We are extremely excited to begin another year with fresh faces, new aspirations, and future goals! The HONORS COLLEGE Advising Staff can’t wait to meet you and help you best plan your educational career here at UTSA. Our goal is to present to you a world of opportunity with an enhanced educational experience. This first newsletter is designed to ease your transition from high school to college by introducing you to the Honors College Advising Center and by helping you identify what you need to do between now and fall 2007. There are a few key topics we need to address to help you get the most of your UTSA experience. This newsletter contains important information about:

- Freshman Orientation
- Testing
- Learning Communities
- Lonestar E-mail Accounts
- University Honors Student Association
- Final Transcripts
- Honors Requirements
- Housing

We understand that beginning college can be overwhelming. Our Advising Center wants to assure you that you will have several opportunities to go over the information in this newsletter. The more carefully you read, however, the better prepared you will be. We encourage you to contact us with questions (honors@utsa.edu) and to bring questions to Orientation. The more familiar you are with the campus and our staff, the more comfortable you will feel once the semester begins.

If you plan to attend UTSA, and be a part of the Honors College or are giving serious consideration to doing so, please read this newsletter carefully and complete and return the Response Sheet found inside. The first person who returns his or her Response Sheet and lists the correct number of roadrunners in the newsletter WINS a UTSA sweatshirt from the HONORS COLLEGE Advising Center.

Best Wishes,

Melissa Tenberg - Academic Advisor II          Diana Howard - Academic Advisor I

The Honors College Advising Center Staff
How can I place out of certain prerequisites to move forward in my degree plan?

The answer: Placement Tests and CLEP Exams

How do I know if I need a placement test?

You need a Math Placement Test:

If you are majoring in Sciences or Engineering, have no college credit for math, and do not want to start with College Algebra. It is strongly recommended that all engineering and science majors take a Math Placement Test before Orientation. Success in these majors depends on early enrollment in math courses. If you have prior college credit for College Algebra or Pre-Calculus through dual credit, bring in documentation verifying your community college enrollment.

If you have taken the Calculus AB or BC AP exam and will be attending Orientation prior to July 10 (when AP scores arrive), we strongly recommended that you take a Math Placement exam in case you do poorly on the AP exam. If we need to wait for your math AP scores and do not have a placement test score, we will not be able to enroll you in any math course above the level of College Algebra.

You need a CHEMISTRY PLACEMENT TEST:

If you are majoring in Biology, Chemistry, or Engineering. Because you will need to take CHE 1103, General Chemistry I, in fall 2007, you must demonstrate proficiency to enroll in the class. If you have prior college credit for a Chemistry course, you would not need a Chemistry placement exam, but must bring documentation of your community college enrollment with you.

If you do not pass the Chemistry placement exam, you will need to take CHE 1073, Basic Chemistry before enrolling in CHE 1103.

Orientation

Orientation is one of the many experiences students have to get acquainted with the University and organized for the fall 2007 semester. Although Orientation sessions are available throughout the summer, we strongly encourage you to sign up for Freshman Orientation in JUNE. The earlier you come for Orientation, the more likely you are to get a schedule that fits your personal needs.

The Office of Orientation and Transition Services will be sending you a postcard concerning Freshman Orientation at UTSA. If you do not receive the Freshman Orientation postcard, please check out the Orientation and Transition Services website at www.utsa.edu/orientation/ or contact the Office of Orientation and Transition Services directly at 210-458-4724.

All Freshman Orientation sessions will be three-day, two-night programs, beginning in JUNE. You will be required to stay overnight on campus. Some sessions are accompanied by programs for parents.

You cannot register for classes without attending Freshman Orientation. To make certain the staff in the Office of Orientation and Transition Services send you to the right place for your “Meeting with the Colleges” and for Advising, you need to indicate on your Freshman Orientation reservation form that you are an HONORS STUDENT.

