The Ramapo College Honors Program

Lounge: A112
Study Space: A110-111

Email: honors@ramapo.edu
Website: ramapo.edu/honors
Facebook: facebook.com/ramapohonors
Instagram: RCNJHonors

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Student Director of Outreach and Communication: Danielle DeAngelis
Student Director of Events and Community Service: Leana Hacopian

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   Dr. Tae Kwak
   Dr. Cristina Perez
   Dr. Bernard Roy
   Dr. Michaela Serban
   Dr. Gladys Torres-Baumgarten
Mission Statement

The Ramapo College Honors Program is a community of faculty and students dedicated to intellectual, creative, and moral engagement. Honors students seek excellence through continual guidance and a distinctive curriculum of critical thinking, intercultural and international understanding, experiential learning, service, and interdisciplinary studies. The end of the program is the beginning of an enriched and accomplished life.
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Introduction to the Honors Program

Director

Dr. Rebecca Root, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Studies, became Director of the Honors Program in July 2017. She is committed to continuing to develop the Honors Program as a beacon of excellence for the Ramapo Community, helping students to build an intellectually engaging, diverse, and supportive community from which they can excel and lead. She has been a faculty member at Ramapo College since 2009 and received her PhD in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Assistant Director

Chris Brittain has been a member of the Ramapo College Honors Program since 2012. He specializes in event planning and leadership training, and his goal is to expand the leadership and co-curricular opportunities available to all Honors students. He graduated from Lock Haven University with a Bachelor’s Degree in English/Communication Media and a Master’s Degree in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Higher Education Administration. He is also the Vice President for the Northeast Regional Honors Council.

Student Directors

Sam Anklowitz is a sophomore in the Honors Program. As Honors Student Director of Admissions and Leadership, he is looking forward to being able to serve and support the continuation of this community. In addition to the Honors Program, he is the Secretary for Ramapo’s student radio WRPR and is the Treasurer for the Residence Hall Association. He looks forward to working with everyone to create a better community.

Danielle DeAngelis is a sophomore journalism and literature double major at Ramapo. As the Student Director of Outreach and Communications for the Honors Program, she plans to guide students who need any assistance, and she plans to be the voice for the students in hopes to make the Honors Program an even greater community. In addition to her leadership roles within the Honors Program, she is a student leader for Ramapo’s Big Brothers Big Sisters program, the College Park Apartments’ RHC Representative, and the sports editor for the Ramapo News.

Leana Hacopian is a sophomore biochemistry major in the Honors Program at Ramapo College. As the Student Director of Event Planning and Community Service, she hopes to engage with and help students during their time at Ramapo to create meaningful experiences within and around the Ramapo community. She is also a member of the Executive Board of the Honors Program, the secretary of the Chemistry/Biochemistry Club, a member of the Armenian Club, participates in a traditional Armenian dance ensemble, and works as a Lab Assistant at Pfizer Inc.
The Honors Lounge

One of the greatest perks a Ramapo Honors student receives is access to the Honors Lounge. Located in Room A-110 of the A-Wing, the Honors Lounge can be accessed 24/7 with your Student ID. As of Fall 2019, we have converted A111 and A112 into a quiet study space as well; please be quiet in that room. Many students utilize the Lounge to study, do homework, eat lunch, and spend time with other honors students. Most Honors Development Group meetings will take place here as well. The Lounge includes computers with Internet access, a black and white printer, a television with basic cable, a mini-refrigerator, a microwave, and a wide variety of board games.

While the Lounge is considered your space to use as you wish, there are a few simple guidelines that should be adhered to by anyone using the Lounge:

1.) Be respectful of others in the Lounge. If you see students studying, doing homework, participating in Honors Development Group, etc., please keep noise to a minimum. Please only play music through headphones. The Quiet Study Space is to be a quiet area similar to a library 24/7.

