

GEORGIA TECH
HONORS PROGRAM
HANDBOOK



Honors Program Staff

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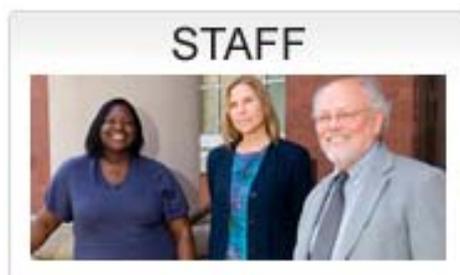
Dr. Monica Halka
French Building, Room 103-A

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Academic Advisor:

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Honors Program Student Advisory Board:

Michael Chen, Chemistry (3rd year)

Patti Murphy, Undecided College of Sciences (2nd year)

Kristin Rieck, Economics/International Affairs (3rd year)

Jeffrey Schick, Management (2nd year)

Greg Updike, Industrial Engineering (4th year)

Member at large: Santiago Hässig, Electrical Engineering (2010)



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to Georgia Tech and, above all, welcome to the Honors Program! You're setting out on a great personal adventure, and we're here to help you make the most of it.

You're in the Honors Program because we saw something in your original application to Georgia Tech that told us you're not just a good student who does good work in the classroom – we almost take that for granted – but also the kind of person who has the combination of commitment, energy, and even passion that'll make you an exceptional part of our campus community. We have high hopes for you, of course, and one major challenge.

The main thing we ask of you is that you care about your education. That means much more than just taking the courses and getting the grades. It means getting involved with your classmates and professors, playing your part as an interested and engaged member of an intellectual community. It means taking a broader view of the learning opportunities available to you outside the classroom, taking advantage of the remarkable social and cultural resources the campus and the larger Atlanta community can offer. It also means having fun for four (or five?) years, so that when you graduate from Georgia Tech, you can say, "That really was a great adventure! I couldn't have done it any better."

So let the adventure begin. We're excited to share it with you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Tobler".

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Our students are the face of the Georgia Tech Honors Program on campus. You are our representatives and our liaisons, our advisors and our leaders. In effect, *you are the Honors Program*. As such, there are certain responsibilities you carry with you, not the least of which is Honors-worthy comportment, and we trust you will carry that with pride. Additionally, members in good standing are expected to maintain their academic and extracurricular involvement in the following ways:

Academic expectations

Our students take a minimum of five HP courses, to include:

- 2 HP-designated core courses
These are smaller, more discussion-oriented sections of regular introductory courses, such as calculus, biology, chemistry, and English composition.

and

- 3 HP-designated Special Topic courses
These are interdisciplinary, usually project-driven courses, limited to 20 HP students.

Extracurricular expectations

Our first important event of the year is the **Honors Program Orientation**. Dr. Nobles will introduce the program, and students will have the opportunity to ask questions and meet the Honors Program staff and faculty. *All first-year students must be in attendance.*

In addition, the Honors Program also sponsors a number of extracurricular activities throughout the year. These are designed primarily to offer our students campus and community connections that allow social and intellectual interaction beyond the classroom.

Because these events and activities have proven so successful in the past, the Honors Program Student Advisory Board has recommended that first year students *commit to participating in a minimum of two Honors Program sponsored events per semester*. Dates and times will be noted well in advance on the website calendar. Typical events include.

- “Informal Conversations”
- Dinners with Faculty
- HP Poster Session (Fall semester)
- Karlovitz Lecture Series Speaker
- Other HP-sponsored guest speakers
- HP Annual Expo (Spring semester)

YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the academic and extracurricular activities provided by the Honors Program, there are several unique opportunities available only to our student members. Detailed information regarding each of these opportunities can be found at www.honorsprogram.gatech.edu.

- **Honors Program Student Challenge Fund**

Are you interested in sponsoring an event, providing a community service, attending a conference? If it's "honors-worthy" and requires funding, you can apply to the Honors Program for assistance by going through an easy proposal process.



The Honors Program Student Challenge Fund provides cost-sharing to 20-30 such projects each year. Examples include alternative spring breaks, a bike-sharing initiative, and study abroad assistance, among many others.

- **Honors Program Student Advisory Board**

The Student Advisory Board acts as a bridge between the program's administrators and its students, planning events and fielding suggestions on the direction and goals of the program from a student point-of-view. Strong applicants show a desire to improve the program through frequent board meetings with both the other SAB members and the HP administration, and a willingness to work hard on activities that are quickly becoming staples of our program.

- **“The HyPe” newsletter staff positions**

Any student with ideas and the dedication to make a deadline is encouraged to join the HyPe staff. Alternatively, any student is welcome to contribute the occasional article, cartoon, or poem, for example. This monthly newsletter covers current news about our program, our students, and other items of interest to our community.

- **GT 1000 Team Leader positions**

Honors Program members have the opportunity to serve as a Team Leader in a GT 1000 HP Freshman Seminar class. You will gain valuable leadership experience while helping new freshman members adapt to and grow within the Georgia Tech community.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the minimum GPA to remain in the program?

A: In keeping with the spirit of intellectual inquiry and engagement, the Honors Program does not require students to maintain a minimum GPA for remaining in the program. If, however, a student's academic performance and interests seem to veer away from HP expectations, he or she may be counseled to reconsider continued involvement in the program.

Q: Are Honors Program classes more difficult than other classes? Will I have more work than other students?

A: Georgia Tech prides itself on offering a very rigorous and challenging curriculum to all students, whether in the Honors Program or not. Honors Program classes do not necessarily involve exceptional amounts of work or have more stringent grading standards. They do, however, emphasize a classroom environment that allows students to be fully engaged as active participants in the learning process.

Q: Does the Honors Program entitle me to a scholarship or other sort of financial aid?

A: While we hope to provide such opportunities in the future, the Honors Program does not offer any scholarships at this time. However, Georgia Tech has many need- and merit-based scholarships for which you may qualify.

Q: Can I take advantage of the Georgia Tech International Program or the Research Program as a member of the Honors Program?

A: Yes, students in the Honors Program can participate in any program or major, and we strongly encourage them to take full advantage of the many curricular options Georgia Tech has to offer. The Honors Program itself is not a separate major. Rather, it is a program that works with students and the various academic units at Georgia Tech to develop an inquiry-based approach to learning that carries over into the specific majors.

Q: How will my transcript or diploma reflect my membership in the Honors Program?

A: Students who meet the expectations of the Honors Program will receive a special designation on the official Georgia Tech transcript with each year of involvement and a personalized plaque upon graduation. Students may also receive an Honors Program embossed stamp on their diplomas after graduation.

COMMUNICATIONS

It's our policy not to bombard our students with e-mail. Rather the Honors Program staff will keep students informed of important news with "weekly updates," which will typically go out on Mondays. Additionally, students can always consult the webpage, which features an updated calendar of events.

In a few select cases, Dr. Nobles, Dr. Halka, or Ms. Leonard will issue announcements or personal invitations with the RSVP e-mail link. *It is your responsibility to respond promptly to these requests.*



USEFUL CONTACTS

Honors Program Office (French Bldg).....	404-385-7532
Honors Program Satellite Office (Field Hall).....	404-385-8141
East Campus Housing Office.....	404-894-3045
GT Police (24 hours).....	404-894-2500
Health Services.....	404-894-1420
Counseling Center.....	404-894-2575
Dean of Students.....	404-894-6367
Campus Recreation Center.....	404-385-7529
Library.....	404-894-4529
Campus Directory.....	404-894-2000

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www.honorsprogram.gatech.edu