Testing

How can I place out of certain prerequisites to move forward in my degree plan?

The answer: Placement Tests and CLEP Exams

You need a placement test.

To schedule any exams, CLEP or PLACEMENT TESTS, please contact the TESTING SERVICES CENTER at 210-458-4125 to sign up or logon to their website:

http://www.utsa.edu/testing/
You need a FOREIGN LANGUAGE PLACEMENT TEST:
if you wish to enroll in a foreign language above the Elementary I level and do not have
college credit for foreign language. If you have college credit for a foreign language – either
through dual credit enrollment or AP or CLEP testing – your prior enrollment or test score
provides your placement.
We strongly recommend that students who are interested in starting a foreign language above
the introductory level take a CLEP test instead of a placement test.

CLEP EXAMS

How do I know if I should take a CLEP EXAM?
If you wish to earn college credit before you enter UTSA, you can either take AP exams in May at your
high school or CLEP exams, which are offered at UTSA (and other college campuses). You can take CLEP
exams for credit at any point in your college career, but we recommend that you take CLEP exams as early
as possible, as they generally tend to be credit for core curriculum coursework.

You may want to take the English Composition with Essay CLEP exam if…
You took the AP English Language and Composition exam and/or the AP English Literature and
Composition exam and received a score of 3 or better.
You took AP and Honors courses in English in high school and feel you are highly competent in com-
position and writing.

You may want to take a CLEP exam in a foreign language:
if you have taken 2+ years of a foreign language in High School.

You may want to take a CLEP exam in College Algebra (MAT 1023) or
Pre - Calculus (MAT 1093) if:
Your major requires no more math above the level of
College Algebra (MAT 1023), and you took Pre-Calculus or
Calculus in high school.

To schedule any exams, CLEP or PLACEMENT TESTS,
please contact the TESTING SERVICES CENTER at
210-458-4125 to sign up or logon to their website:
http://www.utsa.edu/testing/
What types of Learning Communities are there?

- **All Majors Learning Community** - two or three courses are connected. Topics vary by instructor.

- **Major/Interest Specific Learning Community** - two or three courses are connected based on the student's major or common interests, such as Biology or Pre-Law. The Honors College has one designed specifically for Business majors!

- **Residential Learning Community** - Traditional learning cohort; the students live together at Chaparral Village or Chisholm Hall.

- **Academic Development Program Learning Community** – Only provisional students are enrolled in this cohort. Consists of a Freshman Seminar course and a large lecture course.

- **Personal, Academic, and Career Exploration Learning Community** – Only undecided students are enrolled in this cohort. Consists of a Freshman Seminar course, Freshman Composition course, and a large lecture course.

- **Access College and Excel Scholar Learning Community** – Consists of a Freshman Seminar and two large lecture courses.

- **Coordinated Admission Program Learning Community** – Only students in CAP wishing to go to UT Austin the following fall semester are enrolled. Two or three courses are connected based on the UT Approved Course List.

- **International Learning Community** – Two courses are connected that are specifically for International students.

- **“Stand Alone” Learning Community** - consists of only a Freshman Seminar course. Students are not connected with any other courses.

- **Sophomore Seminar** – Consists of one research-based course for students in their second year. Small group discussion with faculty representing a variety of academic disciplines. This course provides students the opportunity to learn more about research within their chosen discipline or explore interests outside of their current major.
**WHY SHOULD I JOIN A LEARNING COMMUNITY?**

*For academic reasons:*
- You can easily form study groups
- Students in Learning Communities consistently earn higher GPAs and have better retention rates
- You’ll have guaranteed seats in large, lecture classes
- You will get more attention from professors

*And for social reasons:*
- Meet fellow students with interests similar to yours
- Form friendships
- Make connections on campus
- Attend exclusive Learning Communities events and workshops

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**LONESTAR E-MAIL ACCOUNTS**

Effective January 1, 2007, your official means of communication from the University of Texas at San Antonio regarding Financial Aid, Registrar, Fiscal Services, and Advising will be through your UTSA Lonestar email account. Email communications to and from these departments will be addressed via your Lonestar email address, which was assigned when you were admitted to the university.

