

Summary of Honors Tutorial College First Year Programs

Goals for first year students

First year students in the Honors Tutorial College (HTC) are expected to meet specific academic and behavioral expectations. The goal for the first year is for students to understand that they receive many campus resources because much is expected from them. They are held to high standards in the classroom and required to maintain a certain grade point average. They are held to higher behavioral standards than students of other colleges on campus. They are required to engage in community service and service to the college during the first year.

Admission

First year students receive an HTC coffee mug when they inform us of their decision to attend the college. A press release is sent to parents which can be forwarded to the hometown newspaper announcing the student's decision to attend HTC and describing the college

Orientation

Orientation is held in mid-June. The assistant dean oversees a staff of eight selected upperclass students who meet with incoming students at orientation to provide information about life as an HTC student. An evening social event is held with HTC upperclass students to foster the beginning of friendships within the college. First year students meet with their Directors of Studies for academic advising and registering of fall quarter classes. The assistant dean conducts extensive orientation meetings with parents which include information from the Dean of Students, the Bursar's Office and Hudson Health Center.

Summer Reading

To establish an immediate academic tone, HTC requires incoming students to read over the summer whichever book is required for the fall quarter HTC Freshman Seminar. In August, students are required to write short responses to an assignment due at the first seminar meeting. Students are asked also to read the book chosen as the university common reading.

Freshmen Mentors

Each first year student is assigned an upperclass HTC student in their program of study as a mentor. Mentors email the students in July to establish contact. Plans are made to meet at the All College Supper in September.

Parent E-Newsletter

Beginning in August, the assistant dean sends regular email newsletters throughout the year to parents of first year students.

Welcome Week

The two hour college meeting is used to review and explain the academic and behavioral expectations of HTC. Academic resources are described. Tutorial expectations are

described. Information is provided about time management, health and wellbeing resources on campus, and residence hall life. Upperclass students assist in this session to act as peer advisors.

Introduction Ceremony

This solemn candlelight ceremony held in Galbreath Chapel on the night before classes start officially welcomes first year students into the college. The dean in academic robe addresses the students. Six upperclass HTC student leaders are chosen to speak about what it means to be an HTC student and how to successfully blend scholarship and leadership. First year students sign their names to a role book and each first year student is presented with a “commonplace book” in which to record thoughts during their first year.

All College Supper

This event is held in the backyard of the college on the first Friday evening after classes start. The goals are:

- To bring all students in the college together at the start of the academic year
- To introduce first year students to the upperclass students and
- To provide a social setting in which the first year students personally meet their mentors

A secondary goal is to encourage first year students to stay on campus for the first weekend. Mentors plan a social activity for after the supper.

Freshman Seminar

The goal of the seminar is to bring all first year students together for two hours each week to:

- Study, discuss and attempt to solve a conundrum in a scholarly manner
- Assess and improve writing skills
- Learn about the history of Ohio University, Athens, and Athens County and what it means to be a good citizen while here
- Get to know each member of the incoming class

Past topics have included poverty, mental illness, citizenship and American intellectualism. The seminar is taught by the dean and assistant dean with assistance from an English department faculty member for the writing portion.

Honors Tutorial College T-shirts

Each first year student receives an HTC t-shirt at the end of fall quarter.

Community Service

First year students are required to engage in community service. They are advised to find a cause that they are passionate about and to which they can dedicate themselves throughout their four years in Athens. Resources are provided to assist them in contacting local non-profits and campus service organizations. They are required to report on their service at the Freshman Portfolio Review in May.

Honors College Advisory Council

This is the HTC student organization which strongly recruits first year students to get involved in philanthropy, college issues and social activities. Most members are first and second year students.

Freshman Portfolio Review

This is a required academic progress review held at the end of the first year with the student, the dean and the student's Director of Studies. The purpose of the meeting is to have a thorough discussion of the student's academic progress. The students are required to assemble a portfolio of their academic work which demonstrates:

- Clear evidence of ongoing progress in the development of academic abilities.
- Clear evidence of a willingness to strive for excellence in academic work.
- Clear evidence of the ability to deal responsibly with the academic expectations in your particular discipline.

In addition to copies of substantive tutorial and course work, the portfolio includes a reflection essay in which students discusses two topics:

- An assessment of academic progress, triumphs and frustrations, areas of greatest improvement, description of skills needing greater attention
- What they want to accomplish in the near future in terms of academic work and personal development. What projects, ideas, or opportunities they want to pursue