

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

1700 W. Hillsdale Blvd. • San Mateo, CA 94402-3757
(650) 574-6161 • collegeofsanmateo.edu

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,



David Laderman
Professor of Film
Academic Senate President
Honors Project Coordinator
College of San Mateo
Laderman@smccd.edu