2.) Clean up after yourself. You should always leave the Lounge cleaner than you found it. Clean up any food, garbage, or crumbs you may leave behind. Put back any furniture you have moved. If you see that someone else left a mess, please consider spending a few minutes to make the Lounge a cleaner place. Cleaning supplies can be found near the refrigerator. It is not the job of the student aides to clean up any mess you might have made.

3.) The printers in the Lounge and the Study Space are capped at 30 pages. If students are found to be printing more than that, printing privileges can be revoked.

4.) The mini-refrigerator is cleaned out on a daily basis. Please don’t leave food for more than 24 hours. Also, do not touch or remove any food that does not belong to you.

5.) Please do not leave items in the Lounge unattended. We are not responsible for lost or stolen items.
Keeping up with Everything Honors

Weekly Announcements

To help you keep track of what’s going on in the program, when and where meetings are, what groups are doing every week, etc., the Assistant Director will send out weekly announcements at the beginning of every week. This e-mail includes program announcements (speakers, deadlines, etc.), Honors Development Group announcements, and updates regarding requirements and expectations. It is very important that you read the announcements to learn all of the important information for the week.

Honors Website

The Honors Program has its own webpage on the Ramapo College Website. To access the Website, you can go to www.ramapo.edu/honors. Much of what you’ll need to know can be found on that site. The Student Resources page includes an archive of documents and important announcements from the past several months. Make sure to take some time to check out the website and become familiar with it throughout the semester.

Honors Alumni LinkedIn Page

In a few short years, you will be an alum of our program. You are welcome to join the Honors LinkedIn Page, Ramapo College Honors Program Alumni, during your senior year. It is a great way to interact with other Honors alumni, learn about Alumni events, and contact us about networking or mentorships with students. 2020 is the 40th anniversary of the Honors Program, and we hope to continue building a robust and active alumni community.

Honors Instagram

Follow RCNJHonors on Instagram to see photos from recent events, throwback photos, announcements, contests, and more!

Honors Google Calendar

We will invite you to add our calendar to your Google Calendar at the beginning of each year. This gives you access to the most up-to-date information on upcoming events and deadlines.
Academic Requirements

The GPA requirement for Honors students is a minimum of 3.0 at the end of each semester. The director will review the GPA of continuing students in January and May of each year. Students who fall below this requirement will receive a notification that they will be placed on a probationary period for one semester. Those who do not bring their GPA above a 3.0 after this period may not continue with the Honors Program. After the junior year, students who are still below a 3.0 will be ineligible to continue in the program.

Curriculum

Successful completion of the Honors course curriculum requires that you complete six Honors courses. The first five courses may be completed in your first four semesters with maximum flexibility for academic, clinical, internship, and work needs of students, or you can spread them out over four years. Students joining the program after the first semester should consult with the Director and Assistant Director about which courses they must fulfill.

HNRS 101 - Honors First Year Seminar
The Honors First Year Seminar (FYS) provides a comprehensive introduction to Honors-level learning. Seminar courses are developed around an academic theme or topic based on the expertise of each course instructor. The FYS instructor and peer facilitator introduce students to the academic and co-curricular programming of the College Honors Program and to all-college life generally. FYS seminars emphasize critical reading, writing, and discussion and focus on intellectual engagement, experiential learning, the methodology of the discipline being studied, and social responsibility to the larger community. FYS students will also participate in the Ramapo Summer Reading Program. This course fulfills the General Education requirement for Keystone Courses: First-Year Seminar.

HNRS 110 – Honors Social Science Inquiry
This course, an introduction to the social science sequence of general education, familiarizes students to the wide spectrum of social science approaches, methodologies (quantitative, qualitative and combinations between the two) and subject matter. It will use social science methods to examine major problems facing modern society on the local, national, and global levels. Using historical antecedents, it will focus on contemporary issues of inequality and the search for social justice that center on the various forms of social identities and structures of power and domination in society, including, but not limited to racism, ethnocentrism, classism, ableism, sexism, heterosexism, and transphobia. Finally, with attention to “welcoming the other,” this course facilitates understanding the experiences of marginalized peoples. This course fulfills the General Education requirement for Keystone Courses: Social Science Inquiry.

