

HONORS
PROGRAM



GARRISON HONORS CENTER



ALPHA BETA GAMMA • ALPHA
GAMMA SIGMA • ALPHA MU
GAMMA • ETA ETA OMICRON •
MU ALPHA THETA • MU DELTA
RHO • NATIONAL TECHNICAL
HONOR SOCIETY • OMEGA PSI
SIGMA • PHI ALPHA MU • PHI
THETA KAPPA • PI RHO SIGMA
• PI TAU EPSILON • PSI BETA
• SALUTE • SIGMA CHI ETA
• SIGMA KAPPA DELTA



ORANGE
COAST
COLLEGE

GARRISON HONORS CENTER

The Garrison Honors Center (GHC) is home to the prestigious OCC campus-wide Honors Program featuring honors classes in thirty academic disciplines and its own Honors Student Council. Additionally, GHC houses sixteen academic Honor Societies, most with Greek names, including three that are available to qualifying students regardless of their academic focus; thirteen others have specific disciplinary affiliations.

The GHC is open five days a week during spring and fall, and welcomes students enrolled in, or seeking information about any of the honors organizations. Individual and group study areas, computer use, a lounge area, and refreshments are available. Media carts, projectors, charging stations for electronic devices, and white-board table tops help to make GHC a great choice for group study. As finals approach, GHC offers extended open hours.

Faculty are encouraged to meet casually with their students and colleagues at the GHC, or may use the facilities for ongoing group research projects, class presentations, and small events such as guest speakers, screenings, and other kinds of presentations. GHC can seat approximately forty in the main study area and thirty in an adjacent classroom. The Center may be available on a reservation basis with at least twenty-four hours' notice.



Professor Tom Garrison

THE HONORS PROGRAM

The OCC Honors Program was established in 1992 by professor Arthur Moore (mathematics), the late Distinguished Professor Emeritus Tom Garrison (marine science), Carl Morgan (Librarian), and David Grant (former OCC President and former Trustee of the Coast Community College District Board of Trustees). The OCC Honors Program offers intellectually curious and highly motivated students the opportunity to work closely in their honors classes with instructors and peers in exciting reciprocal teaching-learning environments. Students delve more deeply into engaging topics, participate in research, and develop the knowledge and skills required in order to transfer to the most selective universities and colleges in the U.S.



Special transfer opportunities for students completing the Honors Program include UCLA (TAP), UC Irvine (Transfer Honors and Honors to Honors), Georgetown University, and (for non-traditional and re-entry students) Columbia University, School of General Studies. The Honors Program also enjoys historically high rates of transfer success to UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, University of Southern California, New York University, and many others.

Admission to the Honors Program requires completion of an Honors Orientation Quiz prior to applying, completion of Freshman Composition (English A100 at OCC) or its equivalent at another institution or an AP English exam score of 3 or better, and a cumulative GPA of 3.25

earned in 12 or more units of college coursework. Those who wish to apply to the Honors Program in their first semester at OCC may be able to use their final high school GPA under certain circumstances. Send an email to hpro@occ.cccd.edu to obtain the application and Orientation Quiz preparation material.

The Honors Program's transfer Certification, Program completion, transcript notation, and graduation with honors requires, among other things: confirmed enrollment in the Honors Program, completion of a minimum of 15 units of honors coursework distributed over at least three subject areas, and a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50 in all college coursework combined. All honors courses must be taken for letter grades. Grades below C in all combined college coursework must be resolved through successful course repetition or academic renewal. Incomplete grades may delay or prevent Honors Program certificate completion, transcript notation, and honors recognition at graduation.

Honors Counselors will assist students in planning their academic schedules to include appropriate choices for general education, major prerequisites, and honors courses. Appointments of thirty minutes may be made on Thursdays for the following week. To make an appointment, visit the Counseling Dept. or the Transfer Center on the OCC website.

