



Las Positas College

Honors

Student

Handbook

2025-2026

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1. Introduction and Mission

What is the Honors Transfer Program?

The mission of the Honors Transfer Program is to **open academic pathways** for our diverse student body. We welcome motivated and eager students to take a deeper, more self-directed approach to their college coursework and learning journey. Our program provides students with **HONORS COURSES**, as well as other opportunities to grow intellectually and make meaningful connections across various disciplines.

We view the Honors Transfer Program as a benefit to the entire Las Positas College community, including both students and faculty. We support and encourage faculty in creating innovative curricula and cultivating enriching intellectual activities for students. The Honors Program is dedicated to recruiting and nurturing honors students from diverse backgrounds and interests, guiding them on their intellectual journeys. We strive to prepare students for future academic success.

Primary Goals

- Support students' intellectual interests, creativity, and passions.
- Help students grow into intellectual risk-takers and creative, self-assured thinkers.
- Cultivate students' ability to collaborate among students as fellow citizens of the world.
- Foster meaningful connections between students, teachers, and faculty through collaboration.
- Encourage academic excellence for all students through critical thinking and innovation.

Participation in the Honors Transfer Program offers students the chance to:

- Develop critical thinking, research, and communication skills essential for upper-division coursework and graduate study after transfer.
- Deepen their passion for ideas, innovation, and inquiry through research, peer collaboration, and participation in scientific conferences and student symposia.
- Benefit from Honors Transfer Agreements with selected 4-year universities.

2. Program Membership Requirements

What makes you eligible to apply?

If You're New...

You must have at least one of the following:

1. A GPA from high school of 3.75 or above

OR

2. A GPA of 3.25 and a recommendation of an instructor or counselor

If you don't meet the requirements above, but you feel that the honors program may be a good fit for you, please contact the

Honors Program Director, Dr. Irena Keller:

ikeller@laspositascollege.edu

If You're a Continuing Community College Student...

You must have at least one of the following:

1. A GPA of 3.5 or above from any accredited community college

OR

2. A GPA of 3.0 and a recommendation of an instructor or counselor

Ongoing Membership Requirements

- Maintain a **GPA of 3.5 or higher**. GPA will be checked each semester after grades are posted.
- Complete **at least one Honors course each year** with a grade of B or higher. Failure to complete this requirement will lead to losing your spot in the program to someone on the waitlist.
 - Note: Honors Courses are limited in the Summer and are not offered during Winter Intersession.
- **Refrain from exceeding 1 dropped/failed Honors course.**
- Complete **at least 10 hours of community/global engagement service per year**. At least 6 hours out of the 10 per year have to be for LPC college, and the rest can be completed outside of LPC..

Membership Renewal

Any student meeting the requirements will have their membership automatically renewed. For students missing one or more of the requirements, the Honors Director and Board will examine their overall record, including their GPA trend over time and any instructor feedback.

3. Honors Graduation Perks and Awards

The Honors Scholar award is the highest academic status granted by the LPC Honors Program!

In order to become an Honors SCHOLAR, a student must fulfill ALL of these requirements:

1. Complete at least 5 honors contracts in courses totaling at least 15 units.
2. Graduate with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher.
3. Do not exceed 1 dropped/failed honors course.

AND

4. Complete the community service engagement requirement (required for *all* Honors students to maintain membership in the program).
 - 10 hours per year in the program, 5 hours per semester
 - At least 6 out of those 10 hours must be for Las Positas (not limited to the Honors Program)

Graduating as an Honors Scholar also entitles you to various benefits with our transfer college partners such as:

- **Priority consideration** at several private and public colleges.
 - Ex. UCLA, UC Irvine, Yale, etc.
- Guaranteed and/or priority **scholarships** upon admission.
- Guaranteed and/or priority access to **housing**.
- Guaranteed and/or priority access to the **honors program** upon admission to the college.

As an Honors Scholar you'll receive the following awards during your graduation:

- An Honors Scholar medal
- Special recognition at the graduation ceremony.
- An Honors Scholar Certificate of Completion!

Other Benefits and Recognitions

Benefits of being an Honors Program Student

- Honors embellishments in your final transcript.
- Dedicated advising and support from peers and advisors.
- Receive an Honors Program pin and Student Certificate of Participation at graduation!

In order to graduate as a Honors Program Student you must fulfill these requirements:

1. Finish with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher.
- AND
2. Complete at least one honors course with a B or higher.

Do you need to become an Honors scholar?

No. Many students choose to take only a few Honors courses. If you join the Honors Program near the end of your time here, for instance, it would be challenging to finish the requirements in time. However, even a couple of Honors course designations look great on your transcript which boost your chances of getting into your transfer institution of choice. More importantly, you will learn more in the Honors courses and will feel better prepared for your future career. Additionally, students under this circumstance may be eligible for the **Honors Program Student Award**, which recognizes your achievement and participation in the Honors program.



4. Starting an Honors Course

To start any Honors Courses you must be an approved and enrolled member of the LPC Honors Transfer Program.

