

# University College

Gloria G. Jones, Dean  
Nakia Pope, Assistant Dean

Founded on July 1, 2003, University College brings together programs focused on increasing student achievement and engagement across the university. The College coordinates and guides programs from both academic affairs and student affairs across disciplines to ensure that all Winthrop students, regardless of their ultimate goals, have a common academic foundation as they commence their course of major study.

University College is home of the Touchstone Program, Winthrop's distinctive foundational academic experience. Winthrop's Touchstone Core--ACAD 101: Principles of the Learning Academy; WRIT 101: Introduction to Academic Discourse; HMXP 102: The Human Experience: Who Am I; and CRTW 201: Critical Reading, Thinking, and Writing--captures the dynamic quality of Winthrop's academic environment that provides students with a framework for learning and responsible decision making that they will use throughout their lives.

Also located in University College are the Honors program, the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards, the Distinction in Leadership Program, the International Center, the LEAP program, the McNair Scholars Program, TRiO, the Undeclared Advising Office for students who have not declared a major, the Office of Undergraduate Research, the Academic Success Center, the Common Book project, the Academic Instruction and Testing Center, and the Resource Center for Adult Students. In addition, the Teaching and Learning Center provides professional development opportunities for faculty and staff and orientation for faculty new to Winthrop. Programs housed in Student Life, such as Orientation and the Academic Success Communities, as well as programs in Career and Civic Engagement, coordinate with University College to enhance students' opportunities for intellectual, civic, and personal achievement.

## Programs for Superior Students--Honors Program

*Honors Mission Statement.* Winthrop University's Honors Program is designed to enrich the college experience for highly talented and motivated students. Through interactions with outstanding faculty and peers, a vital community of scholars is created that embraces the pursuit of knowledge for the enhancement of intellectual and personal growth.

*Distinguishing Features.* The Winthrop Honors Program has evolved into one of the university's most exciting offerings. During the first semester of the freshman year, students are invited to take honors courses based on their high school grade point average and ACT/SAT score. The program requires completion of at least 23 hours of honors courses and a service learning course/project. To receive honors credit for a course, the student must complete the course with minimum grade of B. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.30 is required to enroll in honors courses.

Winthrop's Honors Program courses include:

- **Symposia** that bring together talented students and exceptional teachers in a small group setting.
- **Interdisciplinary Seminars** that integrate information from different areas of study.
- **Instructional alternatives** such as team-teaching, guest lectures, or visits to sites or events associated with the subject of study.
- **Special Topics courses** that fulfill Touchstone Program (general education) requirements
- **Learning enrichment** through multicultural and international studies.
- **Civic engagement and service learning** in independent and cooperative settings.
- **Special privileges** including extended library checkout during honors thesis work, honors advising, and honors residence hall accommodations.

### *Requirements for the Honors Program Degree:*

- **General Education Component:** HMXP 102H, CRTW 201H (6 credit hours).
- **Coursework Component:** Completion of 15 credit hours of honors coursework with a minimum of 6 credit hours in the major and 3 credit hours outside the major.
- **Cultural Component:** One honors symposium must be completed (1 credit hour).
- **Independent Study Component:** A senior thesis/project must be completed in the major (may count as 3 credit hours in the major or as HONR 450H - Honors Thesis for 3 credit hours) and completion of HONR 451H - Thesis Symposium (1 credit hour) at the time the thesis is written.
- **Service Learning Component:** A service learning class/project must be completed.

In addition to the Honors Program Degree, Winthrop encourages honors students to participate in international study abroad opportunities by offering an Honors Program Degree with International Experience.

### *Requirements for the Honors Program Degree with International Experience:*

- **Same Components** as for the Honors Program Degree above.
- **International Experience:** Completion of an extended experience outside the U. S. in a learning environment. A semester of study abroad in an exchange program, or other university program, is the best and most common way to meet this requirement. The equivalent of a semester abroad, comprised of several short international experiences of at least three weeks each, will also meet this requirement.

## Honors Course Categories

**Honors sections of regular courses** are smaller, more selective versions of standard courses. For example, instead of a lecture class with standardized tests, honors sections may consist of 15 students graded on the basis of in-depth essays and contributions to class discussions.

**Special topics courses** are generally interdisciplinary in nature, sometimes taught by two faculty from different disciplines. Food and Power: Politics, Public Policy and Hunger; The Arthurian Tradition; and The Films of Orson Welles are examples of recent special topics courses. Such courses make it possible to cover subjects of particular interest to current honors students.