HONORS COURSES

Honors Courses are open to ALL OCC students, whether or not they are enrolled in the Honors Program. Instructors often enrich their courses with guest speakers, field study, independent and group projects, and other creative means of presenting the course content. Students are advised that honors coursework will be rigorous and may demand considerably more time for assignments and study. The emphasis is on critical thinking and writing; exams are likely to be essay-style or a mix of essay and other evaluation methods. Our former students report that honors coursework provides the best preparation for university transfer and success. Honors courses at OCC include:

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Accounting | English | Marine Science |
| Anthropology | Environmental Science | Marketing |
| Architecture | Film | Mathematics |
| Art | French | Photography |
| Art History | Geography | Physics |
| Astronomy | Geology | Political Science |
| Biology | History | Psychology |
| Business | Humanities | Public Health |
| Counseling | Japanese | Sociology |
| Economics | Library | Spanish |
| Engineering | | |



HONORS CONFERENCES

Honors research conference oral and poster presentations are among the most highly-respected academic activities in which students at any level of their education might have the opportunity to participate. These gatherings of students, faculty, administrators, and the public bring together scholarly research conducted on community college and university campuses all over the United States. Some conferences are locally held and may take place over a single day; others may take place on the other side of the map and last for several days. Conferences may also provide students with opportunities to earn scholarships in recognition for excellent research abstracts, posters, or to continue their research at a specific institution after transfer.

Conference participation is generally mentored by the instructor who assigned the research paper or project as part of a class. He or she may collaborate on certain research projects with the student, or simply provide the student with guidance and suggestions for preparing the research abstract/proposal, practicing the presentation, or constructively criticizing a poster layout and its content. Faculty mentors often accompany their students to conferences. Whether the research was conducted in a science lab, on the sidewalk in the form of a survey, a deep investigation of a piece of literature, or as a case study, all types of research are regarded as hallmarks of an engaged scholar and critical thinker.

Conferences require advance preparation in order to meet multiple deadlines. Students or their organizations may pay the registration fee and other expenses for conference attendance. Ask an instructor or an Honors advisor for information about conferences unique to particular Honors organizations and which expenses may be covered by those organizations.

GARRISON FELLOWS

The late Distinguished Professor Emeritus Tom Garrison believed in recognizing students for their combination of outstanding achievement, campus involvement, and service to the global community. Today, as our instructors become more acquainted with their Honors students, several of these remarkable individuals stand out as exactly the kinds of people Tom would have identified as exemplifying the best at our college.

Every spring, the Honors faculty of each academic division nominate students from among their honors classes for special recognition as Garrison Fellows. Students need not be enrolled in the Honors Program to be considered for this high honor, nor can they apply for these accolades. The faculty will discuss several candidates put forth and select one student from among them. Additional students may be selected by the faculty coordinator of the Honors Program, as well as Honors Counselors and Honors staff. The students will be notified of their selection and will be invited to attend a special reception for the new Garrison Fellows followed by a presentation of certificates and a personalized crystal desk medallion. The Garrison Fellows' names are added to a perpetual plaque on display at the Garrison Honors Center.

HONOR SOCIETIES

OCC offers more opportunities for scholarly distinction to its students than any other community college in California. Honor societies provide recognition for high achievement in completed coursework (Note: Honors coursework is NOT a requirement for honor society membership). Membership is available to those who qualify, apply with transcripts that prove eligibility, and pay membership fees. Active participation in honor society events, meetings and projects is NOT required for membership. However, those who DO choose to be active with their honor societies develop a variety of practical skills, engage with other high-achievers, participate in college and community service projects, and may serve as leaders. The most active members frequently win scholarships and enjoy higher admission rates to the most selective four-year institutions than non-active members.

Permanent memberships are notated on the transcript and qualify the student for graduation with honors, including the privilege of purchasing and wearing honors regalia. Honor society membership usually requires completion of at least 12-15 units of college coursework and, in many cases, some specific coursework

Students enrolled in EOPS, Guardian Scholars, CalWORKS, or Student Equity, and student Veterans may be eligible for fee waivers.

Please check with your program or the Garrison Honors Center staff.

Current OCC students may request a transcript review and eligibility report. If qualified, students may join one or more of the following Honor Societies:

ALPHA BETA GAMMA – International Business Honor Society. For students in all business disciplines. Permanent membership requires two or more qualifying business-related courses with a minimum GPA of 3.00 among them and a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00. Initial membership may be available to those who do not yet meet Permanent status criteria.

