

Honors Scholar Program



Dr. Wendy Chase
Professor of Humanities
Coordinator, Honors
Scholar Program

We possess a unique opportunity. As a college with a central location and a respected history in our community, we have the physical spaces, the academic talent, and the civic responsibility to be a center for free inquiry, civilized debate, cultural creation, and community service. While the Honors Scholar Program works closely with Admissions to identify and recruit high-achieving students, we want to do more than create an insular program within the college. We envision our program as a laboratory for all students and faculty who want to re-imagine education to better serve our 21st century society. To this end, the Honors Advisory Council seeks to develop curricular and extracurricular activities that promote interdisciplinary dialogue, individualized research, and project-based learning experiences.

We believe the success of our program will be measured by the degree to which our students' learning inside our classrooms transforms the conversations they have in the cafeteria and shapes the culture of the campus at large. What good is a rigorous curriculum if what goes on in our classrooms doesn't leave an indelible mark on how our students choose to act in public and private after they leave our classrooms or graduate from our institution?

The Honors Advisory Council hopes to work with all faculty, staff, and students who are committed to connecting learning and life in a manner that enhances the everyday existence of our students, fosters civility in our public discourse, and expands our ability to make meaningful contributions to society.

Featured Honors Event

Theater professor, Stuart Brown, invited Dr. Marc Edwards, the hero of the Flint, Michigan water crisis, to offer three events at the college in conjunction with his play, *Paragon Springs*. In addition to participating in a talk-back with the actors after their opening night performance, Dr. Edwards gave an open lecture on his experiences exposing contaminated water in Flint, and he led a "Difficult Dialogue" that was restricted to FSW students and hosted by the Honors Scholar Program. Dr. Edwards is a recipient of the MacArthur "Genius" Award and was named one of the most influential people in the world in 2016 by *Fortune* and *Time* magazines. We are grateful to Professor Brown for arranging for our students to have meaningful, personal exchanges with such a distinguished national figure.



Honors Scholar Feature



Sierra Williams
Honors Scholar

Honors classes encourage bonding between students. In bigger classes, I can feel more separate from my classmates, but in my honors classes, it always feels like we're a group. We get to know each other better. I wasn't sure what to expect when I started college, and for a while I felt alone even though I was surrounded by people. When I took my first honors class, I started to feel connected to my classmates. When you spend hours each week with a group of strangers, it's nice to bond and share your experiences. I

remember people from my honors classes, and I recognize them when I see them around campus. That has definitely enhanced my experience at FSW. I feel like I'm part of a community.

Honors Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Rozalind Jester
Professor of
Marine Science

The single most important concept that I hope students take away from my marine science courses is that the day-to-day choices we all make have an influence on the health of the ocean and its inhabitants. This includes the food we eat, the products we buy, the garbage we dispose of and the energy we use. Each individual choice has the potential to

either add to the problem or become a part of the solution when we consider the abundance of marine fisheries, our plastic pollution problem, and/or our changing climate.

Working with honors students has been one of the most rewarding experiences I've had in my teaching career because their dedication and motivation inspires me to see my discipline through the eyes of a new scientist and design creative ways to engage with the content. The amazing part is that I always end up learning so much from them! I also genuinely enjoy building relationships with students on both a personal and professional level.



Dr. Rona Axelrod
Professor of
Mathematics

In today's workplace, decisions are data-driven. In order to participate in the decision-making process, employees must be able to apply the principles of statistical analysis to their business. Statistics is a science, based on mathematical models, that helps us make sense of the data.

Working with my honors students has been a career-changing experience. Every one of my honors student is passionate about learning. They challenge me to go beyond the learning objectives and provide a learning environment that encourages engagement with relevant data and 21st century technologies.

Team-teaching is, by far, one of my most enjoyable teaching experiences. I loved learning about marine biology from Dr. Roz Jester. I've always enjoyed my science courses as an undergraduate, but I never had the opportunity to study marine biology. Our biggest challenge was having enough time in the classroom with our honors students.

Honors Scholar Feature



Michael Berube
Honors Scholar

Describe how the Honors Scholar Program has enhanced your experience at FSW.

The most remarkable aspect of the Honors Scholar Program are the classes. Not only are they conducted at a smaller max capacity, but the professors are the best FSW has to offer. The intimacy of the classes encouraged me to form relationships with my Honors professors, which is invaluable to connecting what I learned in the classroom to actual experiences in my life and future career.

What advice would you give to a student who was considering applying to the Honors Scholar Program?

Do it. You may not think you have what it takes to be in the Honors Scholar Program, but you may be surprised with yourself. You stand to gain so much by just applying that its ludicrous more people don't even try. While academic achievement may be one aspect, Honors Scholars are individuals who care deeply about their education and their relationship with the college. If you are dedicated to graduating and giving college your best shot, the HSP is for you.