Any transfer-level course is eligible for developing an Honors Contract, if the instructor is willing.

Note: “below-college-level courses” (Math 50/55/107, and English courses prior to English 1A) are not eligible for Honors Contracts.

Full Honors Designated Sections

The best option to take an Honors course is by enrolling in it directly. Some courses will have full Honors Sections specifically for members of the Honors Transfer Program.

- Check the course schedule for the available Honors courses. They should be listed as "HC" and have a separate CRN to the regular course. These courses are specifically designed to meet the level of rigor required for an Honors course.
- Once registered, you won't have to fill out any forms for this class for it to be recognized as an Honors class on your transcript!

Regular Sections with an Embedded Honors Component

If a class you want to take does not have a full Honors Section, you will still be able to take the class as an Honors Course if the instructor is an Honors Certified Instructor with an Honors Component Embedded into their regular class. The student will not have to create their own contract, but they must still follow the assignments given in the Honors Canvas course for their class.

- Early in the semester, the student should ask the instructor if the class has an "Embedded Honors Component." The student can also go to the Honors Program Canvas to find the current list of Honors Certified instructors.
- If the instructor offers an Embedded Honors Component, they will add you to the special Canvas section for the Honors coursework. All you would need to do is follow the instructor's established Honors coursework in that Canvas to earn the Honors designation for their course.
- Keep in mind that the Embedded Honors Course will have **forms and assignments inside the Instructor's Canvas that need to be completed**, but these are different from the Contract Proposal Form, and the approval of the Honors director is NOT required to get started, because the Embedded Component is already pre-approved by the Program, no contracts are necessary.

A student must receive an "A" or "B" in the course for the honors designation to be added for this option.

Honors Contracts for Regular Classes

Some classes will not have an official Honors section or be taught by an Honors instructor. In this case, the student must communicate with their instructor in order for them to work together on creating an Honors contract/proposal.

- Early in the semester, the student should ask the instructor if he or she is willing to mentor them through an Honors project.
- If the instructor agrees, you can write a project proposal for the course you want to take as an Honors Course. Details for how to create a proposal are listed in Appendix.
- Fill out the Honors Contract Proposal Form (located in the Honors Program Canvas) during the beginning of the term, attach your project proposal and submit for the Honors Committee approval.

Once you complete the project **at the end of the semester** and **your mentor approves it**, you should submit the completed work to the Program for the Honors Committee approval before the final day of instruction. There is a form to submit your completed honors work **AFTER** it was approved by your instructor, and another form that will ask for your feedback on your

experience. The forms are only available on the LPC Honors Program Canvas.

If a student fails to complete the project, there is no penalty. The student just doesn't submit any completion forms.

A student must receive an "A" or "B" in the course for the honors designation to be added for this option.

5. Finishing an Honors Course

Honors Courses should represent a minimum of 25 hours of additional high-level work beyond what is required for the coursework of a regular class. Honors Courses present students with the unique opportunity to work closely with their professors on projects or coursework that mesh with what is being taught in class and their personal interests. It is recommended that you start an Honors Course only if you are willing to delve deeply into the work for that class and dedicate time and hard work into research and analysis on the subject.

Some tips:

- Completing an Honors course is all about fulfilling all the deadlines and goals that you set for yourself.
- Remember to thank your professor/mentor for allowing you to work with them!

6. The Honors Program Club



The Honors Transfer Program has a student-run club active in the fall and spring terms of each year. This club provides an opportunity for students to learn more about the LPC Honors Transfer Program, meet other motivated students, receive support from faculty and other Honors students through a variety of workshops, and volunteering for LPC community and academic events.

Note that the Honors Program Club is separate from the Honors Transfer Program. A member of the Honors Program is not required to attend any club meetings, and someone who is not a member of the Honors Program is free to attend any of the club meetings.

Club Officer Qualifications

All officers must be enrolled in at least one course at LPC, be an active member of the Honors program (be enrolled in/have completed at least one Honors course, and have a GPA of 3.5).

Duties for All Club Officers

Attend all club meetings, attend additional monthly officers-only meetings, plan club activities.

Officer Positions:

- **President**
 - Runs weekly club meetings and officer meetings
- **Vice President**
 - Assists the president with running weekly club meetings and officer meetings
- **Secretary**
 - Takes minutes at weekly club meetings, completes any required paperwork
- **Treasurer**
 - Maintains the club's financial records and take care of bills and reimbursements
- **PR/Media Specialists**
 - Conduct outreach and relations with other communities, social media presence, designing flyers, pins, possible merchandise



7. Honors Events



Bay Honors Symposium

This statewide conference for community college honors students is the major academic event of the year. Held every spring at either Stanford or UC Berkeley, the Honors Research Symposium gives students an opportunity to present their work in an academic setting to fellow scholars. LPC students have participated, either as presenters or attendees.

Any Honors work that you complete for an Honors course can be submitted for presentation at the Symposium. Because the Symposium takes place in the middle of the Spring term, this means that your work will have a better chance of being approved if it has already been completed in a previous term.