ALPHA GAMMA SIGMA – California Community College Scholastic Honor Society. All college applicants start with Initial membership, which requires a 3.00 minimum cumulative GPA earned in a combined total of at least 12 units of college coursework completed in the most recent three semesters. Members must renew their memberships each semester until Permanent status is reached. Continued membership may



require active participation (service points) and completion of at least 6 units of college coursework with a 3.00 minimum semester GPA. Uninterrupted membership over two or more semesters, completion of least 60 units of combined college coursework and higher cumulative GPAs are required for advancement to Permanent status.

ALPHA MU GAMMA – National Foreign Language Honor Society. Minimum criteria for Permanent membership include a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 excluding foreign language courses used to qualify for membership and at least two grades of A in a single foreign language. Certain ESL courses may satisfy this requirement for non-native English speakers. An Associate membership may be available to those who do not yet meet the criteria for Permanent status.

ETA ETA OMICRON – OCC Honor Society for Marine Science. Minimum qualification criteria for Permanent status are an overall cumulative GPA of 3.0, completion of OCC Marine Science A100/A100H with a grade of A or B and completion of at least one other course from Marine Science, Ecology, Biology, or Geology. Provisional membership may be available to those who do not yet meet the requirements for Permanent status.

MU ALPHA THETA – National Honor Society for Mathematics. Minimum qualification criteria for Permanent membership are a cumulative OCC GPA of 3.0 and completion of one or more OCC qualifying courses (MATH A115, A120 or higher; and/or PSYC A160) with a 3.0 minimum GPA among them.

MU DELTA RHO – OCC Honor Society for Pre-Health Professionals. Permanent membership requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50 and at least 12 units of qualifying coursework with a minimum GPA of 3.00 in all qualifying coursework combined. Other membership levels may be available to those who do not yet meet the requirements for Permanent status.

NATIONAL TECHNICAL HONOR SOCIETY. Permanent membership requires a 3.0 minimum cumulative GPA and at least three qualifying courses that can be applied to any technical or career education (CTE) program. Provisional membership may be available to recent high school graduates in their first semester at OCC.

OMEGA PSI SIGMA – OCC Political Science and Pre-Law Honor Society. Permanent membership requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and at least two completed qualifying courses with a minimum GPA of 3.25 among them. Initial membership may be available to those who do not yet qualify for Permanent status.

PHI ALPHA MU – OCC Social and Behavioral Sciences Honor Society. Permanent membership is available to those with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 and completion of at least 6 units of OCC coursework in the social and behavioral sciences with a minimum GPA of 3.00 among them.

PHI THETA KAPPA – International Honor Society of the Two-Year College. Permanent membership is by invitation only and requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50, as well as completion of at least 12 units of associate level coursework (generally, courses numbered 100 and higher within the Coast District meet this requirement). Students whose membership fees will be paid by EOPS, Student Equity, CalWORKS, or Guardian Scholars must follow special application procedures. Provisional membership may be available to applicants who don't yet meet the requirements for Permanent membership.

PI RHO SIGMA – OCC Music Honor Society. Permanent membership requires a 3.0 minimum cumulative GPA and a 3.0 minimum GPA among all qualifying coursework (at least two OCC qualifying courses are required). Initial membership may be available to those who do not yet meet the criteria for Permanent status.

PI TAU EPSILON – OCC Film and Visual Arts Honor Society. Permanent membership requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and a minimum GPA of 3.5 among qualifying courses (at least one qualifying course at OCC is required for membership).

PSI BETA – National Psychology Honor Society. Permanent membership requires a 3.25 minimum cumulative GPA at OCC and completion of one or more psychology classes with a GPA of 3.0 or better among them.

SIGMA CHI ETA – National Communications Honor Society. Permanent membership requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and completion of at least 9 units of qualifying coursework with a minimum 3.25 GPA among all qualifying courses. Associate membership may be available to those who do not yet meet the criteria for Permanent status.

