

A Student's Perspective of Program Redesign

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National Collegiate Honors Council: Basic Characteristics (Attributes on which we chose to focus in our redesign)

- “Honors students are assured a voice in the governance and direction of the honors program.”
- “The program has a standing committee or council of faculty members that works with the director or other administrative officer and is involved in honors curriculum, governance, policy, development, and evaluation deliberations.”
- “The program emphasizes active learning and participatory education by offering opportunities for students to participate in regional and national conferences, Honors Semesters, international programs, community service, internships, undergraduate research, and other types of experiential education.”
- “The program serves as a laboratory within which faculty feel welcome to experiment with new subjects, approaches, and pedagogies.”
- “The program provides a locus of visible and highly reputed standards and models of excellence for students and faculty across the campus.”



Background

- New director
- Low program enrollment
- Messy curriculum and acceptance procedures

The Process

- Institutional program review: taking a critical evaluation, researching the best practices and implementing them
- Honors advisory council composed of faculty, professional staff, and honors student-members
- Redesign seminar

Achievements

- An “Honors floor” in residential buildings
- Increased conference participation
- Higher program enrollment
- Honors ambassadors
- Learning opportunity for students involved in program review
- Networking for students with administrative members
- Honors center for members to utilize
- student-student connections



Suggestions

- Develop an environment that allows students to evaluate and give honest feedback
- Consider a redesign seminar course
- valuing student opinions in redesign
- working directly with the program director
- networking to enhance both student and program recognition

On the Horizon

- Collaboration with honor societies
- Campus grants for research projects
- Honors scholarships
- “Honors RA’s”

