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Congratulations on your acceptance and continued membership in Skidmore's Periclean Honors Forum. This booklet presents the academic, leadership, and community service opportunities the Forum makes available to you. We hope that you this Members Guide will answer

The Student Executive Committee (or Exec Co, as we commonly call it) is the student governing body of the Honors Forum.

Vision Statement: The Executive Committee provides leadership and direction to Honors Forum members. It offers interest meetings to attract incoming members and opportunities for intellectual discourse, community service, and cultural experiences for HF members and the community at large. Exec Co also serves as a resource to Honors Forum members to realize their aspirations.

Exec Co's members are responsible for creating, planning, and implementing. They make suggestions regarding policy and programming but must report to the Honors Council for approval. Exec Coor scourmt to(1.).t

Membership in the Honors Forum signifies a special commitment to Skidmore's intellectual community. To demonstrate that commitment, members must complete the following requirements:

- a. Maintain a 3.65 GPA or higher each semester and a minimum 3.65 cum GPA at the end of senior year.
- b. Take at least 3 Honors classes, add-ons, or independent studies **or** 7 Honors credits. You will have until the end of your senior year to complete your course requirements.
- c. Complete the Service Project Requirement by the end of your junior year.
- d. Complete an Honors Capstone project and present it during your senior year. The Honors Forum Capstone is usually completed in the course or courses your major requires/offers as a **departmental capstone** (thesis, senior project, senior research seminar, senior art show, performance, independent study, etc.) and usually coincides with the requirement for departmental honors in your major. If your department does not have a format for presentation, consider presenting your capsno

can bring the writing tutors a page of notes, an outline, or an entire rough draft, and they are there to help you “kick it up a notch.”

Want to become a writing tutor? You must be a sophomore, junior, or senior and complete EN303H: Peer Tutoring, a course designed to train you in the fine art of tutoring writing. Enrollment in the course requires a writing sample and recommendation from a professor. Peer tutoring at the Writing Center is an excellent form of community service.

When it comes to honors independent studies, you have two options: HF271/272 (Fall/Spring) for sophomores or HF371/372 (Fall/Spring) for juniors and seniors. These classes designed to allow flexibility in the education of Honors Forum members who choose to

The Honors Forum holds that all of its members should use their talents to contribute to campus and/or community life. A Service Project will give you the opportunity to develop a creative and intellectually substantive endeavor outside of the classroom or as an extension of a classroom experience. The Honors Forum allows you to choose one of two paths for completing this requirement.

The Great Conversation Path

Skidmore College is an institution dedicated to promoting the life of the mind both inside and outside of the classroom. Honors Forum students have

Council aspires to respond within one week of submission. Projects may be completed during any semester except the spring semester of a student's senior year.

- o **Proposal:** Submit a project proposal which outlines the readings and the schedule of the discussions (in other words, something like a syllabus). Proposals are submitted on behalf of all the HF members who are seeking credit for their service project in the group (that is, each HF member need not submit a separate proposal). The Honors Council must approve for your project to count toward the Service Requirement. The Council may ask for revisions before approving your proposal. The Council welcomes consultation as you prepare your proposal.

(lbradsha@skidmore.edu).

- o **Faculty Sponsor.** You must designate a faculty sponsor who

Things to consider when designing your Great Conversation project:

- o **Reading selection:** Is there a classic text which you have always wanted to read but you have not found on any syllabus? Is there a theme to which many authors have addressed themselves that appeals to students across disciplines? Is there a noteworthy journal article which is getting lots of scholarly attention? Answering these or similar questions will assist you in selecting a substantive reading that will keep you interested and motivated over the course of your project. Don't hesitate to ask the Honors Forum Council or other faculty members for advice.
- o **Hours.** Although the project only requires a minimum of 5 hours of actual meeting time, we hope and suspect that students will go beyond this. Also note that those meetings, in order to be interesting and productive, assume additional hours of preparation (reading time, preparation of discussion questions, etc.)
- o **Group Selection.** The project requires a core of 3-5 HF members but you should try to expand your group. The maximum number of a vibrant reading group is roughly 8-10.
- o **Academic Credit.** Though your project cannot receive academic credit, it may relate to a course.