The selection process is competitive: in recent years, only around 35% of the submitted proposals were accepted. No need to worry, though! Our Honors director, your mentor, and other Honors students will help you refine your proposal to give you the best chance. And if you are selected, we will work with you to prepare and practice your presentation skills.

LPC Student Symposium

At the end of each semester, if student interest is high, we hold a “local” LPC Honors Showcase on our campus. Any student who has a recently completed or about-to-be-completed Honors project -- within the last 2 semesters -- is invited to participate in this community event, giving a 15-minute presentation summarizing their work. Participation is not required, but it is a wonderful time to celebrate your achievements, develop your presentation skills, and gain confidence in presenting your ideas to the audience.



8. Transfer Partners & Agreements

One of the biggest benefits of being part of the Honors Transfer Program is that you get access to the transfer agreements of multiple universities. If these agreements are fulfilled during your time in the program, benefits may include priority consideration for admission, housing, and/or scholarships at the university you transfer to.

UCLA TAP Certification

UCLA Transfer Alliance Program (TAP) is a priority admission review program hosted by UCLA in partnership with California Community College honors programs that complete a rigorous review process through the office of UCLA admissions. Las Positas is one of the few colleges in our surrounding area certified to participate in the program.

Through UCLA TAP students who graduate as Honors Scholars at LPC will be eligible for priority admission review at UCLA. Students must complete the regular admission process at UCLA, complete the LPC honors program, and complete all major preparation requirements as well.

The Transfer Alliance Program is a program of the UCLA College of Letters and Science and applies only to majors within L&S. This includes the majors of most LPC transfers, but does not include the Schools of Engineering & Applied Science; Architecture; Music; Nursing; Theatre, Film and Television; Public Affairs, or Education & Information Studies.

In 2020, general transfer Students were admitted to UCLA at a rate of 24%. By contrast, TAP applicants were admitted at a rate of 78%.

Alternate Major Consideration: TAP certification also entitles students to be reviewed for admission in an alternate major. Students must meet the UCLA major preparation requirements in their secondary major. The secondary major must be within the College of Letters and Sciences (L&S) and some impacted majors are also excluded from consideration as alternate majors for TAP. The alternate major must also be the alternate major indicated on the student's official UC application.

The Transfer Agreement Request Form: The preparation/intent form should be filled out between September and November of your last academic year at Las Positas. This form is only available to the members of the LPC Honors Program on the Honors Program Canvas. This is an LPC form where you will indicate that you plan to graduate as an LPC honors scholar and that you would like to use the TAP agreement (among others) to transfer. This form will provide the information needed by the LPC Honors Transfer Program Coordinator in order to begin the process of certifying you for UCLA TAP. Please note that this is an internal LPC process and is separate from the application process that you complete with UCLA when you apply through TAP. Make sure you do both if you plan to apply as a TAP-certified student.

UCI Honors to Honors (H2H)

UCI Honors to Honors is a transfer agreement between UCI and California Community College honors programs.

Through UCI H2H transfer students who complete at least 5 honors courses totaling at least 15 units at LPC with a total UC-transferable GPA of 3.7 or above, and complete all major preparation requirements will be **given priority admission to UCI if admitted**. They will also receive:

- Honors student status in UCI's Campuswide Honors Collegium (CHC), which includes access to Honors scholarships, priority registration, guaranteed housing, and other benefits.

The only majors that are NOT eligible for UCI H2H are Art, Business Administration, Dance, B.Mus., Nursing Science, and ALL majors in the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences.

UCI H2H also entitled students to be reviewed for admission in an alternate major. NOTE, they guarantee admission to UCI in general, however **they do NOT guarantee admission to your first choice major**.

The UCI H2H Intent Form: The intent form should be filled out between September and November of your last academic year at Las Positas. This form is only available to the members of the LPC Honors Program on the Honors Program Canvas (see above on how to apply for the program). This is an LPC form where you will indicate the specific courses that make you eligible to graduate as an LPC honors

scholar. If you have more courses to take, it allows you to indicate your plans to complete the program before graduation. This form will provide the information needed by the LPC Honors Transfer Program Coordinator in order to nominate you for Honors to Honors consideration.

Other Transfer Agreements

Many other universities officially recognize the Honors Transfer Program of Las Positas College and have transfer agreements for it. Each university has different requirements that the student must meet and each university has different benefits. These agreements do not guarantee admission unless explicitly stated by the institution.

If you wish to apply to one of the many partner campuses of the Honors Program then it is imperative that you do your own research on the requirements for that institution.

The following universities also offer transfer agreements:

- Yale
- Tufts
- UMass Amherst
- University of Michigan
- University of San Francisco
- Pomona College
- Scripps
- Occidental College
- Any many more!

9. Frequently Asked Questions

Admissions & Eligibility

Q: Can anyone join the Honors Program?

You have to have either a Cumulative College GPA of 3.5 or higher or a Cumulative High School GPA of 3.75 or higher. If you do not meet these requirements, you might still be able to join if you get a recommendation from an LPC instructor or a high school counselor, though there is no guarantee and your GPA has to be no less than 3.0 in college or 3.25 in high school.

