

Conspectus of NTCC Honors Committee¹ Rulings

As of 3 December, 2013

- 1. Cornerstone Documents:** **1.1** Founding Document: Passed by the NTCC Board of Trustees in March of 2007. This document invested the Committee with the power to deal with the policies of the program, with exceptions, courses, contracts, and professors, as well as to initiate recommendations for improvements to the Vice President for Instruction. **1.2** Proposal to Institutionalize a Viable Two-Year Honors Program at NTCC, March 2010. This proposal which was approved by the President's Cabinet in April of 2010 created the Humusic Seminar, and English Capstone course for sophomores.
- 2. Admission:** **2.1** The Committee has continued to reaffirm original concerns that national test scores be in the rubric. **2.2** Spring of 2008, the Committee adopted the current 100 point rubric to rank applicants. **2.3** The Committee ruled in May of 2012 that a statement be added to the honors application that false information could lead to a future dismissal from the program.
- 3. Contract Inclusions:** **3.1** That Honors students should not work in outside employment over 20 hours (2009). **3.2** That Honors Students should agree contractually to be on campus four days a week (2012).
- 4. Graduation Gifts:** **4.1** In 2011, the Committee supported graduation gifts for Presidential Scholars who graduate in good standing with an associate degree. The Committee accepted Dr. Yox's proposal to figure-in the degree to which H. students have kept their contractual obligations with a standard rubric of merits and demerits, allowing the program to exclude sophomores from this award who have not maintained their codes.

¹ Since 2008, the Honors Committee has consisted of Joy Cooper, Robert Fenton, David Rangel, Andrew Yox, and the elected leader of the Honors Student Council. In 2013-14 the president is Matthew Jordan.

- 5. Honors Code Violations: 5.1** (December 2013) The Committee ruled that no honors student or honors professor should expect a student's code of honor to be amended. Signed agreements, like signed checks, illustrate a willingness to keep promises. When professors allow students to break signed agreements, or when students connive to do so, students lose a most important attribute, as important as grades—character.
- 6. Honors Orientation: 6.1** It was resolved in December 2011 to have an Honors Orientation before classes started.
- 7. Honors Probation: 7.1** In 2012, the Committee allowed for Honors Probation in the case of students who had dropped beneath program requirements in terms of required Grade Point averages. The probation, at the discretion of the Honors Director, would allow the student one semester to re-qualify for GPA and Honors Code requirements. **7.2** When students have failed to keep the requirements, the Honors Director should send the student a letter explaining why (s)he will no longer be in the program.
- 8. Ranking of Scholars in Tiers: 8.1** In spring of 2009, because of a downward revision of the scholarship account for Honors, the Committee created two ranks: Presidential Scholars, who received the major scholarships, and Honors Scholars who received lesser amounts. **8.2** The Honors Director can build a case for changing the ranks of Honors Students, the proposal being contingent on acceptance by the Committee.
- 9. Scholarships: 9.1** The Committee decided in 2011 that Honors Scholarships should be smaller for the first semester and larger for the second. This was meant to encourage continued participation of the second tier of honors students.
- 10. Trips: 10.1** The Committee has continued to support institutionally funded trips that involve honors students making presentations or receiving awards, trips that enhance the resumes of honors students. Such trips should involve attendance at the meetings of major professional or honors associations.