



**Online & Distance Education, and Sierra Vista Honors Proposal  
June 2021**

Historically, a small subset of distance learners have had access to Honors, however, a more structured and collaborative approach is desired in order to expand the Honors College opportunity to all Arizona Online and Distance Education (ODE) undergraduate students. Given the diversity of the student population in these platforms and the unique nature of the student experience with six admission entry points a year, taking seven-week courses, and instructors implementing innovative instructional modalities, we recognize the need to address existing structures and processes that may present unintended barriers to participation. In order to make these inclusive adjustments, we also recognize the need to implement Honors College fees at a level representative of services provided.

It is our hope that, during the first year of Honors College programming in ODE platforms, Honors students will have access to Honors advising services, receive common reading materials, and be included in all remote opportunities to connect with other Honors students and with university faculty and staff. The following three priorities to promote success in the first year of programming are as follows:

1. Identify and implement a fee structure that reflects the services accessed by remote learners and encourages participation from this diverse population
2. Work with targeted professional programs offered in the Online and Distance platforms to develop meaningful honors courses, contracts, and capstone/thesis experiences while minimizing additional costs to students in a per unit tuition structure.
3. Implement the common reading program in an accessible way by finding ways to integrate synchronous and asynchronous opportunities for remote learners to be part of the Honors College community.

Based on the identified services to be accessed by a remote student population, we propose an Honors College fee for ODE students and Sierra Vista Campus and Locations at 20% of the rate assessed to Tucson Campus students. For example, in the 21-22 academic year, Tucson campus students will be assessed \$950/AY where the non-main campus students will be assessed \$190/AY. This rate recognizes the difference in services that will be accessed by remote learners while ensuring key components of the Honors experience are funded in development and implementation.

We appreciate the collaboration and support of the Honors College in creating meaningful Honors College opportunities and experiences for our ODE learners.

In partnership,

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