Q: Can I enroll in the Honors Program if I'm a middle college or dual enrollment student?

You can participate in the LPC Honors Program and take some of your courses as Honors. However, you will not be able to use any of the transfer agreements like UCLA TAP, unless you stay at LPC for at least a year after high-school. "Transfer priority agreements" are specifically designed for community college **transfer** students who were not able for various reasons to go into a 4-year-university right after high-school, even though they have the potential. That means you **MUST** be a transfer student to qualify for a transfer agreement. Still taking some Honors courses will help boost your college applications and demonstrate academic rigor even if you are not eligible for UCLA TAP or other transfer agreements. It might help you to use a transfer agreement if you do stay for another year in LPC after graduating high school, but be advised that it's more difficult to complete the Honors Program in one year, and one-transfer students' chances are lower than two-year.

Q: I applied to the Honors Program but was put on the waitlist. What should I do?

Unfortunately, due to the limited number of spaces available in the Honors program, we can't accept everyone; thus, some qualified applicants are put on the waitlist. Admission from the waitlist is on a first-come, first-served basis, as spots become available.

Spots can become available anytime, but most likely after the next semester schedule is up, once we know how many Honors sections we have to accommodate more students. Spots might become available also when grades are due, because some students might be dropped out of the program due to low GPA.

We would recommend coming to the club meetings. The club is for everyone; you don't have to be in the program, and you can learn about the resources and the program beforehand. The club info is available on the Honors Program website:

<https://laspositascollege.edu/honors/honorsclub.php>

Q: Is there any way to enroll in an Honors course if I am on the waitlist?

There is a way to take Honors courses if you are on the waitlist: taking full Honors sections. However, people in the Honors program will have priority in registering for the full Honors sections, but if there is still space available, waitlisted students may enroll in those sections. If you are interested, please contact our Honors Director so they know you are interested in enrolling in an Honors section.

Honors Courses & Requirements

Q: How many Honors Courses should/can I take?

Taking no more than two Honors courses in the first semester is recommended, and only one if you are accepted conditionally with a GPA below required. You can take more courses later if you demonstrate success in the first semester.

You also only need 5 if you want to qualify for specific programs like TAP for UCLA, and if you want to graduate as an Honors Scholar. You will still benefit from the Program even if you don't do all 5 courses. Each course will still show as an Honors course on your transcript, and you could talk about your project/s on the application to any college; it will always make your application stand out.

You are also free to do more honors courses than the minimum requirement of 5, just keep in mind your workload and what feels manageable to you.

Q: Do all Honors courses have to be in my major?

No. Taking Honors courses outside of your major can be useful to display versatility in your interests.

However, if you're planning to transfer into a specific major at university, it's a good idea to complete some Honors coursework in the required classes for that major.

Q: Can I finish all my Honors courses in one year/two semesters?

If you are considering applying for UCLA TAP or other transfer agreements, then it may not be possible. You would need to have 4 Honors courses and the majority of your major requirements for two majors completed by the end of Fall when you apply. This might put extra

stress on you, your GPA might suffer and you might find yourself in a worse situation without the TAP certification.

If you are adamant about transferring to another university in one year, you can try to take Honors courses during the summer, but Honors courses in the summer are very limited, and there is no guarantee that a spot will be available, and only Honors-certified instructors can mentor you. And even if you get to complete the Honors program and be certified for TAP, UCLA is also less favorable to one-year transfer, the chances are much lower than for two-year transfer. You can always stay for the second year, but then you will not have too many classes left to take. It is in your best interest to plan an even schedule for two years ahead of time and invest in different things, not just classes.

That being said, even if you cannot do the whole program and get certified, enrolling in one Honors course during the Fall can provide you with important experience and will prepare you for transfer, especially if the Honors course is in your major. It might also help your application, but since you will probably be applying in the Fall, universities may not consider the honors course fully if you haven't completed it yet.

Q: Can I take an Honors course during the summer or winter intersession?

Unfortunately, you cannot take Honors Courses during the Winter Intersession. The time frame would be too short to complete the requirements of an Honors Project. The purpose of an Honors Project is to give you enough time to engage in deeper learning and research beyond that of a regular course, and with how Winter Intersession is structured, it would not be possible to take one.

For Summer, you could potentially take some Honors courses during the summer, but they are very limited, so you should not count on it. Since the Honors Program does not work in the summer you cannot submit any Honors Contracts, even if your professor approves it. You may complete an Honors course during the summer only if your professor is Honors-certified and they are offering an Honors embedded component where the contract is not required. In that case, the course could count towards your Honors requirement; however, the honors designation will not appear on your transcript until the fall semester begins.

Q: Are there Honors courses for late start classes?

