

Pillars of the PSU Honors College

Academic Achievement

Honors College students strive to achieve academically and to seek out opportunities beyond the classroom to enhance their collegiate educational experience.

Involvement and Leadership

Honors College students strive to continue to develop their leadership skills, both within the Honors College Association and through active involvement and leadership in campus clubs and organizations.

Service to Others

Honors College students understand and appreciate the importance of giving of their time and energy to the campus and surrounding communities.

Service to the Honors College

Honors College students understand and appreciate the importance of investing their time and efforts to work for the good of the Honors College Association, including programs such as the Peer Mentor Program and active participation in TEAM efforts.

Community

Honors College students thrive best in a community of like-minded students who engage in social activities to build a strong, long-lasting bond with others in the organization. For this reason, Honors College students will strive to be active and engaged in various social events sponsored by the organization.

PSU Honors College

Pillar Points

Involvement in the Honors College Association enriches both the student and the Honors College program, providing opportunities for leadership, socialization, and personal growth, while bringing Honors students together for shared causes.

The *Pillar Points* are in place for two reasons. First, to organize the non-academic requirements of all members of the Honors College for more efficient record keeping purposes and second, to create a reward and recognition program for those students who are more actively engaged and involved in the Honors College during their time in the program.

Compliance with the basic level *Pillar Point* system is a requirement for continued eligibility for all students just like progress towards credits and minimum GPA. Students who do not meet the requirements will be placed on a one semester probation and if the issue is not rectified by the end of the following semester, the student will be removed from the Honors College and lose their scholarship.

Students who earn the *Level of Distinction* each of their four years in the Honors College will be recognized as such at the Annual Honors College Banquet and will receive a special medallion to wear at commencement.

Freshman Level Requirements

All freshman students will be *required* to earn a minimum of 14 *Pillar Points* during their first year. Those points will be:

- 4 community service points (2 points each semester-1 point for each hour of service)
- 6 HCA Meeting attendance points (3 each semester*)
- 1 point for involvement in another campus organization over the course of the academic year (verification required)
- 3 points for attending HCA Social Events (1 point for each event attended)

*If a student must miss a monthly HCA meeting, they will need to make up that point through extra community service hours or attending additional social events.

Total *Pillar Points* required for Freshman-14 to remain in good standing

By satisfying these *Pillar Point* expectations, all freshman will automatically earn the *Level of Distinction*.

Upperclassman-Basic Level

All upperclassman students will be required to earn a minimum of 8 *Pillar Points* each year during their remaining years. Those points will be:

- 4 community service points (2 points each semester-1 point for each hour of service)
- 2 HCA Meeting attendance points (1 each semester*)
- 2 additional points from the list of opportunities shown below

*If a student must miss a monthly HCA meeting, they will need to make up that point through extra community service hours or attending additional social events.

Total *Pillar Points* required for Upperclassman-8 to remain in good standing

Upperclassmen-Level of Distinction

In order for upperclassmen to earn the *Level of Distinction*, they must fulfill the 8 *Pillar Points* required of the basic level, and an additional 6 *Pillar Points* for a total of 14 *Pillar Points* during the academic year.

Pillar Points may be earned according to the following list of activities:

- HCA Meeting Attendance-1 point for each meeting attended
- Additional HCA Community Service-1 point per hour of service
- 3 points for effectively serving as a Peer Mentor
- 3 points for effectively serving as a team leader for the academic year
- 1-2 points for effectively serving as a project leader for the academic year. 1 point if it is a single occurrence project and 2 points if it is a year-long project. To serve effectively the leader must organize the event, publicize the event to the membership, be at the event to oversee it, and send the list of names of participants to the HCA leadership for record keeping purposes
- 1 point for attending an HCA social event
- 1 point for active involvement over the course of the entire academic year in another campus organization OR 2 points for serving effectively as an officer of another campus organization. Maximum of 2 outside organizations may be used to earn these points and it must be verified by the faculty advisor.

Notes

- In order for a student to achieve *Level of Distinction* at graduation, they must have received *Level of Distinction* in each of their years in the Honors College
- All record keeping of points will be done in the CANVAS Honors College account so that students can always see where they are toward point accumulation

- Points are accumulated on a yearly basis. Points do not roll over from year to year
- There can be no “double dipping”.
- All communication regarding the point system should be done through the HCA Gmail account