

# THE HONORS PROGRAM CLARION UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## MISSION STATEMENT

*Clarion University is committed to seeking academic excellence in all areas of higher education. The institution is committed to providing an environment which challenges students to develop their talents, to extend their intellectual capacities and interests, to expand their creative abilities, and to develop a life-long respect and enthusiasm for learning. The Honors Program is dedicated to this mission and designed to meet the unique need to students with outstanding academic qualifications. This mission will be accomplished through Honors sections of regular catalog courses, interdisciplinary Honors courses, special Honors seminars, and opportunities for research. The Honors Program is enhanced by collaborative efforts of the Clarion University faculty, the members of the Honors Council, and the director of the Honors Program.*

## VISION

The Honors Program will be a nationally recognized leader in providing outstanding undergraduate education to a diverse group of students. Within Clarion University, Main Campus and Venango Campus, the program will provide enhanced curricular experiences and challenging undergraduate programs of study. The greatest challenges that the Honors Program faces in the next several years fall into the areas of recruitment/admissions, academic excellence/assessment, and development. As a result, six major goals for the strategic planning cycle are identified:

## CORE VALUE GOALS

### Learner Success.

Challenge learners to succeed and to provide an environment that supports and rewards their best efforts.

### Access and Diversity.

Engage a geographically and ethnically diverse student body and provide a curriculum with a wide range of educational experiences.

### Academic Excellence.

Be a model of academic excellence in terms of student engagement, classroom instruction, and undergraduate research and creative activity.

### Cooperation & Collaboration.

Build an environment in which cooperation and collaboration are both valued and expected as part of the educational endeavor.

### Program Visibility.

Make known the quality of the Honors Program at the local, state, and national levels.

### Outreach and Service.

Infrastructure to support extraordinary student learning and faculty scholarship outside the formal classroom. These experiences are inclusive of a broad range of internships, study abroad opportunities, directed research, service learning, and career portfolios.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Students completing the Honors Program will communicate effectively. The Modes of Discourse Classes will help students gain fundamental skills in writing, and speaking—basic skills for successful career entry in all fields.

Students completing the Honors Program will demonstrate evidence of critical reasoning. Honors Courses will emphasize critical reasoning through active approaches to learning.

Students completing the Honors Program will apply knowledge of a broad range of the arts and humanities. Coursework in the arts and humanities will instill the intrinsic value of the arts in society.

Students completing the Honors Program will apply knowledge of the natural sciences and mathematics. Coursework in mathematics and natural sciences will engage students in application of the sciences and mathematics for understanding.

Students completing the Honors Program will apply knowledge of the social sciences. Coursework in the social sciences will actively engage students in applying their knowledge of social sciences.

Students completing the Honors Program will complete a prospectus for initiating and executing a research project or creative project directly related to their major field of study. The Prospectus encourages students to reflect on their own values and demonstrate mastery of independent research/creativity inherent in each academic discipline. Active learning contexts will be created within the Junior Seminar which serves as the foundation for the capstone experience.

Students completing the Honors Program will understand appropriate professional knowledge for dissemination of research and professional discipline forums. The Capstone Experience will engage students in an active learning context for dissemination of research or the appropriate creative venue.