Unfortunately, it is not possible to turn a short-term/late start course into Honors with a contract. The term is too short to develop a project of your own, that is the reason contracts are due in the beginning of the term. However, it is possible to have an Honors course for late start classes if your instructor has an Honors embedded component for the late start class, because the component means the instructor already has a plan for you. With an embedded course, due dates for any assignments will be decided by your instructor and you won't have to submit a contract to the Honors Program Coordinator.

Q: Can two or more students on one Honors project together?

Yes, you can do Honors work with another Honors student. However, the final written report must be individual and different from each other. This means that the same report CANNOT be submitted for everyone. Each of you will have to submit your own project report, emphasizing your contribution to the group outcome.

Q: What happens if I don't complete/fail my Honors Course?

If you do not complete an Honors Project successfully, it will not count towards transfer agreements or Honors Scholar. Remember that you can only drop 1 Honors Contract or Embedded Component. This means you cannot drop or fail any more Honors projects. If you are at risk of dropping or failing **more than 1** Honors Project, it could result in removal from the Honors Program. However, there will be no penalty if you drop or fail a designated Honors Section. It will not count towards your failed/dropped category. If you are at risk of dropping or failing **more than 1** Honors project, reach out to our Honors Director to explain your situation, but there are no guarantees that you will still be in the Honors Program. Keep in mind that the Honors Program is for students who want to challenge themselves beyond the regular curriculum. If you struggle to complete Honors projects, the Honors program may not be a good fit for you and might distract you from your irregular classwork and consequently affect your GPA.

Working with Instructors

Q: If I am not enrolled in a full Honors Section, what is the best way to secure an Honors course with an instructor?

Remember that Honors coursework requires you to be professional with your instructor and respect the time they take to meet and mentor you personally. When they agree to mentor you, it means they volunteer to dedicate their personal free time to help you. Instructors are not required to mentor Honors students. If an instructor declines to work with you, it may be because they have other obligations to fulfill and do not have that extra free time, so be understanding.

To increase the chances that your instructor would want to help you you should try to demonstrate your skills and motivation as one of the best students in their class, go to their office hours to express your interest in working with them, and propose at least a few developed ideas of what you would want to work on and make sure it connects to the material that they teach in the course.

If an instructor is not Honors Certified (i.e., they do not have an Embedded Honors Course), they might not know anything about the Honors Program. In that case prepare to explain to them how the Honors Program works and explain what you are hoping to accomplish with your Honors project.

Q: My Instructor does not want to advise me. What should I do?

If it is early in the semester and you really want to complete an Honors class in a specific subject, you may consider dropping the section and enrolling with a different instructor. Before doing this, it is essential to ask your new instructor if they are willing to enroll you in their class and work with you on Honors coursework. The Honors Program Canvas page has a list of Honors certified instructors in different subjects that are interested in working with Honors students.

Note: you can only turn your course into Honors if the official instructor of that course is agreeing to mentor you. You CANNOT have another faculty mentor you if the faculty is not the official instructor for the class you are enrolled in.

Transfer Agreements

Q: How do I qualify for Transfer Agreements, such as UCLA Tap?

The application for the UC transfer agreements opens in the fall semester of each school year. The agreement with these universities is that you have to complete 5 Honors Courses by the time you graduate. **NOTE: if you plan to transfer to UCLA the 5 Honors Courses must be UC transferable.** Keep in mind that LPC Honors Program does not serve UCLA TAP exclusively, so some of the Honors courses we offer might not be UC transferable and not count for UCLA TAP.

You do not have to complete all 5 Honors courses by the time you apply, but you should be on track to complete them by the spring semester before you transfer. This means that you can have 1 honors course remaining for the spring term, but the rest must be completed or in progress of being completed by the end of the Fall term when you apply. However, having all 5 done by the end of Fall when you apply may increase your chances of being accepted compared to having one honors course remaining for institutions like UCLA or UCI. That is why it's important to sign up for Honors courses at the beginning of the term, so that there are records of you being on track.

There are also other requirements needed to be eligible for transfer agreements, such as not exceeding 1 dropped or failed Honors course, completing the community/global engagement service requirement (10 hours per year in program), completing all the required courses of your major with a grade of B or higher, and maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Still, the agreements may differ and this is why it's important to check the transfer agreements of each university, as requirements vary and each has its own

benefits. The website of the list of transfer partners is linked below:

<https://www.honorstransfercouncil.org/transfer-partners>

If you want to transfer to one of the transfer partners listed, you must complete the LPC Request form for Honors Certification for ALL Transfer Agreements by its due date. The request is usually due in November and is only available on the LPC Honors Program Canvas. For UCLA TAP, you submit a separate TAP Applicant Letter to UCLA AFTER submitting your general application to UCLA and the LPC Request for Honors Certification for ALL Transfer Agreements form. You will also need to fill out another form in the spring to update your academic progress for UCLA TAP. Ensure not to miss it: check your emails, Canvas messages, and the Honors Program Canvas regularly for announcements.

Q: What majors are UCLA TAP Eligible?