**Special topics courses that fulfill Touchstone Program (general education) requirements.** These courses will contribute to the fulfillment of requirements in the areas of Global Perspectives, Historical Perspectives, the Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, and the Natural Sciences. Recent courses include The Psychology of War, Texts You Won't Find in the New Testament, and Theory in the Flesh.

**Contracted honors courses** allow honors students to earn honors credit in subjects for which no formal honors courses are available. Any course is eligible, provided the student contracts with the professor to do work of sufficient sophistication, either in place of, or in addition to, the regular requirements of the course. A written agreement must be drawn up within the first few days of the semester and approved by the Honors Director.

**Honors symposia** are 1 credit hour special interest courses generated by faculty with expertise in a specific area. Recent Honors Symposia include: Breast Cancer, Women and Society; Nontraditional Conflict in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; and The Individual and Community: Sources of the Sacred in American Culture.

**Independent study**, in the form of research or creative work, is required for an Honors Program degree at Winthrop. Prior to the beginning of the semester in which the work is to be undertaken, a prospectus must be approved by the faculty project director, the appropriate department chair and dean, and the Honors Director. Student researchers are encouraged to submit their findings to the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, a meeting which brings together scholars from honors programs throughout the United States, or to the Southern Regional Honors Council Conference, a meeting of scholars from honors programs in the southeast.

### Sample Timetables

Freshman: WRIT 101H (if needed), HMXP 102H, honors course in major

Sophomore: CRTW 201H, honors course, international experience\*

Junior: honors course, honors symposium, service learning course

Senior: honors thesis, HONR 451H

Freshman: HMXP 102H, honors course

Sophomore: CRTW 201H, honors course, international experience\*

Junior: honors course, honors symposium, service learning course

Senior: honors thesis, HONR 451H

Freshman: HMXP 102H, CRTW 201H

Sophomore: honors course, international experience\*

Junior: honors course, honors symposium, service learning course

Senior: honors course, honor thesis, HONR 451H

*\*required only for students who desire an Honors Program Degree with International Experience.*

## Degree with Recognition – Transfer Students

Transfer students to Winthrop can pursue an Honors Program Degree or a Degree with Recognition. Students who have participated in an honors program at an accredited four-year college or university are encouraged to continue in the Winthrop Honors Program. These students may receive honors credit for honors study completed at the other institution. With the approval of the Honors Director, students who transfer to Winthrop as sophomores may receive up to six hours of honors credit. Students transferring as juniors may receive up to nine hours of honors credit, and senior transfer students may receive up to twelve hours of honors credit.

A student who transfers to Winthrop with no previous honors hours and a minimum number of hours left to earn the degree may choose to pursue a Degree with Recognition. The Degree with Recognition Program is restricted to transfer students entering with and maintaining a 3.3 GPA, receiving transfer credit for at least 60 hours, and needing 75 hours or fewer at Winthrop. If more than 75 hours are taken at Winthrop, the student should choose to pursue an Honors Program Degree.

### Requirements for a Degree with Recognition

In addition to meeting the eligibility requirements described in the above paragraph, a student will attain a Degree with Recognition through satisfactory completion of at least 13 credit hours of honors courses while maintaining a 3.3 GPA based on his or her total course work. Honors courses must be completed with a B or better to be accepted as honors credit. The following requirements must be adhered to:

- **General Education Component:** HMXP 102H, CRTW 201H (6 credit hours).
- **Major Component:** 6 credit hours of honors courses in the major.
- **Independent Study Component:** A senior thesis/project must be completed in the major (may count as part of the 6 credit hours in the major or as HONR 450H – Honors Thesis for 3 credit hours) and completion of

HONR 451H -Thesis Symposium (1 credit hour) at the time the thesis is written.

- **Service Learning Component:** A service learning class/project must be completed.

**For more information, contact:** Kathy A. Lyon, PhD.  
Honors Program Director  
139 Bancroft Hall  
803/323-2320 or [lyonk@winthrop.edu](mailto:lyonk@winthrop.edu)

### **Undeclared Major Advising Center--University College**

Students who do not declare majors are assigned advisers in the Undeclared Advising Center in University College. Undeclared majors who have completed 45 semester hours will not be permitted to register for courses until they have declared a major. The Undeclared-major Advising Center is located in 209 Dinkins Hall.

