Connavino Honors Program Information

The Program Defined:
The purpose of the Connavino Honors Program is to provide a learning community for talented students who intend to pursue a major in teacher education. Students in the Connavino Honors Program will complete rigorous inquiry-based courses, which will both supplement and augment their regular requirements. Honors students will also participate in a collaborative research project that addresses a significant pedagogical issue. Continued involvement in the Honors Program will enable students to develop products (i.e., conference presentations and manuscripts) through collaboration with faculty and other honors students. In addition, honors students will engage in multicultural field experiences such as those made available through The Patton College of Education Rural-Urban Collaborative. The Honors Program will also provide students with opportunities for leadership, professional development, intensive classroom experience in Professional Development Schools, and a close rapport with a core group of faculty.

Eligibility Requirements:
1. **High Achievement:** Applicants should show strong academic achievement in high school through a high GPA and high SAT or ACT scores.
   - Minimum GPA: 3.5 (4.0 Scale)
   - Minimum ACT Composite Score: 25
   - Minimum SAT Math & Critical Reading Score: 1130

2. **Leadership & Involvement:** Applicants should show evidence of involvement in extracurricular activities, community service, and leadership roles.

3. **Personal Essay:** Explanation of student’s motivation to be a teacher and how the Connavino Honors Program will help achieve that goal.

4. **Supplemental Essay:** A student who does not meet the minimum requirements may submit a supplemental essay with his or her application. The essay should document past extracurricular involvement, leadership experience, and other background considerations that will help admissions counselors understand the applicant’s qualifications for the program.
**Application Process:**
Applicants should submit the Connavino Honors Program application along with the required essay(s) and letter of recommendation. Candidates may also be asked to participate in an on-campus interview.

**Benefits:**
Honors students will gain valuable research skills by:

- Participating in inquiry-based courses;
- Conducting a research project in a K-12 classroom;
- Collaborating, on a research team with peers and faculty members.

Honors students will be encouraged and supported in their efforts to publish research in educational journals—either for scholars or practitioners. Students in the Honors Program will also have opportunities for professional development such as attendance at state and national conferences and interactions with alumni who are highly successful educators and leaders.

Honors students will also be able to participate in field experiences early in their programs, and they will be given the chance to participate in several different classroom placements. Notably, they will have priority for participating in the new Rural-Urban Collaborative, a partnership recently established with The Ohio State University and Columbus Public Schools to give education students from both institutions (OU and OSU) an opportunity to teach in a variety of environments. Through this program, honors students will gain teaching experience in both urban and rural districts. The experiences afforded to honors students will provide them with a clear understanding of the types of challenges that confront students and teachers in today’s schools.

Throughout their program, honors students will be made aware of opportunities to participate in special events, apply for scholarships and awards, and work on research projects. Upon completion of all degree requirements, students in the Connavino Honors Program will receive an honors diploma.

**Program Standards and Expectations:**
Students in the Connavino Honors Program will be expected to go above and beyond the requirements for other undergraduate students. In addition to supplementary coursework and research activities, Connavino Honors Program students will be expected to be leaders in The Patton College by joining and taking leadership roles in the Student Ambassador Program, professional organizations, and other special initiatives. They will also be required to maintain a record of high achievement and remain in good standing with the University.

Because The Patton College believes in the capability of high-caliber students to enrich the intellectual life of the University, it pledges to provide resources and support to
Connavino Honors Program students beyond those provided to other undergraduates. The College is willing to make these investments in each honors student as long as he or she continues to demonstrate a high level of academic excellence and personal maturity. This set of mutual obligations is probably best captured by the oft-repeated quotation: “Of those to whom much is given, much is expected.”

Specifically, Connavino Honors Program students in the The Patton College of Education will be expected to perform as follows:

1. **High Achievement:** Honors students will be expected to maintain a high level of achievement throughout their college careers.
   - Maintain an overall cumulative 3.5 GPA for each academic year. Students must have an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher in order to graduate with an honors diploma. In place of the yearly academic progress check, honors students’ academic records will be reviewed each quarter by a Faculty Mentor and the Connavino Honors Program Coordinator. Grades of B- or below in a quarter signal that performance needs to be discussed. Depending on the situation, the student will meet either with a Faculty Mentor or with both a Mentor and the Connavino Honors Program Coordinator. Inadequate academic performance will trigger placement on academic probation.
   - Meet quarterly with the Connavino Honors Program Coordinator during the first year. As students’ roles in a research project are determined, a qualified Faculty Mentor will also be assigned. The Coordinator and Mentors will engage in continuous assessment of students’ progress. Students should demonstrate both (1) ongoing progress in the development of their academic abilities and (2) sustained motivation to achieve excellence in their work. If a student’s performance fails to meet either of these expectations, Connavino Honors Program faculty will use a variety of measures to determine whether the student may remain in the program. Such determinations will not be based solely on the grades a student earns, but will also take into consideration his or her motivation, leadership, and scholarly disposition.
   - Be mature in thought, speech, and actions. Grounds for immediate removal from the program include dishonesty, irresponsibility, and a lack of respect for others—faculty members, staff members, and other Ohio University students—or for academic work. Removals from the Connavino Honors Program may take place even if the behavior in question does not rise to the level of a violation in the Ohio University Student Code of Conduct.

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1 The requirements of academic probation will vary according to the circumstances associated with the student placed on probation. The time that a student can remain on academic probation is at the discretion of the Connavino Honors Program Coordinator, but rarely will a student be permitted more than two quarters on academic probation during his or her career in the College of Education.
2. **Leadership:** Honors students will be expected to be leaders in The Patton College of Education, specifically through participation in the College Ambassador Program or the C. Odom Peer Mentor Program. Students are also encouraged to assume leadership roles in other Patton College, University, or professional student organizations.

3. **Involvement:** Professional Development will be a high priority for the honors students. Students are expected to be involved in student organizations that relate to their profession and subject areas.

4. **Exemplary Conduct:** In addition to the maturity expectations outlined above, Connavino Honors Program students are also subject to the University Code of Student Conduct, which is available on-line at [http://www.ohiou.edu/judiciaries/conduct.htm](http://www.ohiou.edu/judiciaries/conduct.htm). All Connavino Honors Program applicants are encouraged to review the University policies prior to applying for the program. Colleges hold the authority to impose stricter standards when it comes to their students. For the The Patton College Connavino Honors Program, please note the following:

   - The program operates with a **two-strike rule** for infractions that do not entail academic misconduct. A student will be allowed to maintain his or her place in the program after the first instance in which he or she receives a sanction from Residence Life or from Judiciaries. If a student incurs a second sanction, he or she will be removed from the Connavino Honors Program. Students who are asked to leave the program may appeal this decision to the Associate Dean for Outreach and Undergraduate Studies.
   - The program operates with a **one-strike rule** for academic misconduct. A student who is found to have engaged in academic misconduct will be dismissed from the program immediately.
A Complete Application Includes:

- Application Form (typed, neatly printed, or completed online)
  - Basic Information
  - Scholastic Record
  - Activities, Leadership Experience, and Awards
- 3 References
- Letter of Recommendation (from one of your three references)
- Personal Essay(s) (word-processed)
- Personal Interview (possible)

Basic Information:

Name___________________________________________________________________

Gender: □ Male □ Female GPA___________________________________________

Address______________________________________________________________________________________________

City___________________________ State_______ Zip Code_____________________

Phone_________________________ E-Mail______________________________________

High School of Graduation__________________________________________________________

Please list the majors or careers that you are considering (you may list one or more interests if you are undecided or uncertain).

________________________________________________________________________

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**Scholastic Record:**

SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) scores:

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<th>Date Taken</th>
<th>Critical Reading (CR)</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Total (CR &amp; Math only)</th>
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ACT (American College Test) scores:

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College Board Advanced Placement Examination Scores:

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College Courses Taken: (If more space is needed, please enclose additional sheet and check this box □)

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<th>Term and Year</th>
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Activities, Leadership Experience and Awards:

Part I. Please rank the three *most significant* activities in which you participated during high school. Indicate years of participation (freshman-1, sophomore-2, junior-3, senior-4), and comment on why the activity is important to you.

1. Activity and years of participation________________________________________________________

   Office or position held______________________________________________________________

   Comments___________________________________________________________________________

2. Activity and years of participation________________________________________________________

   Office or position held______________________________________________________________

   Comments___________________________________________________________________________

3. Activity and years of participation________________________________________________________

   Office or position held______________________________________________________________

   Comments___________________________________________________________________________

Part II. School Activities and Athletics: Please list, in order of significance, other in-school activities in which you participated during high school.

