

San Diego State University University Honors Program

Mission Statement

By creating an intentional community of diverse, engaged scholars, the University Honors Program at San Diego State cultivates intellectual curiosity, creative and critical thinking, a sympathetic interest in the world (reflected, e.g., in a commitment to Study Abroad), an attuned moral compass, and a willingness to craft a deliberate future. Because we see open-mindedness and a willingness to ask questions at the core of inquiry and discovery, our program begins not with answers, but with questions.

- What kind of world do you want?
- What kind of difference will you make?
- What kind of future will you map?

University Honors Program Core Values

- Equality and Diversity
- Flexibility and Openness
- Imagination and Curiosity
- Integrity and Persistence
- Compassion and Courage
- Excellence and Accountability
- Generosity and Engagement
- Teamwork and Collaboration

Student Core Competencies

The faculty and staff of the University Honors Program have established five Core Competencies that describe the learning outcomes for an SDSU Honors Program graduate. They are: THINK, VALUE, PERCEIVE, COMMUNICATE, ACT. These general competencies can be applied in many contexts and can continue to be developed throughout a lifetime. Among other things, they specify how learning can be embodied in life and assessed in practice. Students will use the descriptions and examples of academic work for each competency to identify relevant samples from their academic work and incorporate the work into their Portfolios.

Think:

think clearly, critically, and creatively, analyze, synthesize, integrate and evaluate in many domains of human inquiry

To think, what must you do?

- 📖 analyze data, ideas, patterns, perspectives, problems, and opportunities
- 📖 employ the facts, concepts, procedures, and principles of the discipline
- 📖 integrate ideas and values from different disciplines
- 📖 frame issues and ask meaningful (and interesting) questions
- 📖 draw well-supported conclusions
- 📖 revise conclusions consistent with new observations, interpretations, or reasons

How and where must you think?

- with curiosity and consistency
- individually and in groups

Incorporate samples of my work which demonstrate that I can:

- ✓ identify data, ideas, patterns, perspectives
- ✓ use facts, concepts, procedures, and principles
- ✓ frame issues and pose questions
- ✓ draw well-supported conclusions but leave room for caveats and uncertainties
- ✓ integrate ideas and values from different disciplines
- ✓ revise my conclusions in light of new observations, interpretations, or reasons

Value:

make reasoned judgments and responsible commitments

To value, what must you do?

- 📖 recognize values as expressed in attitudes, choices, and commitments
- 📖 distinguish among personal, ethical, aesthetic, cultural, and scientific values
- 📖 employ values and standards of judgment from different disciplines
- 📖 evaluate your own and others' values from individual, cultural, and global perspectives
- 📖 articulate a considered and self-determined set of values

How and where must you value?

- with empathy and fair-mindedness
- individually and in groups

Incorporate samples of my work that demonstrate that I can:

- ✓ identify values expressed in feelings, attitudes, beliefs, choices, and commitments
- ✓ recognize my own and others' values
- ✓ distinguish among personal, ethical, aesthetic, cultural, and scientific values
- ✓ employ values and standards of judgment from different disciplines
- ✓ evaluate my own and others' values from global or universal perspectives
- ✓ commit to actions consistent with a considered and self-determined set of values

Perceive and Discover:

To perceive is to take note of something, and often to see something in a particular way; To discover is to actively seek new objects, new arenas, worthy of your notice, and may involve noticing things that have escaped the notice of others

To perceive and discover, what must you do?

- 📖 actively attend to knowledge and life, flexibly
- 📖 employ the perspective of an academic discipline, while also learning to see through the lens of more than one discipline
- 📖 identify complex patterns of understanding
- 📖 read books, engage in conversations, and travel abroad, while open to new ways of looking at the world

📖 revise your ways of seeing the world as you embrace new observations and integrate new experiences

How and where must you perceive and discover?

- at home, and abroad, with curiosity and an openness to experience
- individually, and in groups, with vivid recognition that not everyone views life in an identical manner

Incorporate samples of my work that demonstrate that I can:

- ✓ identify patterns and meanings that are not immediately given in perception
- ✓ shift perceptual frames and strategies in moving into new contexts
- ✓ view problems and issues from multiple perspectives
- ✓ integrate insights from different disciplines, view reality through multiple lenses
- ✓ refine my perceptions and expand my search in light of new experiences and insights

Communicate:

communicate with different audiences using varied means

To communicate, what must you do?

- 📖 identify your own strengths and need for improvement as communicator
- 📖 employ methods of communication appropriate to your audience and purpose
- 📖 evaluate the effectiveness of your own and others' communication

How and where must you communicate?

- by speaking, listening, reading and writing
- verbally, non-verbally, and visually
- with honesty and civility
- in different disciplines and settings

Incorporate samples of my work that demonstrate that I can:

- ✓ identify my own strengths and weaknesses as a communicator, oral and written
- ✓ analyze audiences to improve communication in various settings
- ✓ communicate in different contexts, settings, and disciplines
- ✓ evaluate effectiveness of my own and others' communication

Act:

act purposefully, effectively, and responsibly

To act, what must you do?

- 📖 apply disciplinary knowledge, skills, and values to educational and career goals
- 📖 identify opportunities consistent with goals, values, and principles
- 📖 implement effective problem-solving, decision-making, and goal-setting strategies
- 📖 act effectively and appropriately in various personal and professional settings
- 📖 assess the effectiveness of personal behavior and choices
- 📖 respond appropriately to changing circumstances

How and where must you act?

- with courage and perseverance
- individually and in groups
- in your personal, professional, and community life

Incorporate samples of my work that demonstrate that I can:

- ✓ act effectively and appropriately in different contexts and settings
- ✓ implement problem-solving and decision-making strategies
- ✓ manage my time and activities in daily life
- ✓ apply disciplinary knowledge, skills, values to my goals
- ✓ plan for and implement desirable change in response to circumstances