### **The Common Book Project**

Winthrop University's Common Book Project is one of many programs designed to integrate students into the university environment and provide a common academic experience. Incoming freshmen receive information about the book at orientation and read the book during the summer. Reading the selected book is a shared experience that connects freshmen with other members of Winthrop University--a learning-centered community. The Common Book for 2012 is [Where Am I Wearing](#) by Kelsey Timmerman. Previous Common Books include [Make the Impossible Possible](#) by Bill Strickland, [Growing Up](#) by Russell Baker, [Nine Hills to Nambonkaha: Two Years in the Heart of an African Village](#) by Sarah Erdman, [The Creative Habit: Learn It and Use It for Life](#) by Twyla Tharp, [The Tipping Point](#), by Malcolm Gladwell, [A Hope in the Unseen](#), by Ron Suskind, and [Into the Wild](#), by Jon Krakauer.

### **Distinction in Leadership Program**

The Distinction in Leadership is a unique recognition, conferred at graduation, that Winthrop students may achieve through classroom, service, and direct leadership experiences that develop integrity and critical capacities, as well as prepare students to be inclusive, ethical, and empowering leaders in their professions and communities.

#### ***Program Requirements:***

Students who earn a Distinction in Leadership designation will complete the following requirements while maintaining a cumulative 3.300 grade point average. Students will not qualify for the designation if they earn below a B in any LEAD or discipline-related course or if they are placed on academic or disciplinary probation.

#### ***Leadership Development Plan***

Students will create and complete the components of an approved personalized Leadership Development Plan (LDP) with the assistance of leadership mentors. LDPs will provide an intentional outline for the student's progression through each component of the Distinction in Leadership program. The first iteration of a student's LDP should be completed while enrolled in LEAD 275. Students will update their LDPs each semester with leadership mentors as plans must also contain elements of participation in the university community, such as student organizations, campus employment, and cultural or leadership events. Students will be considered "candidates" for the Distinction in Leadership program and may register for LEAD 476 once their plans are approved by the Director of Leadership Studies.

#### ***Leadership Mentors***

With the assistance of the Director of Leadership Studies, students will identify leadership mentors while enrolled in LEAD 275.

#### ***Faculty Mentors***

Each student must recruit a faculty mentor from within his or her academic department who will assist in creating and completing the student's Leadership Development Plan. Faculty mentors will also assist with identifying courses that have a possible leadership component in the student's major and/or assist the student in contracting courses to be leadership intensive. Faculty mentors will receive recognition annually for their participation in the Distinction in Leadership Program.

#### ***Student Life Mentors***

Each student will recruit a student life mentor to assist the student with the Leadership Development Plan, specifically the student's participation in leadership opportunities in the university community. Student Life mentors may be outside the Division of Student Life with the approval of the Director of Leadership Studies. Student life mentors will receive recognition annually for their participation in the Distinction in Leadership Program.

#### ***Course Requirements***

The Distinction in Leadership Program is grounded in the student's academic discipline. Students will know what it means to lead in their chosen profession upon completing the Distinction Program.

#### ***A. Discipline-Related Courses:***

Students will take a total of 9 credit hours of approved leadership courses and/or contract with faculty to expand current course offerings to become leadership intensive.

*B. LEAD Courses:*

Students will take 10 credit hours of LEAD courses:

LEAD 175 (1), Introduction to Leadership, or LEAD 120 (1), Theory and Practice of Leaders

LEAD 275 (3), Leadership Theory

LEAD 476 (3), Co-Curricular Leadership and Lab

LEAD 477 (3), Leadership Symposium

**For more information, contact:**

Sean Blackburn

Director, Leadership Studies and Development

803/323-3904 or [blackburns@winthrop.edu](mailto:blackburns@winthrop.edu)

<http://www2.winthrop.edu/universitycollege/Leadership/dls.htm>

### **Office of Nationally Competitive Awards**

The Office of Nationally Competitive Awards (ONCA) allows Winthrop University to be more intentional and proactive about selecting the best and brightest of our student body to apply for nationally and internationally competitive awards, scholarships, fellowships, and unique opportunities both at home and abroad. There are many award opportunities for undergraduate and graduate study within both disciplinary and interdisciplinary categories. ONCA gathers and disseminates information about awards and their deadlines to all members of the campus community, as well as works with students to prepare the best portfolios possible. This office also serves as a resource for mock interviews for students, awards for faculty, and as a place to list and celebrate the competitive awards and national recognition that our students and faculty receive.

**For more information, contact:**

Director, Office of Nationally Competitive Awards (ONCA)

803/ 323-3906

### **Learning Excellent Academic Practices (LEAP) Program**

The LEAP Program, Winthrop University's provisional admission program, is an academic support program designed to identify, support, and evaluate students before and during their freshman year at Winthrop. The components of the program are based on national best practices and Winthrop's own successful history of academic support programs.

