

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY  
HONORS COLLEGE  
AND  
SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE  
HONORS PROGRAM**

**Memorandum of Understanding**

This AGREEMENT, effective the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, 2017, is between The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (“UTRGV”), a component institution of The University of Texas System, and South Texas College (“STC”), a College having its principal office in McAllen, Texas.

**South Texas College Honors Program**

The South Texas College Honors Program’s mission is to provide progressive opportunities and innovative challenges to students who are highly motivated, intellectually gifted, academically well-prepared, and/or exceptionally creative. The program offers unique opportunities for enrichment that enhance intellectual development, good citizenship, and leadership skills. Students participating in this program are formally recognized for their academic achievements and receive benefits that help them pursue their personal, academic, and professional goals.

The General Honors Program is a college-wide program designed for the high achieving student. Students who have a 3.25 cumulative GPA at STC and incoming freshmen with a high-school GPA of 3.5 qualify for admittance into the Honors Program. The Honors Program requires that participating students take at least one Honors course per-semester and complete a minimum of 12 hours of honors credits prior to graduating. Students must maintain a minimum 3.25 cumulative grade point average in South Texas College Core Courses to qualify for and remain in the program. If the cumulative GPA drops below 3.25, the student will be put on honors probation, and is no longer eligible to enroll in any Honors classes until their cumulative GPA is raised to 3.25 or higher. During this probation period, the student will contact the campus Honors Program Facilitator to set up an intervention plan to bring the cumulative GPA to a 3.25 or higher. Students who do not enroll in the Honors Program but wish to take honors classes can do so providing that they meet the Honors Program eligibility requirements and participate in an interview with the Facilitator.

**The University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley Honors College**

The University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley’s Honors College serves academically talented and ambitious students by offering an enriched core curriculum that provides the advantages of a small private college within the context of a larger research institution. We provide top students with opportunities for leadership training, research, scholarship, creative arts, and campus and community engagement. The Honors College is open to students from any major.

**Basic Honors Curriculum**

9 credits of lower-division honors courses - Choose from Honors Humanities sequence (HONR 2387 Honors Humanities I; HONR 2388 Honors Humanities II, offered on the Edinburg campus), Honors Big History sequence (HONR 2385 Honors Big History I; HONR 2386 Honors Big History II, offered on the Brownsville campus), or honors sections of undergraduate core courses.

3 credits of honors practicum (HONR 3380)– A required departmental internship or experiential-learning activity may be substituted with the addition of an honors component.

9 credits of upper-division honors courses – Typically these will be upper-division courses within the student’s major, although one honors study abroad course may also count.

Students also have the option of doing an honors thesis, which includes a total of 4 credits (HONR 3187 for 1 credit and HONR 4387 for 3 credits). A required departmental capstone experience may be substituted with the addition of an honors component.

**Honors track for students in the College of Business and Entrepreneurship**

Students working toward a Bachelor’s in Business Administration may graduate with honors by being admitted to the Honors College and doing the following:

Lower-division requirements must be met by taking honors sections of lower-division business foundations courses (such as ACCT 2301, ACCT 2302, ECON 2302, MGMT 1301).

Upper-division requirements in general will be met by taking honors sections of upper-division business core courses (such as BLAW 3337, FINA 3380, MGMT 4389, etc.).

The Honors Practicum requirement will be met either through a required departmental internship or service-learning project with an added honors component (equivalent to Honors-by-Contract), or through taking HONR 3380.

A student may pursue an honors thesis either through a required departmental capstone experience with an added honors component (equivalent to Honors-by-Contract), or through taking HONR 3187 and HONR 4387.

### **Honors track for pre-medical students**

9 credits of lower-division honors courses – Two semesters of Honors Biology (BIOL 1486 and BIOL 1487), Bioethics (PHIL 2322).

3 credits of honors practicum (HONR 3380) – A required internship, service-learning activity, or shadowing may be substituted with the addition of an honors component

9 credits of upper-division honors courses –

For students in the Edinburg campus A Prime Time program: Biological Communication (BIOL 4400), Medical Human Anatomy (PHAS 5301), Pharmacology I (PHAS 5328)

For all other students: Biological Communication (BIOL 4400), two upper-division Honors-by-contract; students in this category are also strongly encouraged to do an Honors thesis, which includes a total of 4 credits (HONR 3187 for 1 credit and HONR 4387 for 3 credits).

Students in the pre-medical track are also strongly encouraged to pursue the minor in Medical Humanities.

### **Terms of the Agreement:**

South Texas College and the University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley agree that the following arrangements for honors work done at South Texas College shall count at the University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley, in accordance with terms and conditions of:

1. The University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley will accept up to and including nine hours of honors credit (replacing or partially replacing the lower-division course requirement at UTRGV) for South Texas College transfer students with at least a 3.5 GPA.
2. The University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley will provisionally accept up to and including nine hours of honors credit (replacing or partially replacing the lower-division course requirement at UTRGV) for South Texas College transfer students who have GPAs ranging from 3.25 to 3.49. Provisionally accepted students will have one semester to bring their overall GPA to a 3.5.
3. In order to be admitted to the Honors College, all transferring South Texas College students must complete the online application, which can be found at: <https://webapps.utrgv.edu/aa/honors/?event=transfer>

### Designated Liaison

Each institution designates the following officials to serve as its liaison to coordinate and facilitate activities under this Agreement and to address any concerns or disputes that may arise relating to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

#### **South Texas College:**

Eric Reittinger  
Honors Program Coordinator  
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#### **The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley:**

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Dean of Honors College  
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(956) 665-2341

Executed by the undersigned representatives of the two institutions on February 3, 2017

APPROVED:

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE

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Dr. Havidán Rodríguez  
Provost/Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

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Dr. Anahid Petrosian  
Vice President for Academic Affairs

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Dr. Mark Andersen  
Dean, Honors College

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Eric Reittinger  
Coordinator, Honors Program