students will get together for dinners, our annual retreat, convocations, and trips to places such as Walden Pond, Cambridge, or Salem Willows. Each summer, our students help facilitate the Honors Golf Tournament, the proceeds of which support the program. In late August, entering Honors students get acquainted with each other at an overnight outing.

Beginning at Summer Orientation, in-coming freshmen Honors students meet with the Honors Program Coordinator, Rod Kessler, and Honors students who have already completed at least their freshmen year. Throughout the year, the Honors Program Coordinator encourages students to stop in to visit any time with questions, concerns, or just to chat.

All members of the Honors Program belong to a common listserv, making it easy to communicate by email about a range of information from campus activities to advising notices. Honors Program students can easily arrange book swaps, outings, and group study sessions. The listserv makes it easy for students to help and support one another in countless ways.

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