

Smittcamp Family Honors College

What is an honors program?

Simply put, it is a program of educational opportunity for outstanding students. It takes the form of specially structured academic offerings designed to engage students more comprehensively and intellectually with an institution's best faculty on virtually a one-to-one basis. Honors studies provide top students the opportunity to function in the most stimulating and challenging intellectual learning environment an institution can create.

Earl and Muriel Smittcamp Family

California State University, Fresno planned to establish a program of honors study for many years. With an initial generous gift of \$1 million from the Earl and Muriel Smittcamp Family, the plan for the Honors College is now a reality.

The Honors College

After studying the best programs in the country, the university created a concept for an honors education at Fresno State.

Working to provide the advantages of a small liberal arts college within the resources of a major university, the Honors College offers three types of degrees with honors: *University Honors*, *College/School*

Honors, and *Department Honors*. A degree with *University Honors* is based in General Education honors studies and requires 24 lower-division and 12 upper-division units. All courses are specially designed and will be available only to honors students. The offerings are structured so all honors students take these courses together, thereby becoming a special honors learning community in which students truly share a common experience. In order to stimulate maximum student/faculty interaction, courses are limited to 25 students each.

College/School Honors are earned at the upper-division level. Students may pursue a special program of advanced study within the college/school of their chosen discipline. Currently, the Craig School of Business and the College of Arts and Humanities have programs in place. In time, all colleges/schools plan to have comparable upper-division programs for their majors.

Department Honors, also earned at the upper-division level, allow students to pursue an advanced program of study within their major. The Psychology Department, the Armenian Studies Program, and the Criminology Department currently have such programs, and the university is actively encouraging and supporting the development of honors programs in other departments.

The Smittcamp Family Honors College

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Honors Colloquium

A distinctive offering of the Honors College over and above the innovative design of the courses is each semester's Honors Colloquium. Designed around the "town meeting" model, each semester's offerings will be focused on a topic of current importance. Sample topics might be "Public Service and Private Life" and "The United States and Social Responsibility: Self Improvement vs. Global Imperatives." A combination of faculty experts,

