

## NCHC 2016 Census of U.S. Honors Programs and Colleges Summary Table

Item	Four-Year Institutions			All NCHC Institutions
	Two-Year Institutions	Honors Programs	Honors Colleges	
Total Member Institutions	190	523	136	849
Total responding institutions	84	223	101	408
Response Rate	44.2	42.6	74.3	48.1
<b><i>Institutional Features</i></b>				
Size of institution (mean FTE undergraduates)	7,424.5	6,663.0	13,781.0	8,563.7
Number of honors students in fall 2015 (mean)	210.4	385.0	1,023.4	504.2
Institutional control (% public)	100.0	46.6	89.1	68.1
Percent women in honors (mean)	59.6	64.7	61.3	63.0
Carnegie Classification				
<i>Research/Doctoral University (%)</i>	0.0	22.5	54.0	25.6
<i>Master's University (%)</i>	0.0	49.1	46.0	38.2
<i>Baccalaureate College (%)</i>	0.0	28.4	0.0	15.5
<i>Associate's College</i>	100.0	0.0	0.0	20.7
<b><i>Leadership Features</i></b>				
Title for the head of honors				
<i>Dean (%)</i>	0.0	1.8	68.3	17.9
<i>Director (%)</i>	52.4	90.1	28.7	67.1
<i>Chair or Coordinator (%)</i>	44.0	2.3	0.0	10.3
<i>Other (%)</i>	3.6	5.9	3.0	4.7
Percentage of full-time equivalency (FTE) for honors head				
<i>Full-time dedicated honors administrator (%)</i>	16.0	22.0	78.0	34.9
<i>50–99% of FTE in honors (%)</i>	28.4	43.5	19.0	34.2
<i>&lt; 50% of FTE in honors (%)</i>	55.6	34.6	3.0	30.9
Dean/Director has 12-month appointment (% yes)	42.0	56.4	92.0	62.3
Salary (\$1,000s) for head of honors (mean)	92.2	106.6	151.7	129.8
Highest degree of honors head (% with doctorate)	53.1	94.1	93.9	85.8
Field of highest degree for honors head				
<i>Education (%)</i>	11.0	4.6	5.9	6.2
<i>Humanities (%)</i>	51.2	48.2	41.6	47.1
<i>Math, engineering, and natural/physical sciences (%)</i>	9.8	17.0	20.8	16.5
<i>Social sciences (%)</i>	26.8	28.9	30.7	28.9
<i>Professional (%)</i>	1.2	1.4	1.0	1.2
Gender of honors head (% women)	73.3	42.1	40.6	47.7

Item	Four-Year Institutions			All NCHC Institutions
	Two-Year Institutions	Honors Programs	Honors Colleges	
<b>Honors head race-ethnicity</b>				
<i>White, non-Hispanic (%)</i>	86.1	91.2	91.9	90.3
<i>African American, non-Hispanic (%)</i>	5.1	4.2	2.0	3.8
<i>Hispanic (%)</i>	3.8	2.8	1.0	2.5
<i>Asian, non-Hispanic (%)</i>	2.5	0.9	4.0	2.0
<i>Two or more races or ethnicities reported (%)</i>	2.5	0.9	1.0	1.3
<b>Number of years head has been in the position</b>				
<i>11+ years (%)</i>	12.3	16.0	14.9	15.0
<i>4–10 years (%)</i>	30.9	36.5	34.7	34.9
<i>3 years or less (%)</i>	56.8	47.5	50.5	50.1
Teaching is part of duties (% yes)	54.9	70.0	43.6	60.3
<b>Staffing Features</b>				
Faculty members report to honors (% yes)	3.6	7.7	40.0	14.8
Number of full-time faculty (mean for those who said yes)	—	2.3	5.8	4.5
Number of part-time faculty (mean for those who said yes)	—	1.9	4.2	3.3
"Barrowed" faculty assigned to teach in honors (% yes)	79.5	61.4	77.2	69.1
Number of full-time faculty (mean for those who said yes)	13.9	11.6	35.0	18.5
Number of part-time faculty (mean for those who said yes)	2.4	1.8	6.6	3.2
Faculty can receive tenure in honors (% yes)	0.0	0.9	7.9	2.5
Honors faculty advisory committee (% yes)	89.2	87.3	83.2	86.6
Paid student workers (% yes)	38.6	66.7	94.0	67.7
Number student workers (mean among those who said yes)	2.2	3.5	6.7	4.4
<b>Student Costs and Benefits</b>				
Honors housing (% yes)	7.1	67.4	88.0	60.0
Living/learning programming (% yes)	1.2	45.5	70.3	42.6
Scholarships for hon. housing (% yes among those with hon. housing)	—	32.7	65.5	44.2
Scholarships for on-campus housing (% yes)	8.4	23.5	51.5	27.4
Scholarships for tuition and/or fees (% yes)	77.4	59.5	85.9	69.7
<b>On-campus academic space</b>				
<i>None (%)</i>	28.9	30.5	6.1	24.1
<i>Free-standing honors building (%)</i>	2.4	14.1	39.4	17.9
<i>Other space (%)</i>	68.7	55.5	54.5	57.9
Separate fee for honors (% yes)	4.8	4.6	17.0	7.8
Fee, in dollars per year (mean among those who said yes)	—	74.3	552.1	373.3