First-time freshman applicants identified by the Office of Admissions as not having met the standards for full admission are offered provisional admission provided they agree to participate fully in LEAP. Admission to Winthrop through LEAP is based solely on high school academic performance and standardized test scores and is open to students of all socio-economic backgrounds. Winthrop University believes that each candidate who is offered provisional admission by the Office of Admissions is capable of gaining full admission into Winthrop University by participating successfully in LEAP.

LEAP students are required to attend and participate in specially designed study session labs on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. during the fall semester. Spring study session labs are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Each study session lab group consists of approximately 15 students. Each group has access to tutorial help in the Touchstone Core courses of WRIT 101 and HMXP 102 and various freshman level mathematics courses. Academic support in other academic content areas such as history, biology, and psychology is available as needed.

At the conclusion of the spring semester, the LEAP Director and the Dean of University College will review each student's academic performance and their participation in LEAP in consultation with the Admissions Director and make the decision on whether a student should be fully admitted to Winthrop University.

For additional information concerning LEAP, please visit <http://www2.winthrop.edu/universitycollege/leap>.

### **Academic Success Center**

Winthrop University's Academic Success Center focuses on helping students achieve academic excellence and earn their college degrees. Designed to improve academic performance, the Center provides services and programs that motivate students to be more efficient and effective learners.

*Mission.* The mission of the Academic Success center at Winthrop University is to support the academic pursuits and life-long learning of undergraduate students, as they persist to graduation and beyond. The Academic Success Center serves through a variety of personalized and structured experiences and resources that help students succeed academically, such as:

- One-on-one consultation;
- Individual and group tutoring opportunities;
- Academic skill development;
- Development of academic action plans and success contracts;
- Referrals to other university support services;
- Individual and group study spaces;
- Specialized services for students on academic probation;



- Web-based instruction and resources;
- A dedicated computer lab for online testing and other specific testing situations.

The ASC's goal is for students to develop and refine thinking skills, utilize self-management skills, and create structured learning strategies while earning higher grades. The Center's environment is respectful, nurturing, and challenging. Students are expected to take an active role in their learning.

*Tutoring.* **Peer tutors** are hired and well-trained by the center to help with a variety of general education courses. Tutoring is targeted for content mastery and skill development. ASC tutors also provide supplemental support for the dedicated campus services already in place, such as the Writing Center, Math Tutorial Center, and the College of Business Resource Room. The peer tutors are selected based on their competence in the subject areas, faculty endorsements, and effective interpersonal skills.

*Special Programs.* **L.I.F.T. (Learning Initiatives for Freshmen & Transfers)** is a unique program designed to support students new to Winthrop with supplemental academic assistance and access to intensive advising and a wealth of support resources. Participants must commit to meeting weekly with peer mentors.

*Workshops.* **Eagle Success Workshops** are offered through the Center. These sessions can be facilitated for classes, residence halls, organizations, or other events. Workshop topics include study strategies, time management, test preparation, textbook reading and note taking, procrastination prevention, and best practices for successful students. The goal of every workshop is to help students learn how to study smarter, not just harder.

The ASC provides most services to all undergraduate students free of charge. The Center also collaborates with other campus offices to promote the success of Winthrop students. For more information regarding the Academic Success Center, please visit: [www.winthrop.edu/success](http://www.winthrop.edu/success).

### International Center and International Student Life

The International Center at Winthrop University has three primary functions: study abroad programs, international student and faculty services, and international programming. The International Center assists students in identifying opportunities, applying for and preparing to study abroad. Winthrop students have the opportunity to study abroad for a semester or academic year in a number of countries including, but not limited to, Australia, Egypt, England, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Panama, Spain, Sweden, and Taiwan. Opportunities for short-term study abroad are provided through faculty-led programs and summer programs organized by outside institutions.

The International Center is responsible for the recruitment and admission of undergraduate international students and support of all international students. Along with a comprehensive orientation for all new international students, the International Center provides immigration information and assists students and scholars in maintaining the regulations set forth by the Department of Homeland Security. The International Center is the primary support for all international students, guests, and scholars.

Finally, the International Center works with a variety of on- and off-campus groups to coordinate and facilitate international programming, including the International Education Week, Taste of the World cultural showcase, and the Asian Lunar New Year Celebration.

For more information about any of these activities, please visit the International Center in 212-218 Dinkins Hall or online at [www.winthrop.edu/international](http://www.winthrop.edu/international).

