



HONORS COLLEGE INFORMATION FOR FACULTY

The Honors College welcomes the engagement of faculty members from all of UMKC's colleges and schools. Since fall 2017, over 250 faculty members have contributed to the work of the Honors College through their dedicated teaching, advising and mentoring. Thank you for working with our honors students!

Built upon the strong foundation of UMKC's reputation for excellence as a public urban research university, the Honors College provides a comprehensive learning community serving the intellectual and social needs of over 400 outstanding honors students. Honors College students are enrolled in every academic major offered at UMKC, and many are pursuing double majors. Through their participation in specially designed honors courses and their engagement in undergraduate research, our students become active investigators in the quest for new knowledge. Honors College students have presented their research at national conferences and earned fellowships to attend some of the world's most highly selective graduate and professional schools. Our students are truly exceptional in their aspirations and their achievements.

There are many ways that a faculty member can contribute to the work of the Honors College. You might assist a student in developing an Honors Contract to do extra-credit work in your course and thereby earn honors credit. You might design and teach an honors course or an honors component in a course. Or you might serve as the supervisor of a Senior Honors Thesis. These are just a few of the many ways in which a UMKC faculty member from any college or school can work with the Honors College to assure the success of our students.

Above all the Honors College is a place for learning and innovation. UMKC faculty members play a big part in that! If you have ideas, questions, or thoughts on how to improve teaching and learning in the Honors College, please share those with us. I look forward to working with you to enhance the opportunities available to honors students at UMKC.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James McKusick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

James McKusick
Honors College Dean



What is Honors Education?

The Honors College draws on the full complement of opportunities offered by UMKC.

Honors students are challenged to think across disciplines, to combine academic knowledge with ethical judgment, to engage in dialogue and service with the university and urban community, and to take leadership roles in their chosen fields of endeavor. By encouraging critical inquiry, innovation and a global perspective, the Honors College significantly enhances the undergraduate educational experience at UMKC.

Our Mission

The Honors College promotes the University's commitment to academic excellence.

The Honors College:

- offers an enriched program of honors education for outstanding students of all majors;
- fosters intellectual and civic values: inquiry, discovery, knowledge and imagination, as well as community service, social justice and ethical leadership;
- offers support for instructional innovation and provides the best possible teaching and learning environment for faculty and students.

How Can Faculty Members Get Involved?

The Honors College welcomes the participation of UMKC faculty members as teachers, advisors and mentors. Here are some of the ways that faculty members can get involved:

- **Honors Contract.** Many students in the Honors College choose to do an individual Honors Contract. An Honors Contract is an agreement to carry out an independent study project designed in consultation with the instructor of a course in which they are enrolled. Such an agreement requires the consent of the instructor.
- **Senior Honors Thesis.** All Honors College students are encouraged to undertake a 6-credit Senior Honors Thesis under the guidance of a faculty mentor in their major discipline. The faculty mentor plays an essential role in guiding the student's discovery process in this high-impact learning experience.
- **Teaching Honors Courses.** The Honors College welcomes the participation of faculty members from all disciplines in the design and implementation of new honors courses. New honors courses are particularly welcome in disciplines that currently lack honors curriculum, or where there is high student demand for additional honors courses.
- **Encouraging students to apply for admission to the Honors College.** The Honors College welcomes applications from currently enrolled UMKC students who have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better. Please encourage your top-performing students to grow in leadership and community by joining the Honors College.

For further information, please consult the *Honors College Faculty Handbook*, available here: honors.umkc.edu/academics/faculty-resources.

Questions? Please contact the Honors College at honors@umkc.edu.