

Welcome Aboard!

Tips and testimony

from former City College Honors Students

“I feel that the honors program at City College adequately prepared me to transfer into a four-year university. Success in the honors courses gave me the confidence that has been the cornerstone of my success at Stanford. Moreover, the workload of the honors courses at City made it easier to adjust to the workload of the courses at Stanford. I also treasure the friendships that I was able to develop with other honors students, as well as the relationships that I was able to forge with honors faculty--some of which endure to this day, two years after my graduating from City College. I could easily discern when I first enrolled in the City honors program that honors faculty and staff really cared about their students. Finally, the option of instituting “honors contracts” with professors was a valuable tool that allowed me greater flexibility in meeting my academic goals. Honors contracts also provided me with a wonderful opportunity to continue to challenge myself in a variety of academic disciplines.”

- Phillip Smith
Stanford University, Class of 2002

“I had some masterful and famous professors at Harvard but they couldn’t have gotten me here - the Honors Program did!”

- Paul Sterios
Investment banker
Harvard University, Class of 1994

“As a returning ‘mature’ student, I was worried about how I would deal with the challenges of school after being away for so long. I was also much more focused and passionate about my education than I may have been in my 20s and I wanted to be around others who felt as I did. The Honors Program and the Honors Core classes were just what I needed! My honors professors quickly became my mentors and provided a much needed and appreciated support system. Collectively, they helped me to recognize my strengths and potential so that I could pursue my ultimate dream of obtaining a B.A. from the University of San Diego. Even now, as I prepare for my post graduate education, the confidence and tools that I received from the Honors Program will play a major part in my continued academic and personal success. Just a tip - establish solid study habits early and stick with them! It will really pay off later when you transfer.”

- Patty Warner, former City Honors Core student
University of San Diego, Summa Cum Laude
Kappa Gamma Phi, Class of 1997

“I am so thankful to the Honors Program because it prepared me very well for UCLA. Without the Honors students and teachers, I would have been much less prepared, and likely not even be here [UCLA] at all.”

- Jack Agamba
Film Editor, Los Angeles
UCLA School of Cinema and Film
Class of 1994, Phi Beta Kappa

“The Honors Program is a unique organism within City College. It is an opportunity to provide you, the student, with what I like to describe as a simulation of your next step. The opportunity to sample life as it might be in your next academic step is unique and should be exploited in its fullness. This opportunity does not exist because you are going to be working much harder than the rest of your non-honors peers. It exists because you will be put in a very competitive environment which stimulates the mind and is likely to cause you a certain number of sleepless nights while you try to finish that last page of your paper while preparing for a test. That is a good thing. Your next academic move is going to be harder than your hardest times in honors at City College but at least you’ll have a shorter gap to fill. You will benefit from the knowledge that you’ve survived hard times before and succeeded. On a slightly more personal note, here is some advice: work hard to know your professors. You are likely to be able to get a lot more out of them than you can imagine. Even if you transfer to a large school (I transferred to UCSD), where no one expects that you will make contact with your professors, I urge you to make the effort.”

- Jambi Ganbar
Recent graduate of the University of California at San Diego majoring in Information Science