SIGMA KAPPA DELTA – National English Honor Society. Permanent membership requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in at least 12 units completed at OCC and two college-level courses in English with a GPA of 3.0 or higher among them. Initial membership may be available to those who do not yet meet the criteria for Permanent status.

SALUTE – National Veterans' Honor Society. Applicants must provide evidence of an honorable discharge (form DD-214) or a current billet. Permanent-level memberships are tiered and all require completion of 12 units of OCC coursework. Higher GPAs earn placement in a higher tier of Permanent membership: 3.76 – 4.00 = Alpha Level; 3.51-3.75 = Bravo Level; 3.26-3.50 = Charlie Level; 3.00-3.25 = Delta Level.

HONORS CONVENTIONS

Similar to conferences in their aim to bring students and faculty together for a lively exchange of ideas, conventions generally tend to be more focused on how effectively students interact with one another and their campuses and less on the scholarly nature of their work.

Conventions feature a selection of simultaneous break-out sessions that address common topics of interest or activity, such as leadership skills, community service projects, communication styles for diverse groups, team-building, goal-setting and time management. They also provide a number of social occasions designed to assist students and faculty in networking and collaboration between schools. Another common



feature of conventions is the election of representatives for regional, statewide, national and international leadership positions. A certain amount of campaigning and speech-making by candidates is typical.

Like conferences, convention attendance requires the payment of fees and other expenses. Ask an Honors advisor about the availability of funding for attendance at a convention.

HONOR ROLLS

Honor roll designations (President's List, Dean's List, Honors List) are awarded by a college campus for high academic achievement in letter-graded coursework completed in a specific semester at that institution. Students who earn this recognition will find a notation on their OCC transcripts in the same location as the term name (e.g., Fall 2022). The honor rolls are determined after each grading period. There are no certificates or ceremonies for these awards, nor do they qualify students for graduation with honors. Students may list their honor roll status as an award or recognition on transfer and scholarship applications, their resumes for internships, and applications for employment.

President's List:	4.00 in at least 12 OCC units
Dean's List:	3.50 – 3.99 in at least 12 OCC units
Honors List:	3.75 – 4.00 in 6 - 11.5 OCC units

HONORS NIGHT

An annual tradition at OCC for over forty years, Honors Night is an event planned and hosted by the OCC Foundation, Scholarship Office and Associated Students of Orange Coast College (ASOCC). Each May, whether continuing their community college educations or transferring to four-year institutions, hard-working and high-achieving OCC students receive Service and Leadership awards and/or scholarships totaling more than \$500K. The prestigious event is by invitation only and takes place over the course of a few hours. An elegant reception precedes the awards program.

Students invited to attend Honors Night are among those selected to receive scholarships of \$750 or more and/or receive one of the top Service and Leadership awards for the year.

OCC Scholarship applications become available online in early December and are submitted electronically by the February 28th annual deadline. The application requests demographic and personal information, participation in extra-curricular and other activities, and family financial information. The application also requires two letters of recommendation, unofficial transcripts, and a personal statement. Most students find that completing the application, aside from the advance planning to obtain the required letters of recommendation and writing the personal statement, takes less than a day.

Students enrolled in at least 6 units of OCC coursework each semester, with minimum cumulative GPAs of 3.50 in at least 12 units of completed OCC coursework are encouraged to apply. Students with lower GPAs may also apply. Questions about the application or its components should be directed to the Scholarship Office.

