



# Honors Experience Handbook



**SCHOLARLY  
ADVANCEMENT**

THE HONORS COLLEGE AT FGCU



**CULTURAL  
ENRICHMENT**

THE HONORS COLLEGE AT FGCU



**COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

THE HONORS COLLEGE AT FGCU



**LEADERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT**

THE HONORS COLLEGE AT FGCU

**Fall 2020**



## Liftoff

Identify values and goals related to the Elements of Honors. Develop short- and long-term strategies to earn two Honors Experiences.

## Midpoint

Check progress with an Advisor. Assess original goals and strategies. Reflect on progress and make necessary revisions to goals or strategies. Document select artifacts related to development in specific Elements.

## Completion

Reflect in writing on full development within two elements. Provide artifacts related to development and provide evidence of dissemination for two Elements. **Earn Honors Experiences. Share accomplishments with others.**

# *Liftoff*

- Enroll in Elements of Honors class during your first year
- Learn about Elements of Honors and meet students, faculty, and staff connected to the different Elements
- Learn to use Portfolium
- Learn about setting goals, making short- and long-term plans, assessing success, and documenting with artifacts
- Begin exploring opportunities in and outside of the classroom related to your interests and goals
- Based on your anticipated date of graduation, designate when your Midpoint will be in terms of credit hours
- Submit two Liftoff Essays (one per Element) that connects your personal, academic, and/or professional goals to developing within a specific Element. Make a plan for developing within this Element while at FGCU

Complete Liftoff Milestone and move on toward Midpoint

# *Midpoint*

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- The Midpoint is based on how many credit hours you've earned towards your anticipated graduation from FGCU and is set during the Elements of Honors course

- Meet with an Exploratory Advisor to discuss your progress toward completing your Honors College curriculum. Determine the anticipated time of your Honors Experience Completion based on your anticipated graduation date

- Continue developing within two Elements of Honors, becoming more deeply involved and gaining more refined skills and experiences

- Consider where you hope to be in terms of your two chosen Elements at your point of graduation from FGCU

- Thoughtfully select significant artifacts that demonstrate your development within your two Elements and upload them to Portfolium

- Write a Midpoint Reflection Essay for both Elements that assesses your development thus far, affirms or revises your goals and strategies, and looks toward your continued development

Complete Midpoint Milestone and move toward Completion

# Completion

- At least one semester before graduating, confirm with an Honors College representative which steps you have left to complete to earn an Honors Experience
- Complete dissemination activities related to Elements of Honors
  - Carefully choose artifacts that demonstrate your complete development within your chosen Elements and upload them to Portfolium
  - Write a reflective essay for each chosen Element, putting your artifacts in context and thoughtfully describing your journey from Liftoff, to Midpoint, and now at Completion
- Pathways reviewed by Honors College

**Earn Honors Experience in chosen Elements. Receive a digital badge from Portfolium for completing pathway**

**Share digital badges on LinkedIn, social media, or other platforms**

# Glossary

**Digital Badge:** A visual emblem with metadata that can be used to verify someone's skills in a particular area. The image is the visual representation of the badge, and the metadata provides description, documentation, criteria, award date, issuer information, and other details that document and verify that the badge owner has achieved a specific level of competency.

**Certification:** A formal testament that an individual has the ability, knowledge, and skills to perform a function according to established standards.

**Competence:** The measured ability of an individual to perform a skill or action in a specified context according to a required standard.

**Issuer:** The creator of digital academic certificates that can contain a wide variety of assertions about an individual's skills, achievements, or characteristics.

**Pathway:** A linear, contiguous series of competencies and achievement milestones connected to make a learning pathway. It is a way of progressively tracking a person's learning and milestones across multiple curricular and co-curricular activities within a program.

Continued

**Milestones:** A sequence of required activities and documentation that are part of a pathway. A milestone must be completed and approved before moving on to subsequent milestones.

**Artifact:** An artifact is an example of student learning used to document progress in a pathway. Artifacts can be essays, videos of performances, publications, data sets, poster presentations, and the like.

**Dissemination:** Sharing scholarship with an audience

**Goals:** Short- and long-term measurable achievements related to developing within select Elements of Honors. Short-term goals cumulatively lead toward achievement of long-term goals.

**Actions:** Purposeful activities undertaken to reach short- and long-term goals.

**Strategies:** Planning actions to reach goals.