

University of Vermont  
HONORS COLLEGE

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2013-2016

[www.uvm.edu/honorscollege](http://www.uvm.edu/honorscollege)

### Mission

To promote excellence in undergraduate education at UVM by offering a residential learning environment that attracts academically talented students and leads them towards superior educational outcomes.

### Vision

To become a model for a public university Honors College by employing research-supported practices that enhance student learning; building a residential community that emphasizes academic learning, vigor, breadth, responsibility and diversity; developing undergraduate scholars whose accomplishments and contributions gain national recognition and result in prestigious placements; and serving as an incubator of academic practices that can have university-wide transformative effect.

**1** Recruit, enroll and retain diverse, talented students seeking the benefits of an engaged residential learning community that prepares them for a lifetime of achievement.

#### Initiatives

- a. Communicate strengths, goals and outcomes of the Honors College more effectively
- b. Involve recent alumni in recruitment process, perhaps through an alumni affinity program.
- c. Continue to develop programs to sustain success in recruiting ethnically diverse, first-generation and geographically diverse students
- d. Seek financial support for students
- e. Employ faculty-in-residence, peer leaders and residential staff to enhance retention efforts
- f. Continue programs to support students who may be at risk for attrition
- g. Enhance advising (from multiple sources), including for experiential learning and career preparation
- h. Partner with colleges and schools to reduce attrition during the thesis process and to create clear pathways through highly structured majors
- i. Aim for a student body size that has maximum impact consistent with delivering a quality honors education

**3** Involve alumni, parents, students and the campus community in the Honors College to create affinity and investment in it.

#### Initiatives

- a. Enhance newsletter and employ social media strategies
- b. Develop Homecoming alumni career panels
- c. Engage alumni in mentoring and on campus
- d. Develop a comprehensive contact plan for donors and potential donors
- e. Seek funds that build essential programs and support students and faculty members
- f. Seek naming gift for the Honors College
- g. Develop annual appeal
- h. Consider forming an external board of advisors
- i. Continue faculty seminar program
- j. Forge closer connections with other colleges/schools

**2** Develop and enhance the comprehensive honors academic experience

#### Initiatives

- a. Clarify learning goals for students by year, including thesis
- b. Translate student learning research and best practices into workable initiatives for adoption by the Honors College and the University
- c. Broaden experiential learning opportunities (undergraduate research, service learning, study abroad, career preparation) and increase student engagement in them
- d. Develop strategies to support students in the thesis development process, particularly in the junior year, and assess quality and oversight of theses
- e. Expand diversity courses and assess their effectiveness
- f. Expand faculty development initiatives
- g. Deepen nationally competitive fellowships and scholarship support and success

**4** Create operations infrastructure to maintain program quality, effectiveness and flexibility to address emerging needs and opportunities

#### Initiatives

- a. Encourage staff to seek professional development and academic advancement
- b. Assess operational efficiency and effectiveness of staff roles
- c. Seek staffing, housing, teaching resources to support Honors College expansion
- d. Revise collegiate MOU's as needs change
- e. Streamline paper-based processes and seek IT resources to enable use of best practices for online presence
- f. Plan for transition to incentive-based budgeting
- g. Employ measures of goal achievement to gauge adherence to plan and guide changes