

University Honors Program 2010 Fall Application



Thank you for your interest in the University Honors Program (UHP) at San Diego State University. We look forward to reviewing your application. The deadline to submit your completed Application is February 1, 2010. We recommend that you apply as early as possible since no late applications will be accepted. Applicants will be notified about their admission status in early March.

Please note that beginning in the Fall 2010 semester, all freshman Honors Program students are required to live on campus in the Honors Residential College during their first year at San Diego State University. [Click here for more information about this requirement.](#)

To complete the UHP application:

You'll need to gather and report your

- GPA, and
- SAT or ACT scores (only if applying as a high school student)

Also, applicants are required to

- List extracurricular and community service activities, and
- Write two 500-word essays (based on the provided essay prompts located on the last page of the application)

Neither letters of recommendation nor transcripts are required. Simply fill out the online application, including your short-answer responses and upload your essays.

1. Contact Information
2. Permanent Contact Information
3. Are you an international student studying in the U.S. from a different country? () Yes () No
4. If yes, what country?
5. Are you a high school applicant? () Yes () No

High School Applicants Only (6-18)

6. High School Currently Attending
7. Is your high school located in SDSU's service area? SDSU's service area includes all high schools in San Diego County south of State Route 56 and all of Imperial County. () Yes () No
8. Is your high school located within the Sweetwater Union School District? () Yes () No
9. Unweighted High School GPA: The unweighted GPA should be calculated on all a-g courses completed after grade 9. This GPA is 'unweighted' because it does NOT include extra points for honor courses. For assistance calculating your unweighted GPA, please visit:
http://www.csumentor.edu/planning/high_school/gpa_calculator.asp
Unweighted GPA

University Honors Program 2010 Fall Application



10. Weighted High School GPA: The weighted GPA includes the extra points assigned for honor courses. For assistance calculating your weighted GPA, please visit:
http://www.csumentor.edu/planning/high_school/gpa_calculator.asp
Weighted GPA
11. SAT Math (out of 800)
12. SAT Verbal (Critical Reading, out of 800)
13. ACT Score
14. AP or IB Exam Score
 - Exam
 - AP or IB
 - Exam Title
 - Score
15. What is your intended major?
16. Did you know that SDSU has the first program where you can simultaneously earn a BS and MSA (BMACC) in accounting? Please indicate if you would like more information about the BMACC program. () Yes () No
17. If you have participated in the National Merit Scholarship Program, please indicate whether you have qualified as: () Commended Student () Semi-Finalist () Finalist
18. Please list, in order of preference, the colleges and universities to which you have applied for the Fall 2010 semester or quarter.

Current SDSU Applicants Only (19-28)

19. What is your current class level? () Freshman () Sophomore () Junior () Senior
20. What is your anticipated graduation date?
21. What is your major?
22. What is your emphasis or concentration?
23. What is your second major, if applicable?
24. What is your minor?
25. What is your cumulative GPA?
26. Are you a transfer applicant? () Yes () No
27. College Currently Attending
28. List of honors courses taken

University Honors Program 2010 Fall Application



Short Answer

29. Extracurricular activities and leadership positions
 - Name of club/organization
 - Dates of participation (month/yr-month/yr)
 - Leadership position held (if applicable)
 - Number of hours per month
 - Describe your involvement
30. Community or Volunteer Service
 - Name of club/organization
 - Dates of participation (month/yr-month/yr)
 - Leadership position held (if applicable)
 - Describe your involvement
31. Employment or Internships
 - Name of business/organization
 - Dates of employment (month/yr-month/yr)
 - Leadership position held (if applicable)
 - Number of hours per month
 - Describe your duties
32. Cross cultural experiences (Cultural fieldtrips, family vacations, trips abroad, language proficiencies, etc.
33. Other relevant experience not captured in the above categories

Essays

All applicants are required to write TWO essays illustrating your analytical and writing abilities. The cornerstone of the Honors Application are the Honors Essays. This is your chance for the Honors Program Admissions committee to become familiar with you and your abilities in more depth than with test scores and GPA alone.

Prior to beginning the essay portion of the application, you should type your essays and save it as a Word document. You will copy and paste your essays within the appropriate text fields.

- Leave yourself time to rewrite and revise. Start early and leave plenty of time! Most likely that means to give yourself weeks (not days, and certainly not hours!) to rework your essay.
- Be original. As you are writing and revising, continually ask yourself if you would be interested in reading your essay. Tell us something new that we may not have heard before.
- Show genuine enthusiasm. Nothing draws a reader more than writing that is invigorating. When choosing your topics, pick what genuinely excites you. Your enthusiasm will show through.
- Be specific, give examples and answer every part of the question. You need to include concrete details when responding to the essay questions. Responding to only parts of a question will result in lower marks.
- Proofread your work. Make sure you do not have any typographical errors. Do not rely on your computer's spell check. Although some software programs make grammatical changes for you, chances are you will need to read your essay word for word to make sure you have not goofed, for example, by using "there" instead of "their" or "form" instead of "from" Also make sure your intended meaning is coming across.

University Honors Program 2010 Fall Application



Essay #1:

Every applicant MUST answer the following prompt in an essay of 450-550 words.

If you were the Director of the University Honors Program at SDSU and recently received a very, very large donation, what two programs, or co-curricular experiences, would you create or expand to make the University Honors Program a better place? The programs might have an academic, cultural, or social focus, they might focus on first-year students or on more advanced students, and they might be done on campus, in the local community, or farther away. You should describe the two programs in sufficient detail for the reviewers to have a clear picture of what, where, when, and who is involved with the program, and explain why you chose these two programs.

Before starting your essay, you need to check out the current programs/experiences offered by the University Honors Program. You can research these by exploring our website at:

<http://www.sdsu.edu/honors>.

Essay # 2:

Every applicant MUST answer ONE of the following prompts in an essay of 450-550 words.

- **Option A:** Describe a time when you moved out of your comfort zone. This “movie” could be a literal movement to a new place or environment or a more figurative movement where you encountered new values, perspectives or knowledge. What prompted this move? Where were you? Who else was involved? How did you react, and what did you gain from this experience?
- **Option B:** You’re given the power, for one day, to be an invisible observer at an historic event. Although you will not be able to change the course or the outcome of the event, you will be able to bring back to the present all the insights you gain. Explain which historic event you would most like to witness, and why you think being an observer at that event would help you make an important contribution to the future. Also describe what your contribution would be.
- **Option C:** The SDSU Honors Program seeks students with a diversity of interests and perspectives, possessing the capacity and motivation to excel. Discuss the following essay topic succinctly, but with enough detail for the selection committee to get a better sense of your competencies. What unique experiences, characteristics, or skill sets would you contribute to our Honors community? Please note that all students in the Honors community are highly motivated, ambitious, and intelligent so these characteristics are not considered “unique” for the purpose of this essay. We are looking for originality in responses; tell us something new that we may not have heard before.
- **Option D:** A wealthy donor has elected to set aside a large sum of money to award to a gifted, intelligent and creative young person to create a dream project. The donor has specified that the prize money will support an individual to carry out an independently designed project in any field of study or practice. It is expected that as a result of this experience, recipients of the prize will contribute to the public, professional or scholarly community. For this essay, create a proposal for this dream project. Describe the project in detail, including which field of study or practice it reflects, what steps you would take to complete it (including the various perspectives you would consider), and why you believe it would be important to undertake.