

**Annual Key Assessment Findings and Curricular Improvements
University Honors Program
2011-2012**

Key Assessment Findings

For those graduating in 2012, the completion rate of University Honors Program course sequences was lower in nearly every aspect. Environmental Studies gained a bit in popularity, but Theology and Religious Studies returned to its 2010 completion rate. Overall track completion was at an all-time low. After some investigation into course evaluations, it was decided that the dip in completions may be because of particular classes and instructors who have since been moved to different courses, and we do anticipate an upswing in those numbers in the 2012-2013 year.

Honors Track	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Humanities	7	5	3	12	6	18	5
Social Sciences	7	6	2	8	6	4	2
Theology and Religious studies	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	6	20	6
Media Studies	1	0	2	2	3	0	0
Environmental Studies	0	1	1	4	4	3	4
Philosophy	26	26	28	32	28	29	19
Honor	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
University Scholars	13	11	12	8	7	17	7
Completed Two Tracks	9	8	7	6	8	8	1
Completed One Track	24	22	23	26	14	10	14
<i>Total Completing one track or more</i>	46	41	42	40	29	35	22

Curricular Improvements

A new Honors track in Liberal Studies has been developed for students in the Schools of Nursing, Engineering, Architecture, and Nursing; as of Summer 2012, the track was approved by both the Undergraduate Board and Academic Senate. Students will be able to select a number of Honors classes from the UHP in order to create their own Honors track, with help from the Honors director. In addition, the University Honors Program has been awarding the Suziedelis Fund to new Honors faculty members (Dr. Claudia Bornholdt, Dr. Daniel Gibbons, and Dr. Kenneth Pennington) to encourage new instructors to join the Honors Program and develop new curriculum.

**Student Learning Assessment Rubric
University Honors Program Rubric
HSCP 490: Honors Capstone
Spring 2012**

Trait	Number of students Exceeding Expectations (%)	Number of students Meeting Expectations (%)	Number of students Acquiring Skill (%)	Total number of students
<i>Critical Thinking</i>	4 (44.4%)	5 (55.6%)	0	9
<i>Creativity</i>	4 (44.4%)	5 (55.6%)	0	9
<i>Oral Communication</i>	4 (44.4%)	5 (55.6%)	0	9
<i>Written Communication</i>	2 (22.2%)	5 (55.6%)	2 (22.2%)	9
<i>Personal and Intellectual Engagement</i>	2 (22.2%)	6 (66.6%)	1 (11.2%)	9

The above rubric represents students who took the Honors Capstone Seminar. Seniors wishing to graduate from The Catholic University of America as University Scholars are required to complete a senior Honors capstone course, taught by the Director of the UHP. In the spring 2012 semester, every student in the Honors Capstone passed the course. This was also the first year that the course was open to students who had completed at least one Honors track, though 3 were not required.

The majority of students met expectations, and a few exceeded in most traits. In future years, we are looking for more students to move into the "Exceeding Expectations" column, and no students in "Acquiring Skill."

For the 2012-2013 academic year, the capstone course will be slightly smaller, and we anticipate more teacher-to-student interaction to improve students' writing and oral communication skills.