



# HISTORY OF HONORS EDUCATION

BY: WHITNEY AUSTIN AND AMY VALLERY

# THE NCHC

The National Collegiate Honors Council is a professional association made up of undergraduate honors colleges and programs, directors, deans, faculty, and students.

Its mission is to support and enhance the community of educational institutions, professionals, and students who participate in collegiate honors education around the world.



# WHAT IS HONORS?

The NCHC defines Honors College by its "in class and extracurricular activities that are measurably broader, deeper or more complex than comparable learning experiences typically found at institutions of higher education."

Honors colleges include a distinctive learner-directed environment and create opportunities that are specifically tailored to the culture and mission of the university or institution.

Standards of excellence and requirements vary by institution, but overall, students involved in Honors colleges or programs are expected to operate on a deeper level of understanding than the average student.

# WHERE IT CAME FROM

The fully developed honors program in American around 1922 with Frank Aydellote's program at Swarthmore.

He came up with this model from Oxford's program of "pass/honors" system.

Oxford's "pass/honors" is a system where the grades are only pass, fail or honors.

Aydellote thought after World War II the future of the United States would depend on allowing the "gifted" students to break through the "academic lock" they were put into and challenge them through difficult courses to get them to have more responsibility and freedom to develop their intellectual independence.

# LIST OF THE FIRST UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGE TO HAVE A HONORS EDUCATION

Wesleyan University- 1873

University of Michigan- 1873-1900

University of Vermont- 1888

Princeton- 1905

Harvard- 1914

Columbia- 1920

Swarthmore- 1922( first fully developed honors program)



Swarthmore College

# THE HISTORY OF “HONORS” AT SAU

The first "Honor's Convocation" took place in May of 1978. Dr. Harold T. Brinson who, at the time held the position of newly elected president of SAU, established the convocation to recognize faculty and staff service and outstanding students' achievements. (No longer done at SAU.)

On this same day, Dr. Arthur Steely, a professor of math, was named SAU's first Honor Professor. This got the ball rolling in the direction of creating an atmosphere where outstanding students can flourish. (The Honor Professor award is given annually based upon faculty input.)

In 2003, the Honors College, as we know it, began. In addition, the Honors Hall building project was completed in 2004, giving honors students a place to call home if they so desire.



# SOURCES

[HTTP://EDUCATION.STATEUNIVERSITY.COM/PAGES/2070/HONORS-PROGRAMS-IN-HIGHER-EDUCATION.HTML](http://education.stateuniversity.com/pages/2070/HONORS-PROGRAMS-IN-HIGHER-EDUCATION.HTML)

[HTTP://NCHCHONORS.ORG/](http://nchchonors.org/)

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