For UCLA TAP, you should be aware of what majors are eligible to apply using UCLA TAP. Only majors within the College of Letters and Sciences (L&S) are eligible to apply for TAP, except a few exceptions - those might change from year to year. Majors that do not usually qualify would be Schools of Engineering & Applied Science, Architecture, Music, Nursing, Theatre, Film and Television. You should also be aware that you can apply for an alternate major; however, that major must also be part of the College of Letters and Sciences (L&S), and the major must not be impacted like psychology, political science, and others. This means that if a major is not part of the College of Letters and Sciences or if it is considered impacted, it cannot be used for your alternate major. For impacted majors, you

must declare that major as your primary major and use a backup major that is related to your primary major as your secondary major (e.g., Primary: psychology, Alternate: Linguistics and Psychology). It's important to note that the list of impacted majors changes every year, so it's important to check the most up-to-date information on UCLA TAP's website: <https://tap.ucla.edu/>

It is important to meet all the admission requirements for the college and BOTH of your majors, so meet with your LPC counselor to go over the requirements for both of your majors and use [ASSIST](#) to see what courses are transferable to UCLA and other institutions that have articulation agreements with LPC.

Below is the transfer agreements website to learn more about them:

<https://www.laspositascollege.edu/honors/transfer-agreements.php>

Program Involvement & Community

Q: What is the difference between the Honors Program and Honors Club?

The Honors Transfer Program is the actual program that you must be a member of in order to take Honors courses. If a student wishes to join the program, they must apply using [this form](#) and join the Honors Program Canvas.

The Honors Club is an extension of the Honors Program that allows students to meet with other Honors students to talk about their projects and how to transfer to top universities. It is not mandatory to attend club meetings if you are part of the Honors Program, and it is not necessary to be an Honors student if you want to attend the meetings.

Q: What is the community service requirement?

Community service is required of everyone to maintain the membership in the program, but it is especially important for students who want to graduate as Honors Scholars and want to participate in transfer agreements like UCLA TAP, or UC Irvine's H2H. The requirements are as follows:

- You are required to complete 10 hours of community service per year you are in the Honors program
 - At least 6 out of the 10 hours have to be for LPC college (not necessarily for the Honors program). So that you are able to complete 4 hours of community service outside LPC however you will be required to show proof of completion of those 4 hours.

Try to complete the majority of your community service hours before the end of FALL if you are interested in using any of the transfer agreements when you apply for colleges and universities.

A list of possible options to volunteer can be found on a special page about community service both on Canvas and on Honors Program website. New and time-sensitive opportunities to complete your community service hours will be also posted frequently on Canvas, so make sure you are on top of all the Canvas announcements.

Q: What is the Honors Mentorship Program?

The Honors Mentorship Program is a program where experienced Honors students (mentors) support and guide other students by helping them navigate their

courses while earning volunteering hours for the community service requirement.

To participate as an Honors mentor in the program you must have:

- 3.75+ GPA and at least 2 Honors complemented
- A Second-year Honors student in good standing

If you don't meet the requirements you can mentor international students if you speak another language. If interested, fill out this [FORM](#). You'll be matched with a student based on academic interests, major, and availability.

If you are a student who's interested in having a mentor guide you through the honors process fill out this [FORM](#).

10. Appendix

Honors Contract Proposal Samples

You will fill out the actual Honors Contract Proposal Form online. There is a link to the form on the LPC Honors Program main web page. You will fill out one form for each of your contracts. Most of the information on the proposal form covers specifics such as your name, date, semester, course and mentor teacher. The most involved section of the proposal form is the Honors Contract Proposal Summary. This is a 1-2 page summary where you discuss the basic content of your project. The summary proposal will contain the following sections:

- I. What is the guiding idea, question or thesis for your project?
- II. What methods will you use for your research?
- III. What outcomes will you create to show what you have learned?
- IV. What is your timeline for completing the project?

Samples of the Honors Contract Proposal Summary can be found on the following pages.

Computer Science 1 Honors Proposal

Las Positas Honors
Transfer Program
Project Proposal Summary
Research Paper

Jeremy Bridgeman
Professor Carlos Moreno
CS 1
16 February 2024

I. Guiding Question/Thesis/Idea

Linux is one of the most used operating systems in the industrial world. All of the fastest supercomputers in the world have run on Linux since 2017. In my paper, I want to start by exploring the history of why and how the Linux OS has become one of the most efficient and safest operating systems in the world along with the effects of its open-source code, good and bad. There will be diagrams to help explain how shells work, such as Bash. I will also demonstrate a simple Bash script to move my pointer without any mouse input, which I will have developed myself. Finally, I will describe the process of developing the script, along with the challenges I faced along the entire process and a few different aspects of how the computer understands what I actually type.

II. Method of Research

I will begin my inquiry with a brief history of the Linux operating system, and how it has become so popular in industry, while still remaining obscure to the vast majority of people. I will be using various sources on the Internet. The essay will also explain the significance of open source to this project, and share my opinions on open-source software. Next, it will examine some famous individual's contributions to the source code of Linux (such as Linus Torvalds, Patrick Volkerding, and Mark Shuttleworth) and the different distributions they made. I will then use the command line interface, specifically Bash, to create a script that will move my mouse cursor without input from my mouse, and explain the steps it took me to get there, along with some failures. Finally, I will combine some of the knowledge from my CS 1 course with what I learned about Bash and Linux (and looking at the source code) to explain how the library knows where to go for the keywords, and how it is able to decode my custom commands.

