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## HONORS INSTITUTE POINT SYSTEM

### Honors Institute Mission

The mission of the Honors Institute is to provide a challenging and supportive academic setting in which students learn to think critically, demonstrate leadership, and deepen their commitment to ethical ideals. The Institute provides a creative learning experience where students acquire a comprehensive understanding of concepts and theories in an interdisciplinary and global context. Institute students and faculty share a commitment to developing the whole person that extends beyond the classroom to local, national, and international communities.

### Purpose of the Honors Institute Point System

The Honors Institute Point System encourages reflective participation in the Honors community, the college community, and the local, national and international communities to which we belong. Participation in these communities is the means whereby the Honors Institute promotes the development of the whole person through leadership, citizenship, creativity, and scholarship.

### The Honors Institute Point System and the Advanced Studies (Honors) Certificate

To earn the Advanced Studies (Honors) Certificate a student must satisfy the GPA requirement, complete the required course sequence, and earn 20 honors points. Students who want to earn the Advanced Studies (Honors) Certificate with Thesis must also create and present a scholarly work.

### Summary of the Point Categories

- (A) Single Event: attendance at a scholarly lecture, film, volunteer event, art gallery tour or museum, generally the length of an afternoon or evening
- (B) Leadership: holding a leadership position in an MCC student organization or similar organization and performing the duties of the position for at least one semester
- (C) Engaged Citizenship: involvement in a project or organization outside MCC whose purpose is service, community development, or public awareness lasting at least one semester
- (D) Scholarly Activity: public presentation of a scholarly, research, or creative work or induction into Phi Theta Kappa

### Honors Institute Participation and Point Distribution

Honors Institute Participation: students must earn at least four (4) points in Honors Institute activities. Honors Institute activities are events, scholarly activities, citizenship projects, or leadership roles associated with honors classes, the Honors Student Council, or Honors Institute events. You can earn no more than 8 points in the single event category. Your other points can be earned in as many or few categories as you like.

### Planning for your Growth and Development

Attaining 20 Honors Points for your Advanced Studies Certificate takes some planning. You are most likely to succeed in attaining points if you are doing what you find interesting and compelling. The Honors Coordinator and Honors Faculty are open to meeting with students to discuss proposed

activities. The Honors Coordinator has approved a wide variety of activities for the purpose of earning Honors Points.

### **Reflection Paper Requirement**

To earn points for any activity a student must provide verification (if requested) and write a reflection paper that describes the activity, what they learned from the activity, and how engaging in the activity affected the student's thoughts, feelings, or attitudes.

### **Point Categories**

#### **(A) Single Event (one point per event)**

- Description: attending a lecture, scholarly discussion, museum, play, art exhibit, or single volunteer event.
- Each event is worth one point upon submitting a 150-word reflection paper and verification of attendance if asked.
- Examples of qualifying single events: Visiting Scholars Lecture at MCC, an afternoon, evening, or morning volunteer experience, an Honors Institute Lecture, attending a department-sponsored lecture, attending an art exhibit at MAG, attending a local dramatic performance; assisting at the MCC Foundation 5K.

#### **(B) Leadership (4 points)**

- Description: holding a leadership position in an MCC student organization or similar organization and performing the duties of the position for at least one semester or completing the Leadership seminar.
- Upon completing the seminar or serving in a leadership position for one semester, submitting verification of participation, and submitting a 300-400 word reflection paper, a student earns 4 points.

#### **(C) Engaged Citizenship (4 points)**

- Description: involvement in a project or organization outside MCC whose purpose is community service, community development, or public awareness lasting at least one semester, or completing an MCC course with the SV designation.
- Upon completing the project, course, or the period of involvement in the organization, supplying verification if asked, and submitting a 300-400 word reflection paper, a student earns 4 points.
- Examples of qualifying engaged citizenship: voter registration campaign; raising awareness regarding social issues; volunteer; fund-raising for social service or community organization.

#### **(D) Scholarly Activity (4 points)**

- Description: public presentation of a scholarly, research, or creative work or induction into Phi Theta Kappa.
- Upon completing the project and presentation, submitting verification if asked, and submitting a 300-400 word reflection paper, a student earns 4 points.
- Examples of scholarly activity: presentation or poster at MCC Scholars' Day, Northeast Regional Honors Council, the Beacon conference, or discipline-specific conference; public dramatic, literary, or musical performance; juried art show; publication in *Scholars Day Review*, *Cabbages and Kings*; winning an award in the English/Philosophy Department Writing Contest.