

**Academic Affairs**  
**The Dorothy and Bill Cohen Honors College**  
**Strategic College Goals for AY 2019-20**

**NOTABLE TRENDS IN HONORS**

Benchmarking analysis reveals certain trends of note. By far the most common model among benchmarked institutions is the Breadth and Enduring Questions model, followed by the Research and Creative Scholarship model. This is an understandable choice for smaller institutions, as the former mode of learning requires the least intensive faculty or budget investments. The major resource needs are faculty to teach honors seminars or serve as advisors on thesis projects. Allowing students greater freedom to take courses in an interdisciplinary fashion is a relatively minimal expense, and thesis projects in these programs are far less rigorous than in honors programs that center around such deliverables. None of the benchmarked institutions utilize the Great Books curriculum.

*Models, Trends, and Opportunities in Honors Education* Hanover Research ©2018

**Our Educational Model**

The Cohen Honors College curriculum and co-curricular activities correspond most closely to the Breadth and Enduring questions model of Honors education, offering a range of seminar and department honors courses with opportunities and financial support for engagement in research and creative scholarship, service learning, and other kinds of applied learning but no common requirement to complete a sustained, complex research or creative project. We are many things to many people, and this was part of the original aim of the college. Faculty recognized the university's diverse student population and success with first-generation and transfer students. They wanted to build a model that would provide multiple points of access, a flexible curriculum that encourages faculty to experiment, supports students to design an educational track to fit their aspirations and aligns with the university mission, vision, and values.

**Our Successes This Year**

In academic year 2018-19, Honors was successful in the areas of recruitment, curriculum development – particularly in the sciences, alumni engagement, and evaluating and improving advising and retention initiatives. This success is reflected in:

- 408 applications to date for 2019-20, a 9% increase over applications for 2018-19 and a 54% increase in applications over the past five years; anticipated enrollment of 695 students in Honors in 2019-20.
- 75 first-year students including all members of the honors living learning community enrolled in an honors first-year seminar in fall 2018, substantial revisions to the honors leadership track and university honors minor approved, new interdisciplinary honors science track and minor proposal approved,

"If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them."  
Henry David Thoreau [Walden](#)

Strategic College Goals for AY 2019-20	Action (Work) Plan	Expected Outcomes
STRATEGIC ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT		

**Advance a college culture that values diversity and builds intellectual and**

**Increase and improve alumni and community outreach**

- Engage Honors College Advisory Board in tactical and strategic working groups
- Increase engagement in regional Honors community

## APPENDIX