III. Outcomes/Product

My final project will consist of a 12–15-page essay covering the topics discussed above. My essay will be written in LaTeX using the ACM format with diagrams. I will provide some non-working code snippets from my Bash files to explain why they were wrong, and ultimately the working one. I will also do a roughly 10-minute presentation to my CS 1 class at the end of the semester.

IV. Project Timeline

- September 9th: Honors Project Proposal submitted. Begin research on history of Linux, and its impact on industry and security. 3-4 pages.
 - September 30th: Summary of Linux history and Linus Torvalds contributions to the kernel. I will have begun exploring the open-source topic, and some different distributions of Linux and their creators' contributions. 3-4 pages.
 - October 21st: I will have written the code to move my mouse cursor and will be able to access it from my terminal. The steps and challenges to get to this point will have been documented as well. 3-4 pages.
 - November 11th: By this point I will start investigating how the Bash console is able to control the pointer through the kernel, and how that differs from a USB input. I will summarize my findings and end with a few personal reflections. 2-4 pages.
 - November 18th: Submit rough draft of essay to my professor.
 - December 2nd: Submit final draft of essay to my professor.
- I will check-in with my instructor at least once every 3 weeks to discuss my progress, plans, and results as my research project progresses.

Computer Science 20 Honors Proposal

Honors Student: Carrie Mu
Project Mentor: Carlos Moreno
Course: CS20

3D Tic-tac-toe Artificial Intelligence

I. Guiding Question/ Thesis/ Idea

Tic-tac-toe may seem like a very simple game, but 3D Tic-Tac-Toe is far from easy. In 3D tic-tac-toe, there is a cube with side length r . The goal of this game is to get r spots in a row horizontally, vertically, or from one corner of the cube to another. As the value of r increases, the difficulty of the game increases to the point where it is challenging for humans to play, as humans are prone to making errors and cannot keep a lot of contingency plans in their head. However, if done by a machine, winning or tying every time is very possible no matter how big r is. In my project I intend to create an artificial intelligence (AI) program that will always win or draw at a game of 3D tic-tac-toe, where the value of r is determined by the user, in the range 3-6.

II. Method of Research

My plan is to first learn to understand how AI can be applied to generate successful strategies in 3D tic-tac-toe, along with how game theory fundamentals provide justification for such strategies. Secondly, I will find a library that I can use to create the visuals of the game and learn how to use it. I will then plan the algorithms and data structures needed to create this project. Lastly, I will implement these ideas to create a program. After the coding is completed, I will write a summative report and create a presentation about the concepts behind this project.

III. Outcome

The outcome of this honors project will be an artificial intelligence program that plays 3D Tic-tac-toe and will not lose. I will also submit a report talking about the implementations of my code in a addition to a presentation.

IV. Project Timeline

- Feb 3: Submit proposal
- Feb 28: learn about game theory and how I can implement AI in a game like tic-tac-toe
- April 2: Find a visual library for c++ and learn how to use it
- May 5: Create the program and submit it to my professor for review
- May 19: submit final program + report + presentation

I will meet with the professor every 2 weeks.

Experimental Project Honors Proposal

Las Positas Honors Transfer Program
Sample Project Proposal Summary 1
Experimental Project

Honors Student: Jane Mouri
Project Mentor: Elmore Kaur
Course: Bio 1A - General Botany

I. Guiding Question/Thesis/Idea

Synthetic fertilizers are well known to create high yields of crops with minimal investments relative to income generated by most crops grown in wealthy counties. But in countries with less developed economies, synthetic fertilizers often represent a cost that is unsustainable for the small farmer. Synthetic fertilizers also have negative ecological effects that can be mitigated by using natural fertilizer such as compost or manure. For my project I want to investigate whether radishes grown with only natural fertilizer can create a yield comparable to beets grown with synthetic fertilizer. Because newly planted radishes are normally ready for harvest within one month of planting, I will have time to run several conditions of radishes and measure the outcomes of radishes grown with synthetic fertilizer, natural fertilizer, and with no fertilizer at all.

II. Method of Research

This research will involve both a **literature search** and an **experimental design**.

For the **literature search**, I will investigate studies done on the comparative effects of synthetic and natural fertilizers, especially on radishes. I will use the information gained from the literature search to form my hypothesis, investigate experimental designs, and determine proper dosing guidelines for the fertilizer types.

For the **experimental design**, I will create a series of randomized trials in which I compare batches of radishes grown in three conditions: 1.) without fertilizer, 2.) with chemical fertilizer, and 3.) with natural fertilizer. The yield from each condition will be harvested and measured for total production by weight. This information will help provide information on the possibility of creating high yield radish crops without the use of expensive artificial fertilizers.