Following this policy, any communication received via email from a non-Lonestar source (e.g., Yahoo, Hotmail, etc…), which includes specific information about a student will be returned. General questions in regards to policy, processes, forms, etc…., will be answered regardless of origination. This policy falls under FERPA, (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), which prohibits release of any specific and non-directory information without the written consent of the student.

Your official UTSA email address, along with your email username and initial password, can be found on the ASAP Welcome page just after you log in.

To access your UTSA Lonestar e-mail account, you must sign on to ASAP (the Automated Student Access Program). Go to [www.utsa.edu](http://www.utsa.edu), click on Current Students, and then click on ASAP. Click on login and follow the directions. When you log in to the system, you can then access your Lonestar e-mail account. If you are locked out or have forgotten your password for Lonestar, you can contact Enrollment Services at 458-8000 to have it reset.

If you have questions about degree requirements, HONORS ADVISING, or other related matters after your Freshman Orientation session, you can contact one of our HONORS advisors via your Lonestar e-mail account. Melissa Tenberg is available at melissa.tenberg@utsa.edu, and Diana Howard is available at diana.howard@utsa.edu.

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*Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude.*

Thomas Jefferson
The University Honors Student Association (UHSA) is an organization specifically for Honors College students. All Honors college students are automatically members of UHSA. Through UHSA sponsored events, Honors College students have the opportunity to interact within the Honors community away from class, volunteer for great causes, and have some free fun. Come and join in the fun!

Check out the UHSA website at www.uhsa.org/ or the direct link from the HONORS COLLEGE website at www.utsa.edu/honors.

Dr. Ann Eisenberg, Associate Dean of the Honors College, and former UHSA officers Stephanie Juarez and Leah

**FINAL TRANSCRIPTS**

Please ask your high school to send UTSA an official final transcript as soon as you graduate! You will be allowed to register during June Orientation sessions even if UTSA has not yet received your final high school transcript. Students who attend Orientation later in the summer MUST have their high school transcripts sent to UTSA before they can register. If you took dual credit courses through a local community college, you will need to do two things:

1. You must have your high school send the community college a transcript.
2. You must have the community college send a transcript to UTSA Office of the Registrar.

A community college will not send a final transcript to UTSA unless it first receives a transcript from your high school.

**PREREQUISITE CHECKING**

UTSA’s automated prerequisite-checking started in the Fall 2005 semester. A prerequisite is a course that must be taken before another course (e.g., college algebra before pre-calculus).

**WHAT DOES PREREQUISITE CHECKING MEAN FOR YOU?**

Have you taken ANY dual credit courses?

If YES, then please bring an unofficial copy of your Community College transcript with you to Orientation. This will allow us to help plan a schedule that keeps you moving forward in your degree.

If NO, then you will have to complete pre-requisites before you can take higher-level courses.

**Helpful Hint:** When viewing the class schedule on the UTSA website, take advantage of the “Got Pre-Req’s” link to verify course requirements. (http://www.utsa.edu/advise/GOTPREREQS.htm)
HONORS REQUIREMENTS

GOOD STANDING: To remain a member of the Honors College in good standing and to graduate with Honors, Honors students must maintain a UTSA (or cumulative) GPA of 3.25 or higher. To qualify for preferential registration, Honors students must take a minimum of one Honors course per academic year.

The Honors College offers three types of Honors distinction—Tier 1 Honors, Tier 2 Honors and Honors in Business. Tier 2 Honors is the highest level of Honors offered in the Honors College and requires the completion of an Honors thesis project. Students who graduate with Tier 2 Honors are the most distinguished alumni of the Honors College. The Honors College also offers students who master a foreign language or pursue substantial study abroad to add “International distinction” to their degree. Requirements for the different types of Honors degrees offered through the Honors College are described below.

