

Annual Report to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
The College Honors Program
2018-2019

The College Honors program is pleased to share its activities with the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. In the Rhode Island College organizational chart, the Honors Program reports directly to the Provost/VPAA of Rhode Island College and works closely with Department Chairs, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and Admissions.

Enrollment into the honors program was good this year, and fall and spring offerings remained at current levels, and were able to support all students in the program. Freshman enrollment is at approximately 50 students, but if we could offer more classes, we would accept more. It is my hope that in the coming years, we can increase our offerings to allow for the increased numbers of excellent students that the College is recruiting.

Twenty-one students will graduate this May with General Education Honors, thirteen of whom also received College Honors. Twenty-eight students successfully completed departmental honors projects. The number of College Honors students and departmental projects continues remains healthy, and continues to be supported by strong faculty mentors who are willing to work with these talented students. A challenge for the future is to find a way to support students in majors with a large number of credits to complete the College Honors program. Some majors have most general education courses prescribed by their major, and students are unable to make their schedules work to allow for enough courses within the Honors Program to complete general education honors courses, and/or the departmental honors project. (In particular, the AQSR offering needs more students able to take this offering outside of their majors in order for this offering to thrive in the honors program.)

The honors program continues to work with the Center for Research and Creative Activity at the Poster Session for the “Spring Expo.” I hope more students across campus work on departmental honors projects, but I also hope that more students can have the opportunity to work on senior thesis/research projects even if they aren’t in the honors program. The honors program is coordinating with students in the McNair program and the Center for Research and Creative activity in order to broaden participation in research across the campus as a whole. I look forward to continuing these efforts in the next year.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Sparks
Director, College Honors Program