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<b>Curricular Features</b>				
Have courses that fulfill general education requirements (% yes)	96.4	96.3	97.0	96.5
Percentage undergraduate credits in honors (mean)	23.8	18.8	24.3	21.1
Thesis requirement in honors (% yes)	7.4	57.4	58.0	47.4
Capstone course in honors (% yes)	37.3	51.1	45.0	46.8
Service requirement in honors (% yes)	41.5	38.6	32.3	37.6
Service learning courses in honors (% yes)	53.7	41.0	61.0	48.6
Study abroad courses in honors (% yes)	28.9	57.5	79.8	57.1
Experiential education courses in honors (% yes)	34.1	50.0	61.6	49.6
Research-intensive honors courses (% yes)	69.5	77.8	93.1	79.9
Internships specifically for honors students (% yes)	12.0	15.3	43.6	21.8
Honors courses with online/courseware component (% yes)	60.2	32.4	50.5	42.6
Honors distance education courses that are entirely online (% yes)	25.6	7.3	17.8	13.6
<b>Administrative Features</b>				
Has a strategic plan (% yes)	44.4	50.2	82.2	57.1
Produces an annual report (% yes)	56.6	67.3	72.3	66.3
Implements an assessment plan (% yes)	64.2	66.7	83.0	70.3
Has periodic program reviews by external visitors (% yes)	32.9	40.3	44.6	39.8
Has periodic financial audits by the university (% yes)	51.2	53.6	76.2	58.9
<b>Advancement Features</b>				
Has an alumni association or chapter (% yes)	13.3	15.1	42.6	21.6
Holds periodic alumni programming (% yes)	12.0	28.6	63.0	33.7
Honors is expected to raise external funds (% yes)	22.9	25.5	74.7	37.2
Has an advisory council for fundraising and advancement (% yes)	10.8	11.0	46.5	19.9

Sources: The NCHC 2016 *Census of U.S. Honors Programs and Colleges* and the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems (IPEDS) 2014 institutional data files.

Notes: Em dashes (—) indicate instances where too few respondents or too few data existed to reasonably calculate summary statistics.

