

What is an Honors Outcomes Portfolio?

Well, it's an electronic file folder. You will find one created (just for you!) on the K drive. It's probably empty right now—but you can change that. Only you and the Honors program administrators have access to that file folder. In fact, we'd like you to change the email address currently identifying the folder to 'YOUR NAME', asap.

Do I have to fill one?

If you are in the General Honors program or entered the University Honors program in fall 2007 or later, YES.

If you started Honors prior to Fall 2007, you can choose to follow the Honors program requirements that were in place when you entered (4 core classes + three 311s and 312 OR 2 311s, 312, 490, and 495) OR you can opt to follow the new curriculum requirements of the University Honors program (see appropriate checklist). If what you just read makes no sense, talk to Dr. M or Dr. E.

What's it for?

It's for you to record your Honors Program achievements here at SU and to reflect on your growth as a campus citizen in three of six possible categories (Athletics, Community Service and Outreach, Culture and Diversity, International Study, Language Proficiency, and Leadership). In it, you should try and keep examples of your best Honors work. You are required, prior to the end of the fifth week of the semester in which you graduate, to have AT LEAST three assignments, from three different Honors classes, in the folder (that's 3 total examples for you mathematically challenged folks). The choice of assignments to put in here is wide open, but you should think about demonstrating your range as a scholar here at SU. Try and pick pieces that best represent your writing, critical thinking, and research skills—as well as (possibly) your creativity and individualism. Your Honors Thesis can be one of these examples. You also need to put a current resume or vita in there too.

What if I haven't got papers from old classes?

Put papers in from new classes. You can track assignments down, surely!

What if I don't know what to put in there?

Use common sense. If you haven't got any, role play: if you were looking to hire a graduating Honors student, what types of writing would you like to see in order to know what type of writer/scholar that person was? You may want to gear your types of assignments to potential employers or graduate school admissions officers.

Why do the Honors administrators get to see it?

We will look at it in your semester of graduation to make sure that it has everything you need in it. We will review it in order to see that you have performed satisfactorily in the Honors Program and, in some cases, to learn more about you as a rounded scholar-citizen. When you email us in three years asking for a recommendation letter, it will be a big help to us to be able to peek into it and remind us of who you are (thus the vita!).

What if the Honors program administrators don't like what they see in it?

They'll let you know. If there is a simple misunderstanding about just what materials should be in there, that's a quick problem to solve. If there is another issue, then the administrators will contact you and have a chat.

What about all this campus citizen stuff?

The categories are broad and receptive, allowing you to explore some of the many avenues open to you here at SU. We want you to seize the opportunities offered to you at a University—and to embrace the 'idea' of a University, which is to "Learn, Live, Lead", after all. Explore!

What happens to this folder?

It stays active as long as you are here at SU. Once you graduate, it will be archived for a few years before eventually being removed from the system.

So what do I have to do for these categories? What is 'evidence of campus citizenship'?

Well, we'd like to see short-ish (500 words or so) narratives addressing each of three categories of interest/relevance to you from the following:

- Athletics
- Community Service and Outreach
- Culture and Diversity
- International Study
- Language Proficiency
- Leadership

What is evidence? You tell us! Did you star in a theatre production? What was that like? As a lacrosse player, tell us how it feels to run around in 100 degree heat—and what makes you want to do that. Ultimate Frisbee competitor? Going to West Virginia three weekends this semester with the kayak club? Have you started your own 'Save Tibet' organization? Did you hear a Senator speak last semester? Did you go to the Tai-Chi demonstration? Is music important to you—has it been part of your experience at SU? When Gandhi is here, do you go to learn about his life? Have you spoken up at a Mind Shrapnel in the Honors house but have more to say about it? Are you in the HSA or other on-campus organizations? Can you speak a foreign language? Which one and how did you come to choose it? What does it lend to you as a person to be able to do that? Have you studied abroad? To where, when, and why? Do you work for Habitat for Humanity over spring break—and why?

Think about it this way: we know you in class and perhaps around the Honors House, but we don't know what else you are doing on campus (for the most part). Here's your chance to clue us in. We want the portfolio to be a place where you can reflect upon and investigate the ways in which your campus experiences inform your own self-perception. Ultimately we hope that these reflections will help you better understand how your whole experience at SU fits together, and so better communicate what your experiences have prepared you to do in life after graduation.

So what do I do now?

Check out the Honors area of the K drive—and have a look in your own file folder; you should be able to find it under your email address. Change the email address to your name—and then think about what you are going to put in it!

How do I label stuff?

Be sensible—call documents (preferably WORD!) by their class name (212 paper, for example) or your reflective pieces by the categories in which you want them to be considered ('Culture' or 'Leadership').

What if I still have questions?

Email Dr. Morrison (lxmorrison) or stop by her office (upstairs in the Honors House).