III. Outcomes/Product

The outcome of this research project will be an experimental writeup completed in APA style with the standardized sections found in research papers published in scientific journals. The essay will be at least **12 pages** in length. I will also create a power-point presentation to share my findings with the class in a **10-minute** discussion.

IV. Project Timeline

- **September 2:** Honors Project Proposal Submitted. Literature search begins.
- **October 1:** Complete summary of literature search, and proposed experiment design.
- **October 7:** Plant seeds for all three experimental conditions
- **November 4:** Harvest all plants and measure outcomes
- **November 20:** Rough draft of APA style essay turned in to my professor
- **December 9:** Final draft of experimental write-up completed and submitted

I will meet with my instructor at least **once every 3 weeks** to discuss my progress, plans, and results as my research project progresses.

Philosophy Research Paper Honors Proposal

Las Positas Honors Transfer Program
Sample Project Proposal Summary 2
Research Paper

Honors Student: Jim Advent
Project Mentor: Elsa Chan
Course: Philosophy 2: Ethics

I. Guiding Question/Thesis/Idea

Racial discrimination is a problem that has plagued human cultures for centuries, and the problems created by racial discrimination continue to today. The philosophical movement of **existentialism** proposes that humans are born without any essential nature, and that who we are is solely the product of the choices that we make and the way we live our lives. Thus, it seems likely that existential thinkers could offer us advice for ways of eliminating racial bias in our culture. If people have no essential nature, then it would not make sense to discriminate against others based on some imagined “essence” that they are perceived to have. In my project I plan to explore the possibility of using existentialist philosophy as a guide for overcoming stereotyping and racial discrimination.

II. Method of Research

I will begin my investigation of this topic by studying the recent data on racial attitudes, racial discrimination, and stereotyping. After familiarizing myself with this data, I will read through Jean Paul Sartre’s essay *Existentialism is a Humanism*, and explore the ways in which his existentialist philosophy might offer solutions to the problems of associated with contemporary attitudes about race. After composing a summary of my findings, I will compare the ideas presented by Sartre with the ideas of two other existentialist philosophers (yet to be determined) to investigate their comparative value of in offering solutions to this problem. I will complete my project by summarizing my findings and offering my own ideas on the potential value of existentialist solutions to these problems.

III. Outcomes/Product

My final project will consist of a 12-15 page essay covering the topics discussed above. My essay will be in the standard format used for journals in the social sciences.

IV. Project Timeline

- **September 2:** Honors Project Proposal submitted. Literature search on racial attitudes and first reading of Sartre’s essay begins.
- **October 1:** Submit summary of literature review, and analysis of Sartre’s ideas in *Existentialism is a Humanism as applied to racial attitudes*.
- **November 4:** Submit summary of two other existentialist philosophers applied to my topic and contrasted with Sartre’s views.
- **November 20:** Submit rough draft of APA style essay to my professor
- **December 9:** Submit final draft of essay to my professor

I will check-in with my instructor at least **once every 3 weeks** to discuss my progress, plans, and results as my research project progresses.

Math Research Paper Honors Proposal

Las Positas Honors Transfer Program
Project Proposal
Research Paper

Honors Student: Leah Balakrishnan
Project Mentor: Alain Olavarietta
Course: Math 2

I. Guiding Question/Thesis/Idea

Trigonometric functions are critical to mathematical ideas and computation and are often seen in higher level mathematics that are used in the sciences. These functions are often used to solve for the unknown length or angles in a geometric shape. Sine specifically is a trigonometric function that relates the ratio of opposite over hypotenuse of a right triangle. To calculate the sine of an angle in radians, I strive to create a program that computes sine in both radians and degrees utilizing libraries with at least 8 decimal places of accuracy using the maclaurin series.

II. Method of Research

To begin with, I would like to fully familiarize myself with new libraries and how I can utilize them to implement a sine function that has 8 decimal places of accuracy. In terms of mathematics, I need to learn of the maclaurin series and how I can add that to my coding project. After that, I would like to figure out an organized way that I could begin the first draft of my code in which I work in sections. Lastly, I would like to code my entire program and simplify/debug where necessary. I will write a summative report about the functionality and components behind my project.

III. Outcomes/Product

The final project in which I will conclude my project will be a program that calculates sine at any input the user chooses to insert with at least 8 decimal places of accuracy at minimum in which I will show my professor and explain my code thoroughly as well as submit a summative report on what and how my code was implemented.

IV. Project Timeline

- **February 2:** Honors Project Proposal submitted.
- **March 1:** Learn about the different libraries, maclaurin series and how to implement sine functions through this library.
- **April 2:** Organize a way to work in sections when coding then create a first draft.
- **April 20:** debug/simplify where needed and make sure code runs properly and draft my summative report.
- **May 17:** Submit final draft of program and summative report to my professor.

I will check-in with my professor at least **once every three weeks** to discuss my progress, plans, and results as my coding project progresses.



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Livermore, CA 94551

<https://www.laspositascollege.edu/honors/>

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