### National Student Exchange

Winthrop students can experience the excitement of studying at another college or university for up to one year while paying Winthrop's tuition. Exchanges with more than 180 colleges and universities throughout the United States are encouraged during a student's sophomore or junior year. Information on the National Student Exchange is available in the International Center, 218 Dinkins Hall, 803-323-2133.

### McNair Scholars Program

The McNair Scholars Program is Winthrop's prestigious Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. It was funded in 2009 through a nationally competitive and renewable U.S. Department of Education TRiO grant. \$220,000 a year in federal funding and approximately \$75,000 a year in Winthrop matches help 25 undergraduates who meet first generation, low-income and/or under-represented criteria prepare to succeed in doctoral programs. For more information, visit <http://www.winthrop.edu/mcnair/>.

### TRiO Student Support Services Program

The TRiO SSS program at Winthrop University, first funded in 2005, is one of over 900 Student Support Services programs funded by the US Department of Education. TRiO is an academic support program designed to increase the academic performance, retention rates, and graduation rates of program participants. The TRiO program promotes academic excellence and provides participants the necessary tools to get the most of their undergraduate education, to graduate, and to seek employment and/or attend graduate school after completion of their bachelor degree.

Winthrop's TRiO SSS program services include:

- **Academic Counseling:** Academic Counselors meet one-on-one with students to discuss their semester goals, individual learning styles, grades, academic progress, time management, etc.

- **Academic Tutoring:** Upper-class students are hired and trained by TRiO staff to assist student participants with academic course work including math, chemistry, biology, history, education, economics, etc.
- **Cultural Events:** Our staff provides free travel to and from approximately 5-7 cultural events each semester. Cultural events include performances at Blumenthal Arts Center, the Charlotte Symphony, and social gatherings where students can connect with one another.
- **College Success Workshops:** To encourage well-rounded student development, TRiO staff present interactive workshops on topics such as money management, time management, professional etiquette, resume building and preparing for graduate school.
- **TRiO Computer Lab:** The TRiO computer lab offers FREE printing for all TRiO participants.
- **Scholarship Search Assistance:** Academic Counselors help students search for scholarship assistance to best provide for college financially.

Who is Eligible? Students who demonstrate a need for academic support, are citizens or permanent residents of the US, are enrolled or accepted for the next academic year, and meet one or more of the following requirements:

- are a first-generation college student--a student whose parents or guardians did not receive a baccalaureate degree
- meet specific federal income guidelines
- have a documented disability as defined by the ADA

Program applications can be found at [www.winthrop.edu/triosss](http://www.winthrop.edu/triosss) or in the TRiO offices.

For more information, contact:                      Rose Gray  
TRiO Program Director  
803/323-4797 or 4794

### Office of Undergraduate Research

The Council on Undergraduate Research defines undergraduate research as an inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate student that makes an original, intellectual, or creative contribution to the discipline. It is applicable to all disciplines, may be specific to a discipline, and requires a high standard identified by each discipline.

Support for the initiative is implemented through the Undergraduate Research Office, which helps students to identify research opportunities on and off campus. In addition, the office coordinates activities to increase opportunities for students to present their work and recognize and honor the students who engage in undergraduate research and the faculty who mentor those students. The office also provides funding for student travel to present their work at professional and undergraduate research focused conferences.

Undergraduate research provides valuable learning experiences to students and is one of the high-impact educational practices that increase the rates of student retention and engagement. Participating in undergraduate research can help students prepare for professional and graduate programs, and enhance professional and academic credentials to support applications for scholarships, awards, career employment, and entry into graduate and professional schools. While engaging in undergraduate research experiences students can develop one-on-one mentoring relationships with faculty members, clarify academic and career interests and goals, acquire additional knowledge in their academic fields that transcends classroom study, and enhance critical skills in communication, independent thinking, creativity, and problem solving. Moreover, they will contribute to the creation of new knowledge on the cutting edge of their academic discipline and apply that knowledge to real world problems.

Student researchers often disseminate their work at professional meetings or submit the scholarship for publication in academic journals. These activities allow students the chance to make connections with and receive feedback from a broader audience than they may encounter on campus. These experiences have value as students leave the university and enter today's workforce, where presentation, communication, and relationship skills are vital for their success.

For additional information, please contact the Office of Undergraduate Research at 222B Dinkins Hall or the Director of Undergraduate Research, Dr. Dwight Dimaculangan at [dimaculangand@winthrop.edu](mailto:dimaculangand@winthrop.edu).