The Civic Life Path

Skidmore College has always been an institution that emphasizes and cultivates an ethic of service. Students choosing this path must design and implement a community service project. Your Civic Life (CL) project should be both process- and product- oriented, as well as intellectually rigorous; it will require initiative, planning, organization, leadership, and personal reflection. The project should stretch you creatively and intellectually beyond the scope of a normal academic or extracurricular undertaking.

Requirements for completing your Civic Life Project:

- o **Deadline:** CL Proposals must be submitted by October 15 for projects which begin during the fall semester and by February 15 for projects which begin during the spring semester. The

Council aspires to respond within two weeks of submission. Projects may be completed during any semester except the spring semester of a student's senior year.

- **Proposal:** Submit a project proposal for approximately 15 hours of effort (excluding the time taken to write the proposal and final project report). The Honors Council must approve for your project to count toward the Service Requirement. The Council may ask for revisions before approving your proposal. The Council welcomes consultation as you prepare your proposal. The Council will not approve proposals for projects that have already been completed.
- **Faculty Sponsor.** Because we are looking for intellectually rigorous projects, we require you to have a trusted faculty member evaluate your proposal before you submit it to the Committee. You and your faculty member can review the project criteria.
- **Participants.** Students may work as individuals or in groups to complete a project. Each member should complete at least 15 hours of work on the project; for a three-person group, a total of 45 hours is expected. If you choose to work in a group, you may submit one proposal and one final report. Both should detail the specific contributions and time given to the project by each member. Credit may not be awarded to each participant if his or her role is not articulated.
- **Extensions.** In extenuating circumstances, the Honors Council will grant extensions on deadlines for projects. Study abroad is not grounds for an extension. If you are planning on going abroad and would like to complete a project when you return, you must submit a proposal before you leave. To petition for an extension, email the Chair of the Council. The Honors Council is here to help brainstorm possible projects, finalize ideas, point out potential problems, and help students find others for group projects. Another great resource is Michelle Hubbs, Director of Community Service.
- **Can ongoing volunteer projects count toward the requirement?** There are many wonderful community programs already in place (Saratoga Reads! for instance). It is acceptable to work with a previously established program or organization only if you take on a leadership role and clearly specify in your proposal how your project moves you beyond

what you are already accomplishing in this ongoing community project.

- **Can I do my project when school is not in session?**
Completing a citizenship project over the summer or winter break is allowed, provided that you submit a proposal the semester before the break.

Project Report

The report is a summary and analysis of your project. Groups that work together can submit one report. Reports must be submitted by the last day of classes at end of the academic year in which the project was completed. Email your final report to Lisa Bradshaw (lbradsha@skidmore.edu). Your report must include the following:

- Project Title and Your Name(s)
- Summary of Activities: Summarize the project including who participated and timeline of events. If relevant, include products of your project: photos, displays, etc. We are always looking for good pictures to post on this website.
- Critical Analysis: Review what you learned about the issue you were addressing. Explain how well your project met a community need. Evaluate the success of the project and what might you have made it even more effective.
- Final Reflection: For group reports, it is essential that each individual write their own reflection in this space. What did you personally gain from undertaking this project? Evaluate the effort you put into the project. Will you continue to work on this project or on this topic?

Things to consider when designing your CL project:

- **Community Involvement.** Your project must benefit a group or community, insider or outside Skidmore College. Any events or services must be not-for-profit. What or whom does your project benefit? Why is this an important addition to the community in which you plan to work?

- o **Intellectual Rigor.** Your project should challenge you to reflect, think critically, and demonstrate initiative; you will also want to challenge or inspire the intended audience. Is the community need defined with reference to academic scholarship? Are you demonstrating an academic understanding of the issue? Do you provide any research evidence that the organization supports this kind of project? Is there evidence that this approach will be effective?
- o **Hours.** Your project should involve a minimum of 15 hours of work.

students completing Citizenship Projects, but funding is not automatic; you can apply for funding when you submit your proposal.

Each graduating Honors Forum member must complete a culminating Capstone project in his/her senior year. Most of the time, the Honors Capstone coincides with a culminating departmental experience or Honors requirement such as a thesis, research report, performance, 300-level class, exhibit, etc. Sometimes, a student's capstone is completed by an independent study. Honors Forum members are encouraged to present their Senior Capstone projects publicly. This may be done as part of the department's senior presentation, an exhibit, a performance, a concert, or, in some cases, at Academic Festival.

