

To: Dr. Max Burns
From: Dr. David Janssen
Date: 4/29/2016
Re: Honors Council Year-End Report for AY 2015-2016

The Honors Council has two main functions: to serve as a review board for Honors Program applications and to oversee curriculum issues and academic requirements of the Program. The committee was very active in both areas. We admitted a record number of 51 applicants to the Program, 15 in October and 36 in March. We still have one more application deadline for the year, May 1, so that number is not quite final, and our work is not quite finished in this regard. The Honors Council is also responsible for approving new Honors sections before they are sent to the Academic Policy Committee. This year the Honors Council approved proposals for BIOL 1108H and MATH 1501H, which were both subsequently approved by APC as well. These approvals are part of an ongoing effort to involve more STEM majors in the Honors Program. In reviewing Honors Program academic policy, the Council also approved a change to embedded-course policy that will allow non-Honors students the option to create Honors contracts with faculty for Honors credit. This coincides with our policy to admit qualified non-Honors students in Honors sections. The Honors Council also worked with a group of Nursing students and faculty to consider a change of minimum GPA requirements for Nursing students in the Honors Program. The Council requested and received GPA data from the Office of Institutional Research of all Gordon State students working on Bachelor's degrees. After reviewing that data, the Honors Council voted to keep the minimum Honors GPA requirement as is, at 3.5 for all students in the Program. Finally, the Honors Council is still in the process of reviewing our Honors application form. We do intend to make some changes to the application form and would like to make further updates to the Honors Program webpage; we will continue with those initiatives in Fall 2016.