## Appendix. Description of Census Items

Item/Question	Level of Measurement	Description/Response Options
<b>Institutional Features</b>		
Size of institution (from fall 2014 IPEDS data)	Ratio	Number of undergraduate full-time equivalent students
How many students were in your honors program/college in fall 2015?	Ratio	Number of students
Institutional control (from fall 2014 IPEDS data)	Nominal	(1) Public; (2) Private, non-profit; (3) Private, for-profit
Percentage of women among honors students	Ratio	Calculated from the number of men and women students reported in honors
Carnegie classification (from fall 2014 IPEDS data)	Nominal	(1) Research/Doctoral University; (2) Master's University; (3) Baccalaureate College; (4) Associate's College
<b>Leadership Features</b>		
What is the title of the person who heads your honors program/college?	Nominal	(1) Coordinator; (2) Director; (3) Dean; (4) Other
Percentage of full-time equivalency (FTE) for honors head	Ordinal	Calculated from two Census items asking whether the honors head was in a full-time dedicated position in honors or less than full-time, and, among those less than full-time, what the percent of full-time equivalency for the position was. Respondents were then grouped into those who were (1) full-time dedicated honors administrators; (2) 50–99% of full-time equivalency; or (3) less than 50% of full-time equivalency.
Is the appointment of this position on a twelve-month contract or something less than twelve months?	Nominal	(1) 12 month contract; (2) Contract for fewer than 12 months each year
What is the current base annual salary (gross salary, before taxes) of the person who heads honors?	Ratio	Asked only of those who indicated that they were full-time dedicated honors administrators, the response options for the original Census question were in \$5,000 increments starting with "Less than \$30,000" and topping out at "\$200,000 or greater." Single point estimates of individual salaries were then derived from categorical response options by taking the midpoint of each range as the salary. Of the 121 who responded to the question, zero indicated a salary less than \$30,000, and 11 indicated a salary in the top category of \$200,000 or greater. For those in the upper category of 200K+, estimates were derived using a formula based on fitting the Pareto curve to the upper end of the income distribution (see Hout 2004; Lignon 1994). Individual salaries were then adjusted for those reporting work on a contract shorter than 12 months per year. Those reporting work on contracts shorter than 12 months per year were assumed to have 10 month contracts and salaries were adjusted upward accordingly by multiplying by a factor of 1.2.
What is the highest degree earned of the current head of honors?	Ordinal	(1) Associate's degree; (2) Bachelor's degree; (3) Master's degree; (4) Doctoral degree--professional practice; (5) Doctoral degree--research/scholarship; (6) Other
What is the disciplinary area of the highest degree earned by the current head of honors?	Nominal	28 separate disciplinary response options were presented under broad division headings including "Education," "Fine Arts or Humanities," "Mathematics, Engineering, or Natural/Physical Sciences," "Social or Behavioral Sciences," and "Other Field," including a write-in option for a specific "Other Field." For the purposes of this analysis, specific discipline responses were grouped into the larger divisions for simplicity.
What is the gender of the current head of honors?	Nominal	Respondents were asked to select from among (1) Man; (2) Woman; (3) Transgender ( <i>note</i> only one respondent indicated transgender).
What is the race-ethnicity of the current head of honors?	Nominal	Respondents were given the option to select all that applied from among (1) African American or Black; (2) American Indian or Alaskan Native; (3) Asian; (4) Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin; (5) Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander; (6) White; and (7) "Some other race-ethnicity." Responses were examined for common groupings, and then coded to group into the following mutually exclusive categories: (1) White non-Hispanic; (2) African American, non-Hispanic; (3) Hispanic; (4) Asian, non-Hispanic; (5) Two or more races or ethnicities reported.
How many years has the current head of honors served in that position?	Ordinal	The original Census item was coded as a ratio measure of the number whole years serving in the position. If less than one year, respondents were instructed to report zero. For this analysis, respondents were then grouped into categories based on the following ranges: (1) 3 years or less; (2) 4–10 years; and (3) 11 years or more.
Is teaching credit bearing courses part of the duties included in the job description for the position described above [honors head]?	Nominal	Yes/No
<b>Staffing Features</b>		
Do you have professional (i.e., non-student) staff assigned to honors?	Nominal	Yes/No
Not including the honors head, how many full-time staff positions do you have in honors right now? [asked of those who said yes to previous]	Ratio	Number of full-time staff positions other than honors head
Do you have one or more honors advisors?	Nominal	Yes/No
Do you have a development officer in honors?	Nominal	Yes/No
Do you have an information technology (IT) officer in honors?	Nominal	Yes/No
Do you have a national fellowships/scholarships advisor in honors?	Nominal	Yes/No
Do you have a recruitment officer in honors?	Nominal	Yes/No
Do you have faculty members who report to honors rather than some other home (i.e., disciplinary) department?	Nominal	Yes/No
How many full-time faculty do you have who report to honors? [asked of those who said yes to previous]	Ratio	Number of full-time faculty who report to honors
How many part-time faculty do you have who report to honors? [asked of those who said yes to previous]	Ratio	Number of part-time faculty who report to honors
Do you have faculty who do not report to honors but are assigned to teach in honors on a regular, recurring basis?	Nominal	Yes/No
How many full-time faculty do you have who do not report to honors but are assigned to teach in honors on a regular, recurring basis? [asked of those who said yes to previous]	Ratio	Number of full-time "borrowed" faculty
How many part-time faculty do you have who do not report to honors but are assigned to teach in honors on a regular, recurring basis? [asked of those who said yes to previous]	Ratio	Number of part-time "borrowed" faculty
Can honors faculty receive tenure in honors?	Nominal	Yes/No
Do you have an honors faculty advisory committee?	Nominal	Yes/No
Do you have paid student workers who provide clerical or other support in honors?	Nominal	Yes/No
How many paid student workers do you typically have at any one time whom you can schedule for work in honors? [asked of those who said yes to previous]	Ratio	Number of paid student workers