Tier 1 Honors: Students under the 2004-2006 and subsequent catalogs are eligible to earn the distinction of graduation with Tier 1 Honors. Students qualify for this distinction if they: (1) enter the Honors College with fewer than 30 college hours (not counting CLEP and AP credit); (2) have a minimum cumulative or UTSA GPA of 3.25 at the time of graduation; and (3) complete a minimum of 21 hours of Honors course work. The 21 hours of Honors course work MUST include at least one Honors seminar (HON 3223-3253) and one Honors section of a Domain IV class. A maximum of 9 hours of Honors contract work may be applied to the 21 hours of Honors course work.

Tier 2 Honors: “Highest Honors.” All members of the Honors College are eligible to earn the distinction of graduation with Tier 2 Honors. Students qualify for this distinction if they: (1) have a minimum cumulative OR UTSA GPA of 3.25 at the time of graduation; (2) complete a senior Honors thesis; and (2) complete a minimum of 30 hours of Honors course work. The 30 hours of Honors course work MUST include at least two Honors Seminars (HON 3223-3253) and one Honors section of a Domain IV class. A maximum of 12 hours of Honors contract work may be applied to the 30 hours of Honors course work. The Honors thesis must be signed by a three-member committee that meets the guidelines established in the Honors Thesis Handbook. Students who enter the Honors College with 50+ hours may waive 6 hours of Honors course work.

Honors in Business: Students may graduate with Honors in Business if they are enrolled in the Honors College and the College of Business. Students must complete a minimum of 5 of the courses in the Common Body of Knowledge for Business (CBK) in Honors sections and must have a GPA of 3.25 or higher at the time of graduation.

International Distinction: Students who qualify for graduation with Tier 1 or Tier 2 Honors may also qualify for graduation with International distinction. Students qualify for graduation with International Distinction if they either: (1) master a foreign language at the 2023 level or above; or (2) participate in a study abroad experience for at least one spring or fall semester. Students who earn the International Distinction designation graduate with “Tier 1 Honors with International Distinction” or “Tier 2 Honors with International Distinction”

HONORS AND THE CORE CURRICULUM

Honors sections of Core curriculum courses are provided in most areas of the Core. Honors students follow the same Core curriculum requirements as do non-Honors students with one exception: Honors students should take either IDS 2213-H, CSH 1213-H or ANT 2053-H to meet the requirement for Domain IV, the World Culture and Society option.

For a listing of Fall 2007 Honors Courses, check out our April Honors College newsletter, which will be posted on our website around April 1, 2007. Go to www.utsa.edu/honors and click on the link for “Newsletters and News” and then for “April Newsletter.”
Campus housing at UTSA

Chisholm Hall is more than a UTSA tradition, it is where your college memories can begin. Just a short walk from classes, the folks at Chisholm have created a special setting to enhance your total university experience. At Chisholm, you will take those important first steps to form lasting friendships, and to become part of the diverse UTSA community.

University Oaks offers UTSA's finest student apartments. When you stay at University Oaks, you get the best of both worlds: the convenience of living on campus with the independence and privacy of living on your own.

Chaparral Village is a new residence facility that houses 1,000 students. This apartment-style living unit offers private 2-bedroom and 4-bedroom suites with living rooms and kitchenette areas. Neighborhood units include laundry facilities, study rooms, computer labs, and kitchen and living space.

A new dining hall, the Roadrunner Café, opened in the Fall of 2006 and is adjacent to Chaparral Village.

The Honors College advising staff strongly recommends that our students, especially freshmen who are living on Campus, live in Chaparral Village. To do so, you will have to request Chaparral Village. You will first be assigned to housing in either Chisholm Hall or University Oaks. When you get that assignment, please refuse the assignment and request Chaparral Village at that time.

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