

**Annual Key Assessment Findings and Curricular Improvements
University Honors Program
2014-2015**

Key Assessment Findings

Track Completion Data, 2008-15

Track completion in the Honors Program has varied over the past seven academic years, but there was a dramatic increase in 2014, due largely to a substantial increase in the number of students completing the Philosophy and Theology tracks, a result that is no doubt due in large part to the incorporation of these two tracks into the First Year Experience. These gains held steady in 2015. It is noteworthy that the number of total tracks completed has risen by a higher percentage than the number of students completing a track. Compared to 2008, the number of students completing tracks in 2014 rose from 42 to 53 (21%), while the number of total tracks completed rose from 34 to 91 (168%). This disparity is due to the very large number of students (17) who completed both the Philosophy and Theology tracks. The tracks are thus out of balance: In 2014, Theology and Philosophy represented 71% of the total number of tracks completed. This imbalance was slightly smaller in 2015 (64%), but still notable. The rebound in the number of students completing the Social Science track in 2015 is encouraging, and while the poor results in Environmental Studies are cause for concern, a recent upturn in course registration in this track is likely to yield good results in the coming years. In future years, the number of students completing the Liberal Studies track is also expected to rise dramatically.

Honors Tracks Completed	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Humanities	3	12	6	18	5	7	16	13
Social Sciences	2	8	6	4	2	6	3	11
Theology and Religious Studies	n/a	3	6	20	6	8	24	22
Media Studies	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	0
Environmental Studies	1	4	4	3	4	5	4	1
Philosophy	26	32	28	29	19	32	41	34
Liberal Studies	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	3	7
<i>Total Tracks Completed</i>	34	61	53	64	36	58	91	88
Honors Earned by Students	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
University Scholars	12	8	7	17	7	4	15	15

Completed Two Tracks	7	6	8	8	1	7	6	5*
Completed One Track	23	26	14	10	14	33	32	35
<i>Total Completing One Track or More</i>	42	40	29	35	22	44	53	54

*Includes one university scholar. The requirements for university scholar in the professional schools have been changed to the completion of two tracks (rather than three) plus the Capstone seminar or a substantial research project.

Curricular Improvements

In 2014-15 we continued our efforts to integrate students who are admitted to the Honors Program after they arrive at CUA more fully into our academic programs. Since these students do not take Honors Learning Community courses, they are "behind" other Honors students in their progress towards track completion. We now offer these students an opportunity to make up the Honors Theology class they miss by taking an upper-level Scripture class with an honors contract. They are thus able to complete the Theology track if they wish to. They cannot complete the Philosophy track, since they miss two classes in the Learning Communities rather than one, but we have now secured permission from the School of Philosophy to allow these students to enroll in the final two courses in the Philosophy track so that they can benefit from these accelerated courses.

The UHP is also continuing to develop courses outside of the traditional tracks. In spring 2015, we offered the second iteration of HSLs 201: The Virtues, an interdisciplinary study of the virtues in art, literature, philosophy, and law, taught by President Garvey, which had been extremely well received when first offered in spring 2014. In spring 2015, we offered a special team-taught seminar, HSLs202: Mary as Woman, Mother Idea, in conjunction with CUA's partnership with the National Museum of Women in the Arts. In fall 2014, as part of a continuing effort to broaden participation in the Honors Program by students in the professional schools and STEM fields, we offered an honors section of CHEM 103 and an honors contract option for Music 325. We will offer both courses again in 2015-16.

Student Learning Assessment Rubric University Honors Program Rubric HSCP 490: Honors Capstone Spring 2015

Trait	Number of students Exceeding Expectations (%)	Number of students Meeting Expectations (%)	Number of students Acquiring Skill (%)	Total number of students
<i>Critical Thinking</i>	7 (58%)	5 (42%)	0	12

<i>Creativity</i>	3 (25%)	8 (66%)	1 (8%)	12
<i>Oral Communication</i>	5 (42%)	7 (58%)	0	12
<i>Written Communication</i>	6 (50%)	6 (50%)	0	12
<i>Personal and Intellectual Engagement</i>	10 (83%)	2 (17%)	0	12

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. This year, the majority of students met expectations in all areas, and this cohort fared extremely well in the category of "Personal and Intellectual Engagement."