In order for a project to count toward the Honors Forum Capstone requirement, the Director of the Forum must approve it by the end of the second week of classes for that semester. There is a form online, "Proposal for Senior Capstone Requirement." Please give thought and care to your proposal. Define your project clearly, explain your culminating project fully (both the research and the outcomes), and explain how this project offers a culmination to your academic career both in Honors Forum and in your major. Make sure to write your proposal well.

The Honors Lounge is a space available to Honors Forum members. Currently the space is used for Honors Council, Executive Committee meetings, and the HF Newsletter staff. Students can reserve the Honors Lounge for formal meetings and events by contacting Lisa in the HF Office (lbradsha@skidmore.edu). Otherwise, it is open to Honors Forum members for informal study groups or personal use. We have tables, chairs and couches as well as a library; come and check it out. Students also can use the room to display artwork or posters from scientific research.

Conditions for use of the Honors Forum Lounge:

- 1) The lounge is available for academic and co-curricular activities only. Any evidence of inappropriate usage of the lounge may result in it being available by reservation only.
- 2) People and groups with reservations made through Lisa in the Honors Forum office (Ladd 321, ext 5102, lbradsha@skidmore.edu) are ensured use of the lounge at their reserved time. If the lounge is not currently reserved, Honors Forum members are entitled to use the space. Others interested in using the lounge must first check with Lisa for availability.
- 3) Please leave the lounge in the condition in which you find it. This means:
 - i) No furniture or office supplies may be removed from the lounge for any reason.
 - ii) If you and/or your group have food in the lounge, please remember to throw away your trash and wipe off tables and chairs. Only one person can sit in the chairs at a time.
 - iii) If you use the white board, please erase it before you leave.

named for the professor of English who served as Dean of Studies for twenty-three years and who was one of the founders of the Honors Forum. Past lecturers, chosen by Honors Council and the Dean of Faculty, have included Professor Susannah Mintz, English; Professor Kate Graney, Political Science; Professor Jennifer Mueller, Sociology; Professor Roy Rotheim, Economics; Professor Mahesh Shankar, International Affairs; Professor Kate Greenspan, English; Professor Grace Burton, World Languages & Literatures; Professor Barbara Black, English; Professor Linda Hall, English; Peter McCarthy, Social Work; Professor Sheldon Solomon, Psychology; Professor Flip Phillips, Psychology/Director of Neuroscience; Professor Michael Arnush, Classics; Professor Steven Frey, Chemistry; and Professor Pushkala Prasad, Management & Business. Students nominate their favorite professor.

Honors Forum Policy Debate With this event series the Forum seeks to bring distinguished thinkers and writers to campus for conversation and debate about a political, philosophical, or ethical question of great public concern. The topic for the 8th annual event in this series in 2024 was **Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Humanity**. Our speakers were Bernhardt Trout, Professor of Chemical Engineering at MIT, and Brendan McCord, founder and chair of the Cosmos Institute.

Honors Forum Presents is currently inactive, and at present students are meeting on **Faculty to Faculty Dialogues**. The Honors Forum sponsors a discussion between the director and another faculty member about his or her research and path to becoming a professor. This event allows the Honors Forum the opportunity to showcase one of Skidmore's excellent faculty members and provide them the opportunity to speak about their current research agenda and what led them to it. Students will thus have a greater appreciation for how research agendas are formed and how and why people choose the academic life.

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Skidmore Community. Departments and Programs will submit proposals.
Student pre

events as Academic Fair and excursions into the Northwoods.

Of course! This community has no shortage of opportunities for academic honors and accolades. You may still graduate with the Honors (cum laude, summa cum laude, magna cum laude.) You may still earn Departmental Honors in your major program. Also, many disciplines have national Honors Societies with chapters represented at Skidmore (for example Phi Alpha Theta in History, Alpha Kappa Delta in Sociology, and Pi Mu Epsilon in Mathematics.) Also, Skidmore has a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the interdisciplinary national honor society. Election into membership of any of these societies is a notable achievement. Finally, there are many academic prizes available which are awarded each year at the Honors and Prizes banquet. And, all seniors are eligible to apply for the Periclean Scholar Awards, as noted above. The Periclean Honors Forum represents just one of many possible avenues to academic distinction.

- x Welcome Back Dinner Picnic
- x Jon Ramsey Memorial Lecture
- x Honors Forum Policy Debate
- x Faculty to Faculty Dialogues
- x Holiday Party