



OFFICE OF THE DEANS
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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

March 21, 2016

Dear UCLA TAP committee,

First, thank you for your kind words of support, and also for accepting us into the UCLA TAP honors community. Our students are very excited about this pathway, and already several have contacted me about their intent to pursue.

With respect to the questions/ideas you noted, please consider our responses below, all of which has been vetted and approved by our Honors Project Advisory Council.

1. Our honors seminars:

We are aware that these seminars are only transferable to UC through a petition after acceptance. We have found that our students find great value in them, and since they are only two units, they have not proven to be too much of a burden. Plus, they do count toward GE credit here at CSM. We have taken heed of your comment about requiring one seminar in their major and one outside of it, and are now allowing students to choose which two seminars works best for their academic trajectory.

2. GPA requirements:

We discussed your comments at our advisory meeting, and took note of the fact that the two sister colleges in our district (also UCLA TAP members) have the same GPA requirements as we do (3.5 for incoming high school; 3.2 for continuing students). We decided for now to stay in step with our district, for overall coherence and coordination across district colleges. Many of our students take courses at different colleges in our district, and all three honors programs are currently collaborating and sharing some students. We would also note that GPA requirements usually come into play as exit requirements, for students who are completing the program.

3. Academic Services Collaboration

We have taken heed of your recommendation to further develop relationships with academic services, particularly writing tutoring assistance. First we would like to underline that our program is housed in the division of Academic Support and Learning Technologies, which also includes all learning communities and learning support labs and centers. We therefore currently benefit from much communication and collaboration with all student support services.

However, since receiving your recommendation, we have had several meetings with the Writing Center on campus, directed by the English department, and have begun discussing the following options:

- a) Formally encouraging honors students to consider the option of registering for English 850, a half unit course providing them 8 weeks of private writing tutoring;
- b) Establishing specially designated drop in hours for all honors seminar students;
- c) Establishing a working relationship with our Writing Across the Curriculum tutors in the Learning Center;
- d) Further formalizing our relationship with the Library, possibly instituting research skills workshops for our honors students.



College of San Mateo

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Let me thank you again for your support and input. We look forward to a long and rewarding relationship with the UCLA TAP program.

Sincerely,



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Academic Senate President
Honors Project Coordinator
College of San Mateo
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