Item/Question	Level of Measurement	Description/Response Options
<b>Student Costs and Benefits of Honors</b>		
Do you have designated honors housing available?	Nominal	Yes/No
Do you have honors living/learning programming?	Nominal	Yes/No
Are there honors-specific scholarships available at your school that can be used to cover expenses for honors housing? [asked of those who said yes to having honors housing]	Nominal	Yes/No
Are there honors-specific scholarships available at your school that can be used to cover expenses for on-campus housing regardless of whether it is honors-designated housing?	Nominal	Yes/No
Are there honors-specific scholarships available at your school that can be used to cover tuition and/or fees?	Nominal	Yes/No
Which of the following best describes the honors academic space on campus?	Ordinal	Calculated from two Census items asking whether honors has academic space on campus, and, among those who said yes, which of the following best describes the honors academic space on campus. Response options in the Census were (1) "We have a free-standing honors building"; (2) "We have an honors center but not our own building"; (3) "We have one or more honors offices but not our own center"; and (4) "Other," followed by a write-in option. Common examples of other write-in options were lounges, library spaces, honors classrooms, and one respondent indicated they had an entire honors campus. Responses were examined for common groupings, and for this analysis responses were then coded to group into the following categories: (1) None; (2) Free-standing honors building; and (3) Other space.
Is there a separate fee that honors students pay to participate in honors in addition to the regular tuition and fees charged to enroll at your institution?	Nominal	Yes/No
How much is that fee for the year? [asked of those who said yes to the previous]	Ratio	Fee, in dollars
<b>Curricular Features</b>		
Do you have honors contract courses?	Nominal	Yes/No
Do you have departmental honors?	Nominal	Yes/No
Do you have separate honors courses that are available only to students in your honors program/college?	Nominal	Yes/No
Do you have an interdisciplinary honors curriculum?	Nominal	Yes/No
Do you have honors courses that fulfill general education requirements?	Nominal	Yes/No
What is the percentage of undergraduate credits that are earned in honors courses or other credit bearing honors requirements?	Ratio	Percentage of credits
Do you have a thesis requirement in honors?	Nominal	Yes/No
Do you have a capstone course in honors?	Nominal	Yes/No
Do you have a service requirement in honors?	Nominal	Yes/No
Do you have service learning courses in honors?	Nominal	Yes/No
Do you have study abroad courses in honors?	Nominal	Yes/No
Do you have experiential education courses in honors?	Nominal	Yes/No
Do you have honors courses that are research-intensive?	Nominal	Yes/No
Do you have internships specifically for honors students?	Nominal	Yes/No
Do you have honors courses with an online/courseware component?	Nominal	Yes/No
Do you have honors distance education courses that are entirely online?	Nominal	Yes/No
<b>Administrative Features</b>		
Does honors have a strategic plan?	Nominal	Yes/No
Does honors produce an annual report?	Nominal	Yes/No
Does honors implement an assessment plan?	Nominal	Yes/No
Does honors undergo periodic program review by external visitors?	Nominal	Yes/No
Does honors undergo periodic financial audit by the university?	Nominal	Yes/No
<b>Program Advancement Features</b>		
Does honors have an alumni association or chapter?	Nominal	Yes/No
Does honors hold periodic alumni programming?	Nominal	Yes/No
Does your institution expect honors to raise funds from external sources?	Nominal	Yes/No
Does honors have an advisory council for fundraising/development/advancement?	Nominal	Yes/No

Note: Items come from the NCHC 2016 *Census of U.S. Honors Programs and Colleges* unless otherwise indicated. Data for institutional size, control, and Carnegie classification come from the U.S. Department of Education Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) 2014 data files available online at [nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter/DataFiles.aspx](http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter/DataFiles.aspx).