

The Distinctive Student

Every organization needs a reason for being. The Lee Honors College exists to provide a lively, rigorous undergraduate experience for intelligent and highly motivated undergraduate students.

The signature organizing principle for the LHC is the creation of “The Distinctive Student.” Our goal is to help you as a student become “distinctive” along a path of your own choosing. This principle shapes what we do in the LHC. Students are our most important partners in this endeavor. We believe that being a “distinctive student” will provide you with a realistic opportunity to:

- Get the job you desire in your chosen field, location, and/or organization
- Get into the professional or graduate school of your choosing
- Get into your desired theater, music, dance company or art institute
- Position yourself for a successful career and life

Becoming a “distinctive student” involves three interrelated components:

- Mastering a chosen field of study
- Demonstrating the learning outcomes for LHC students
- Embracing the LHC Dimensions of Success

Chosen Field of Study

Typically your major and minor area of study

The LHC learning outcomes expect that students will:

- Demonstrate intellectual skills and knowledge across a broad range of humanities, sciences, and the arts with an in-depth understanding of a specific discipline in preparation for work or continued education
- Demonstrate leadership and responsible citizenship in the university and wider community
- Demonstrate the willingness and ability to take responsibility for their own learning
- Be good critical thinkers able to develop sound arguments and able to recognize fallacious arguments
- Communicate effectively - orally and in writing
- Demonstrate international and intercultural competence

The LHC Dimensions of Success are:

- Intellectual and Academic Excellence
- High Quality Interpersonal Relationships
- Global Literacy and Intercultural Competence
- Integrity and the development of an Ethical Belief System
- Robust Health and a Sense of Well Being
- Civic Engagement
- Career and Identity Development

The Path to Distinction

You will have your own specific and customized path to distinction, although you will share some elements of the plan with others in the Lee Honors College. For example, pre-law students will share some common courses and experiences. Your plan will have two significant parts: your curriculum (course work) and your co-curricular activities.

Curriculum

Much of this is established by your choice of major(s) and minor areas of study, and by the general education requirements of the University. In addition, the Lee Honors College has academic requirements listed in the LHC Handbook. Make sure you are well-informed and familiar with what you need to take to meet the requirements of the University, Department, and both the LHC and College(s) that house your major and minor.

You have choices as to which general education classes to take. Choosing them should be done with consideration to how you wish to become distinctive. For example, an upper-level service learning course would set you apart when applying for jobs or graduate school, since it would show you value and are active in your community. It is important that you listen carefully to the advice you receive from your advisors in the LHC, your home College, and Department. The more that your advisors know about your career interests and plan, the better they can assist you.

Co-Curricular Activities

Co-curricular activities are all those activities done outside the classroom that add to your learning and development. In general, it will be these activities that will provide you the greatest distinction at the time of graduation. Co-curricular activities often prove to be the most powerful learning opportunities that you will experience. The list of co-curricular activities is extensive and cannot all be listed here. However, some of the more common ones include:

- Study abroad
- Internships, work study, job shadowing
- Active membership in a Registered Student Organization
- Participation on a non-profit board
- Volunteerism and/or service-learning classes
- Marching Band or Orchestra or other creative endeavors
- Alternative Spring and Winter Break
- Intramural Sports
- Attending cultural events

Just as with class selection, it is important to choose your co-curricular activities with an eye toward how they will help contribute to your path to distinction. Your advisors may also be able to help you decide which co-curricular activities will prove valuable to your plan.

Once more, the purpose of your plan should be to position yourself to achieve the kind of life and career for which you envision and hope. All of us in the Lee Honors College look forward to helping you.