Community College Honors Programs:
*Increasing Access to the Baccalaureate Degree*

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Agenda

• Community college honors programs: overview
• Honors program/curriculum models
• Honors local, state, national organizations
• Advantages
• Transfer benefits
• Community college honors research opportunities
• UCLA TAP and other transfer partners
• Student success stories
• Q & A

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Community College to 4-Year Pathway

- Community college transfer versus freshman admission
- Honors program models
  - Cohort
  - Flexible
- Guaranteed and preferred transfer opportunities

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Community College Honors Curriculum

• Differs from the high school AP/IB experience
• Curriculum models
  – Designated honors courses
  – Stacked honors courses
  – Honors contracts
• Transferable courses
How does honors participation support students?

Research on UCLA Transfer students (Kozeracki and Fitzgerald, 2002)

“Honors students have a higher community college GPA and a higher GPA at time of UCLA graduation (statistically significant difference).”

- Challenges and motivates high-achieving students
- Fosters interactions among similarly-minded students
- Provides challenging academic preparation
- Offers supplemental transfer-focused counseling
- Impact on transfer admission
UCLA Research: How Do Honors Programs Support Community College Transfer Students

• Increases Academic Success
  – Additional assistance with transfer process
  – Enhanced/rigorous classes and discussion

• Increases Social Success
  – Engaged in a community of highly motivated students
  – Increased Student and Professor interaction

• Personal Growth
  – Increased confidence
  – Increased focus on academic goals

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Honors Research Opportunities

- Bay Area Community College Honors Research Symposium
- Honors Transfer Council of California Research Conference at UC Irvine
- University collaboration (e.g. Stanford, UCSC, SJSU)

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The Honors Advantage

• Transfer admission (UC: comprehensive review)
• Rigorous curriculum prepares students for upper division success
• Increased student engagement
• Smaller class size
• Faculty Mentorship
• Specialized counseling Cost-saving
• Scholarship opportunities

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UCLA TAP: Transfer Alliance Program

- Target: historically underserved students
- Dramatic increase in transfer admission
- Community colleges certified to participate
  - American River
  - Cabrillo College
  - Canada College
  - City College of San Francisco
  - College of San Mateo
  - Foothill College
  - Los Medanos College
  - Sacramento City College
  - Skyline College
  - West Valley College

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UC Irvine Guaranteed Transfer

- Complete community college honors program with 3.7 GPA
- Early decision
- Honors to honors program advantage
- Scholarships
Other HTCC Transfer Partners
Where do community college honors students transfer?

To selective universities ....
- UC Berkeley
- UCLA
- Brown
- Penn
- Mt. Holyoke
- USC
- Stanford University
- Cornell
- SJSU
- Mills College
- New York University
- Columbia University
- Santa Clara University
  and many more!

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In what types of majors do community college honors students major?

- Biological Sciences
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Economics
- Engineering
- English Literature
- History
- Mathematics
- Nursing
- Political Economics
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology
Student Success Story: Cabrillo College
Matt Snider

Scotts Valley High ➔ Azusa Pacific University ➔ Cabrillo College Honors Transfer Program ➔ UCLA ➔ (Goal of Law School)

“My 180-degree evolution from the 18-year-old college athlete who prioritized everything but school, to the student in the Honors Program at UCLA aspiring to attend a top law school would not have been remotely possible were it not for the Honors Transfer Program at Cabrillo College. The program faculty’s constant support and guidance, the rigorous coursework, and the resources provided to Honors students were invaluable to me and helped me realize new goals.”
Student Success Story:
Foothill College

Dani Hayes

Foothill Honors → UCLA → Columbia University → U Penn → Cambridge (Ph.D.)

“I am writing to thank all the staff in the honors program for providing me with endless support, rigorous course work, and a community where I finally belonged. Not bad for a ‘high school dropout,’ with a Certificate of Proficiency.”

“Foothill College gave me a great education, and the Honors Program, provided me with an even more rigorous one...without it, I have no idea where I would be today. I now believe the sky really is the limit.”

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What students are saying...

- “The Honors Program has changed my life and opened up academic opportunities I would have never thought possible.“
- “I wanted to tell you how much I have appreciated the Honor's Program. It has been so nice to be in classes with other students who care, and not be the obnoxious nerd that is the only one interested in the class. It has been a safe space to learn and dig deeper than most other classes at Cabrillo. The instructors have all been phenomenal. It also helped me get the Baskin Foundation scholarship, which is paying for most of my UC tuition! The honors program has been the best thing about Cabrillo!”

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What do transfer students report?

“On my first paper at Stanford, I got an A! I was really overjoyed.... Yes, I can do this. I can work as hard as I did at Foothill and get A’s at Stanford.”

Gillian Gentry, Foothill Honors student and Stanford transfer
More Student Feedback...

- “I just wanted to tell you... I got 100% on my first midterm. Cabrillo prepared me well for Cal ... the Sociology 2H class fully prepared me for my essay exam last week. Thank you for having such an awesome honors program!! “

- "The Honors Program at Cabrillo College feels a lot like a private school experience. I love to study in a smaller group of like-minded individuals that encourages participation and stretches my academic abilities. Honors classes are challenging but they make me feel confident about my transfer to a four-year college this Fall. I recommend you enroll in the program and experience this tremendous asset that we have at Cabrillo!“

- "I loved being in the Honors Program. My professors (all of them) were absolutely wonderful and I felt completely prepared transferring to a four-year. My advice: throw yourself into this program. You'll meet great people - students and professors - and be in an environment where hard work is rewarded."

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California Community College Transfer Students

- Allen Broussard: Associate Justice, California Supreme Court (City College of San Francisco)
- Beverly Cleary: Best-selling children's author (Chaffey College)
- Guy Fieri: Celebrity Chef & TV Personality (College of the Redwoods, American River College)
- Michael Finck: United States Astronaut (El Camino College)
- Tom Hanks: Actor/Director (Chabot College)
- George Lucas: Film Director (Modesto Junior College)

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Notable Community
College Transfers

- **Gilberto Palacios-Perez**: *Rocket Scientist* (East Los Angeles College)
- **Aaron Rodgers**: *Most Valuable Player Super Bowl XLV* (Butte College)
- **Jim Sinegal**: Co-founder of Costco Wholesale Corporation (San Diego City College)
- **Amy Tan**: Best-selling *Novelist/Author* (San Jose City College)
- **Gaddi Vasquez**: Former Peace Corps Director, U.S. Ambassador (Santa Ana College)
- **Robin Williams**: Actor/Comedian (College of Marin)

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Questions ?