Activity/Position/Year

________________________________________________________________________

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**Part III. Other Activities and Community Service:** Please list, in order of significance, other out-of-school activities and community service in which you have participated during high school.

Activity/Position/Year

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**Part IV. Honors and Awards:** Please list any academic, athletic, or other awards you received during high school.

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**Part V. Employment:**

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<th>Position</th>
<th>Dates of Employment</th>
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Optional—if there are any special circumstances that you would like to share regarding your life or school experience, please explain here.

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References and Letter of Recommendation:

I. Reference #1: Please choose a teacher, counselor, or school administrator as your first reference.

Name___________________________________________________________________

Relationship to Applicant____________________________________________

E-Mail________________________________________________________________

Preferred Phone____________________________________________________

II. Reference #2: Please choose a personal or family friend (non-relative) as your second reference.

Name___________________________________________________________________

Relationship to Applicant____________________________________________

E-Mail________________________________________________________________

Preferred Phone____________________________________________________

III. Reference #3: Please choose an employer or a business or religious leader as your third reference.

Name___________________________________________________________________

Relationship to Applicant____________________________________________

E-Mail________________________________________________________________

Preferred Phone_____________________________________________________
IV. **Letter of Recommendation**: Please include one letter of recommendation written by one of the three references listed prior. Please use the form on page 12.

- Choose carefully who you ask to write a letter on your behalf. The best reference letters usually come from someone who knows you well and can speak from personal experience about your qualifications.
- Do not use a family member.
- Please ask the person to return the reference form to you to include in the application packet. Letters should not be mailed directly to the College of Education, but submitted as part of the completed nomination packet.
- All letters received become property of the College of Education Connavino Honors Program and may be made available to members of the Selection Committee.
Letter of Recommendation: In the space below or on a separate sheet, please comment on the applicant’s qualifications for the Connavino Honors Program.

In what capacity and for how long have you known the applicant?

Name______________________________________________________________

E-Mail or Phone_____________________________________________________

Signature_________________________  Date__________________
Essays:

Please type the essays on separate sheets and attach to this packet. Be sure to include your name in the header of each page.

**Personal Essay**
In 250-500 words, please explain why you want to be a teacher and describe your ambitions in the field of education. Explain how you think the Connavino Honors Program would help you achieve your goals. Specifically, think about the research and leadership aspects of the program.

**Supplemental Essay (Optional)**
Students who do not meet the preferred minimum requirements may submit a supplemental essay documenting past extracurricular involvement, leadership experience, and other factors that may help admissions counselors understand their background and qualifications for the program.

**For more information, please contact either of the following:**

**Dr. Mike Hess**  
Educational Studies  
hessm@ohio.edu  
740.597.3368  
Lindley Hall M288  
Athens, Ohio 45701

**Ms. Maureen Coon**  
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Academic Advising  
The Patton College of Education  
Lindley Hall 052A  
Athens, OH 45701-2979  
T: 740.593.1302  
F: 740.593.0569
**Edward W. Stevens Jr. Scholarship**

Connavinlo Honors Program students are eligible to apply for the Edward W. Stevens Jr. Scholarship of $1000.00. One scholarship will be awarded to a freshman entering the Connavinlo Honors Program cohort. The selection committee will consider the applicant’s overall profile (as indicated in the Connavinlo Honors Program Application) as well as the applicant’s response to the following:

*Imagine a great teacher. Imagine that you are that great teacher.* Great teachers excel at critical and creative thinking. They have an ability to help students understand concepts by teaching in engaging and developmentally appropriate ways. In **1000 words or fewer**, create a scene (first person narrative, expository essay, or other creative form of your choice) that shows this great teacher in action. If you have a fair degree of certainty about what grade level and subject area you have a particular interest in teaching, it would make sense that you focus your scene or essay on the grade level and subject area; however, that is not required.

Please include with your Connavinlo Honors Program Application if you intend to apply.

**Turn in your scholarship application to either of the following:**

**Dr. Mike Hess**  
Educational Studies  
[hessm@ohio.edu](mailto:hessm@ohio.edu)  
740.597.3368  
Lindley Hall M288  
Athens, Ohio 45701

**Ms. Maureen Coon**  
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Academic Advising  
The Patton College of Education  
Lindley Hall 052A  
Athens, OH 45701-2979  
T: 740.593.1302  
F: 740.593.0569