



Dean of the
Honors College





[Michigan State University](#) (MSU) invites nominations and applications for the position of Dean of the Honors College. This is a unique internal leadership opportunity, open only to tenured faculty at the rank of associate or full professor currently appointed at MSU.

About the Honors College

Established in 1956, the Honors College (HC) at Michigan State University is one of the oldest and most respected honors programs in the country. The College fosters a dynamic, inclusive, and intellectually challenging environment for high-achieving undergraduate students across all academic disciplines.

With a current enrollment of over 4,000 students, the Honors College provides unparalleled academic flexibility, personalized academic advising, access to enriched and interdisciplinary courses, undergraduate research, and faculty mentorship.

The College is committed to preparing graduates who are intellectually curious, socially responsible, and engaged global citizens.

Why Consider the Honors College at MSU?

The Honors College offers the next dean a vibrant, collaborative, and student-centered environment supported by a deeply committed team of faculty and staff.

Key attractive features include:

- A strong and engaged student body that actively participates in campus, national, and global initiatives.
- A tightly knit and collaborative community, including a dedicated team of honors advisors and administrators.
- A rare opportunity to shape and elevate a nationally respected honors program and extend its reach and impact across the university.
- The chance to lead in the context of MSU's land-grant mission, supporting access, excellence, and social impact.





Position Overview

The Dean of the Honors College reports to the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and serves as the chief academic and administrative officer of the College. The Dean provides visionary leadership to sustain academic excellence, recruit new students, advance student success, and foster inclusive collaboration across MSU.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Academic & Programmatic Leadership

- Oversee the assessment, and development of honors curriculum and programming.
- Promote high-impact experiences such as undergraduate research, education abroad, and community engaged learning.
- Foster and support innovation and excellence in undergraduate education.

Strategic Planning & Collaboration

- Develop and execute a strategic vision aligned with institutional priorities and national honors education trends.
- Collaborate with deans, department chairs, and faculty across MSU to create academic experiences and co-curricular experiences for HC students.
- Support inclusive excellence and the full participation of all lived experiences and perspectives, within the college and across the university.

Advancement

- Strengthen connections with HC alums, donors, and external stakeholders.
- Lead innovative fundraising efforts, including naming opportunities and strategic initiatives.
- Collaborate with advancement and development teams to expand financial support for students and programs.

Student Success & Engagement

- Champion student achievement, well-being, and community engagement.
- Lead academic advising, mentoring, and student support programs.
- Cultivate a culture that supports the whole student.

Budget & Resource Management

- Provide oversight for the College's budget and financial operations.
- Secure and manage funding to support scholarships, experiential learning, and college programming.

Opportunities and Challenges for the Next Dean

OPPORTUNITIES

- Opening of Campbell Hall and the potential to co-create a living-learning model for Honors students.
- Engagement in the Spartan Global Learning Initiative, part of MSU's GenEd modernization, with opportunities to integrate global learning outcomes and advocate for inbound international students.
- Re-engaging faculty across colleges in honors pedagogy, mentorship, and interdisciplinary programming.
- Building upon the Honors College's outstanding national reputation by leading strategic efforts to recruit exceptional students from across the country and around the world.
- Expanding research opportunities for students beyond their first two years.
- Expanding global recruitment and increasing visibility of MSU's Honors College.
- Retooling the Honors College Strategic Plan to align with new institutional priorities.

Challenges

- Innovative fundraising, including naming opportunities and developing sustainable support for programs.
- Creative and strategic ways to expand academic offerings for Honors students in a decentralized model.
- Strong cross-campus collaboration and incentivization of faculty participation in honors education.



Key Priorities for the Next Dean

- Uphold and champion the land-grant mission of MSU and inclusive excellence, especially in a challenging political and higher education climate.
- Elevate the profile of the Honors College both internally and externally.
- Lead strategic planning and guide the implementation of a refreshed vision.
- Strengthen the integration of global and interdisciplinary learning experiences into the student journey.
- Build upon and expand opportunities for faculty collaboration, student mentorship, and undergraduate research.

Key Characteristics, Competencies, and Experience

The successful candidate will demonstrate the following:

- **Innovative Thinker** – Able to generate new ideas, challenge norms, and find novel solutions to emerging challenges.
- **Ethical and Transparent** – Operates with integrity, openness, and a commitment to accountability.
- **Bridge Builder** – Skilled at cultivating relationships and building trust across departments, colleges, and constituencies.
- **Academic Bridge-BUILDER** – Understands the value of collaboration across the sciences, arts and humanities and supports integrative learning.
- **Student-Centered** – Demonstrates compassion and care for students as whole individuals.
- **Engaged and Approachable** – Engaged and visible in the student and faculty community; committed to listening and responsiveness.
- **Innovative and Adaptive** – Willing to think “outside the box” and pursue bold initiatives that align with student and university needs.



Professional Qualifications

- Current tenured appointment at the rank of associate or full professor at Michigan State University.
- Demonstrated academic leadership experience and success in roles that support student engagement, interdisciplinary collaboration, or faculty development.
- A strong record of teaching, research, and service consistent with the expectations of a tenured faculty member.

Application Process

Nominations and applications are encouraged from tenured faculty at Michigan State University. Interested candidates should confidentially submit a curriculum vitae, and a letter of interest (Adobe PDF files preferred). Materials should represent qualifications relative to the opportunities and challenges described in this document. In your letter of interest, please describe how your experience related to the key responsibilities outlined in the candidate profile. Share your vision for the Honors College and specifically, discuss how you would foster an inclusive, student-centered environment that supports academic excellence, interdisciplinary learning, and engagement.

For fullest consideration, materials should be received as soon as possible and preferably by July 25, 2025.

Professional references will be requested from finalists selected for further consideration.

Contact

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