



OFFICE OF THE DEANS
COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE
2300 MURPHY HALL
BOX 951438
LOS ANGELES, CA 90095-1438

October 12, 2015

David Laderman, Honors Project Coordinator
College of San Mateo
1700 West Hillsdale Boulevard
San Mateo, CA 94022

Dear David,

We are pleased to welcome the Honors Project at College of San Mateo to the Transfer Alliance Program (TAP) between UCLA and now 50 community colleges. A team of staff and faculty from UCLA College of Letters and Science, UCLA Undergraduate Admission, one TAP Director, and one TAP Counselor evaluated College of San Mateo Honors Project's application according to the selection criteria for new colleges. We all agree that your program offers your students enrichment and guidance that will prepare them for successful transfer to UCLA.

In reviewing your application, we noted a number of strengths of your program which are listed below:

- Creative, rigorous, interdisciplinary curriculum in the concurrent seminar structure.
- Relationships with learning communities such as Puente and Umoja to enhance diversity in the Honors Project. The addition of peer mentoring is also a constructive element of the program.
- Clear administrative structure and strong institutional support including budget, space, and faculty participation.

Some questions/ideas were noted, and they are identified below. We encourage you to address these as your program continues to develop.

- The honors seminars are not automatically transferable to the University of California. They are not reviewed for transferability until after admission, and therefore cannot be applied toward the minimum 60 transferable units required for admission.”
- This may impact student participation in the program. In addition, requiring students to do two seminars – one in their major area and one outside of their major – may become a burden to students.

- For entry directly into the Honors Project from high school, we usually see a GPA requirement in the 3.20 range (high school). Your requirement of 3.50 is higher than most TAP member schools.
- However, we recommend reconsidering the GPA requirement for Honors participation. GPA of 3.20 is not likely to be competitive for highly selective majors at UCLA.
- We recommend considering coordinating relationships with academic services on your campus including tutoring or writing assistance. A deliberate relationship with such services can encourage student utilization.

Your efforts to quickly respond to the concerns raised by those who reviewed the application are really appreciated. We are confident that the carefully planned Honors Project at College of San Mateo will provide students with rich opportunities to interact closely with faculty, to exercise their intellectual curiosity and critical thinking, to practice research and writing skills, and, in sum, to develop their strengths as learners and thinkers along with the self-confidence they need to prosper at UCLA. We look forward to a rewarding collaboration between College of San Mateo and UCLA through the Transfer Alliance Program.

Sincerely,



Patricia A. Turner

Dean and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education

Cc: Michael Claire, President
Susan Swarts, Assistant Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
Rosa Pimentel, Senior Associate Director, Undergraduate Admission
Laura Macchia Amescua, Associate Director, Undergraduate Admission