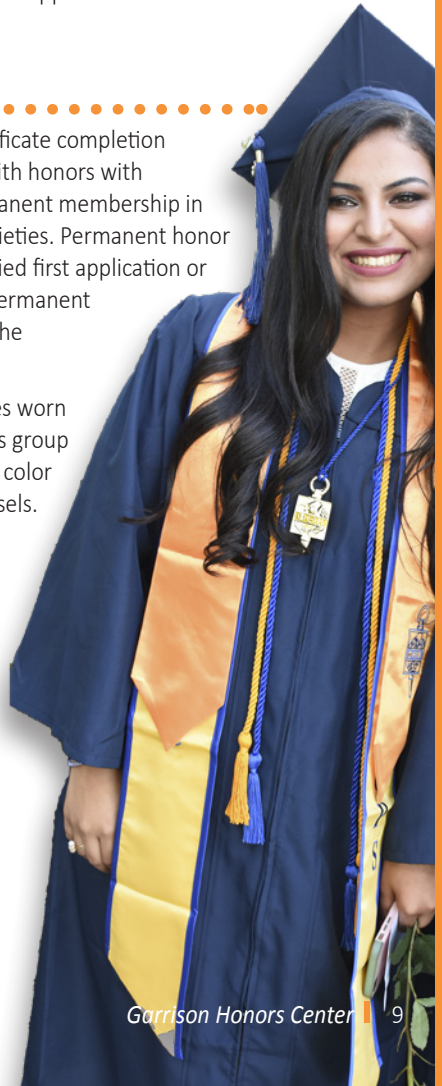
Annual Service and Leadership awards applications are made available online through the ASOCC/Dean of Student Services website and are due in mid-March. The application for Service and Leadership awards requires answers to a variety of questions regarding student's active participation in one or more clubs or other student organizations. Separate applications must be completed for each student organization to which service and/or leadership was provided. Students are advised to keep accurate and detailed records of the service and leadership hours contributed to their organizations. An Excel spreadsheet has been designed for this use and may be obtained by request it from the Garrison Honors Center.

A critical component of the Service and Leadership awards application requires advisors to confirm the student's claimed hours contributed in service or as a leader of the organization, as well as the estimate of service and leadership hours that will be contributed for the remainder of the academic year. Advisors evaluate students on their leadership skills, if any are claimed. Finally, the advisor is required submit the application to the ASOCC office by the deadline.

GRADUATION WITH HONORS

At Orange Coast College, associate degree and certificate completion candidates can earn the distinction of graduation with honors with completion of the Honors Program or holding Permanent membership in any one or more of the sixteen academic honor societies. Permanent honor society membership may be immediate upon qualified first application or may require several semesters' renewals to reach permanent status. Check with each organization to determine the requirements for Permanent status.

Honors regalia (aka "Grad Swag") are the accessories worn with the traditional navy cap and gown. Each honors group may be identified by its own unique combination of color and symbols in its cords, stoles, medallions, and tassels. Only Permanent members of honor societies and students completing the OCC campus-wide Honors Program are eligible to wear their organizations' graduation regalia. Most items may be purchased from the Garrison Honors Center beginning about one month before the commencement ceremony.



NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

OCC Honors students tend to be especially well-positioned for consideration by the committees awarding the largest community college and transfer scholarships offered in the United States each year. OCC students are the deserving recipients of numerous scholarships through PTK, among which are the Coca Cola Leaders of Promise, the All-USA Community College Academic Team, the New Century Scholars, the Guistwhite and Hites scholarships, as well as the GEICO and Pearson Scholarships. Scholarships by nomination include the Truman Scholarship for future public servants; the Udall Scholarship for leadership on environmental issues and our natural resources; and the Goldwater Scholarship for STEM research.

The largest scholarship available to community college students preparing to transfer to



senior institutions is the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship for Undergraduate Transfer Students. Each of about one hundred annual awards given nationally provide up to \$55K per year to the awardee for up to three years for completion of a bachelor's degree. The JKCF may also provide further funding for graduate school to qualified scholars.

The strongest candidates for this award have minimum cumulative GPAs of 3.75, significant unmet financial need, have applied to at least one highly selective university, and have notable accomplishments to discuss in their personal statements. International students are welcome to apply. As remarkably competitive as this scholarship is, and considering the huge number of applications submitted from over 1,300 colleges in the U.S., OCC is proud to have had ten recipients of the JKCF scholarships for transferring students since 2005 – including two in the same year!





ORANGE COAST COLLEGE

Orange Coast College
2701 Fairview Road
Costa Mesa, California 92626
www.orangecoastcollege.edu

Contact Garrison Honors Center:

Email: garrisonhonorscenter@occ.cccd.edu
Phone: (714) 432-5601