

**Modesto Junior College
Academic Senate
Resolution FL05-E
Honors Program and Coordinator**

- Proposed by:** Honors Committee
- Whereas:** More than half of the California community colleges have Honors Transfer Programs, offering honor students enhanced learning opportunities, and
- Whereas:** Honors transfer students have a higher statistical success rate than non-honors transfer students, and
- Whereas:** Honors transfer students have greater access to guaranteed admissions, housing, and scholarships, and
- Whereas:** Many four year institutions offer special transfer days exclusively for honors students who can personally meet professors, administrators, and financial aid officers to ensure a seamless transfer, and
- Whereas:** Honors transfer students have a higher rate of transfer to prestigious universities
- Whereas:** Modesto Junior College's transfer rate to prestigious universities can use improvement and assistance (2003 stats show only 59 MJC students transferred to a UC, and 270 CSU (non-Stanislaus) and 587 to Stanislaus State), and
- Whereas:** Modesto Junior College students deserve to have access to a strong and thriving honors program, and all the benefits that come with being an honors student, and
- Whereas:** A strong and thriving honors program requires institutional support and commitment, and
- Whereas:** An honors program both recognizes and attracts exceptional students from the community.
- Therefore:** **Be it resolved,** that the Senate supports the establishment of a strong and thriving honors program through institutional commitment, including financial support of the program, and the establishment of a paid Honors Coordinator faculty position with no less than 50% reassigned time to perform the duties as outlined in Appendix A.*
- * *Appendix A: "Honors Coordinator Responsibilities" (attached).*
- First Reading:** November 17, 2005
- Final Action:** January 19, 2006
- Disposition:** Advisory Committee formed: Chair: Dave Shrock; faculty members: Jacqueline Faris, Sharien Hinton, Susan Kerr, and Chad Redwing; administrator: Bob Nadell. Interviews conducted and Eva Mo selected as Honors Program Coordinator. Position to officially begin in Fall 2006.

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APPENDIX A

Honors Coordinator Responsibilities:

- ❖ Research former MJC honors/scholars programs and facilitate building upon past experiences and resources.
- ❖ Research current honors programs and incorporate appropriate models into program based on community and MJC needs and circumstances.
- ❖ Work with academic departments, divisions, and the Advisory Board to establish guidelines regarding academic rigor, standards, grading, and other relevant academic policies for honors classes and honors contracts.
- ❖ Recruit faculty to develop and teach Honors classes or contracts.
- ❖ Work with Student Services and outreach to recruit students for the program from local High Schools, continuing students, and the larger community.
- ❖ Work with appropriate college bodies to ensure proper course approval and articulation, course scheduling, student support services and advertising.
- ❖ Develop components of the honors program including budget and operational guidelines in conjunction with the Honors Advisory Board.
- ❖ Work with appropriate college bodies to institutionalize and systematize the Honors Program such that the program will interface smoothly with other college programs. The key would be to provide timely information regarding the Honors Program's offerings, requirements, etc. to Counseling, Financial Aid, Admissions and Records, etc.
- ❖ Work with Student Services and Marketing on developing brochures and other recruitment tools for the program.
- ❖ Chair the Honors Advisory Board
- ❖ Work with the HAB to set up program evaluation processes and measures.
- ❖ Pursue affiliation with state and national honors associations and consortia.
- ❖ Work in liaison with four-year colleges to explore and establish policies and procedures for dual admissions and guaranteed/priority admissions for honors students, as well as to ensure smooth and seamless transfer, and to promote the success of MJC transfer students.

- ❖ Plan and develop educational and cultural enrichment activities of benefit to the college and community to be sponsored by the Honors Program. (This will depend on how well the program is supported).
- ❖ Facilitate Faculty Professional Development Activities appropriate to the establishment and maintenance of an Honors Program.
- ❖ Coordinate and communicate with appropriate college governance structures. This includes reporting to the Academic Senate and the Dean of Instruction.
- ❖ Maintain the contract and course records and academic standing of honors students. This will include making sure that honors students are eligible to honors' status, invoking probation status if an honors' student doesn't fulfill minimum requirements.
- ❖ Organize the Honors Orientation in the summer (workshop presentation to potential honors students and their parents).
- ❖ Assist with the Intro to Honors class (finding faculty to teach and guest lecture in this class).
- ❖ Work with MJC's grant writer to apply for grant assistance.
- ❖ Coordinate special honors accommodations in conjunction with graduation.
- ❖ Record, establish, and systematize the duties of the Honors Coordinator.
- ❖ Perform all necessary and proper work to ensure, maintain, and grow the honors program.