HNRS 201 – Honors Studies in the Arts and Humanities
Studies in the Arts and Humanities is a 4-credit interdisciplinary liberal arts course. It provides students with an introduction to key texts, concepts, and artifacts from different fields in the humanities. (These could include, for instance history, literature, philosophy, music, art history, and others.) Each section of the course covers a range of different cultures, and at least four
different periods in human history, which can range from the ancient world to contemporary works. This course is one of the Keystone General Education courses, required for all students. It is also designated Writing Intensive, and will require students to complete at least two different types of writing assignments. This course fulfills the General Education requirement for Keystone Courses: Studies in Arts & Humanities.

**HNRS 220 – Honors Global Awareness Seminar**
The College Honors Global Awareness Seminar offers an opportunity for students to focus on the international, intercultural and interdisciplinary features of culture in a discipline interesting to them. Possible courses focus on language, business, and contemporary issues such as the concentration of global media ownership, multi-cultural media within and outside the United States, the international system of communication, alternative journalism, the impact of new technologies on industry, and global and multicultural issues in literature and the arts. Courses will include features such as guest speakers, study abroad – depending on the semester and the topic. This course fulfills the General Education requirement for Keystone Courses: Global Awareness.

**HNRS 325 – Honors Values and Ethics Seminar**
The College Honors Values and Ethics Seminar offers an opportunity for students to focus on the exploration and development of personal values, civic engagement, and applied ethics. Courses offered will include an opportunity for students to develop their individual moral identity based on critical analysis of personal background, readings and discussion. Texts, art and materials in a variety of media may include consideration meta-ethics, normative ethics, applied ethics, political philosophy, ethics in the professions, and ethics in art. Ethics will be considered in a social, cultural and historical context. Courses will include experiential components designed to assist students in becoming responsible members of the local and wider communities as contributing members. This course fulfills the General Education requirement for Distribution Category: Values and Ethics.

**HNRS 420 – Honors Interdisciplinary Senior Seminar**
The College Honors Interdisciplinary Senior Capstone Seminar offers an opportunity for students to recognize how they can use knowledge within their own disciplines to contribute in broad interdisciplinary approaches to contemporary issues. Students will also gain appreciation of the contributions made by disciplines outside their own. Courses offered will include an opportunity for students to develop graduate and professional communication and collaborative skills. Courses will include deep experiential components designed to assist students in assessing their proposed approaches. Time will be dedicated toward working on the Honors Senior Project.

**NOTE:** Fall 2019 will be the last time HNRS 420 is offered. In future (and pending approval by the Faculty Academic Review Committee in Fall 2019), all students in the Honors Program will instead be required to complete 2-4 credits of independent study with a faculty member. The purpose of the independent study is to make significant progress or even complete your Senior Project. These credits should be fulfilled after your sophomore year. If you are interested in this option, please reach out to your faculty mentor to begin developing an idea and syllabus, and consult with the Director of the Honors Program.
**Senior Project**

Students will complete a Senior Project most likely during the last two or three semesters of their program. It should represent a significant piece of research or creative work in your field(s). The project requires research and preparation, completion of the work and presentation at the Ramapo College Honors Symposium. We also recommend presenting your research at one outside conference whenever possible. Each student will select his/her own Faculty Sponsor who will guide the work. Students completing their senior project this year also have a Faculty Reader; after this year, only a Faculty Sponsor will be involved in the senior project. After Fall 2019, the expectation will be that the student and Sponsor will consult with the Director to establish a timeline for completing an independent study and finalizing the senior project. Please consult the Senior Project FAQ for more details.

**What is required for an Honors Senior Project?**

The goal of the project is developing in students the recognition of the value of intellectual mentorship and collaboration and the experience of initiating their own research or creative/experiential work. Students have the opportunity to critically share their work and produce work of publishable quality. Ideally, students would have been narrowing and defining their project ideas within the curriculum and mentoring of the Program, as well as integrating ideas with their major and/or minor studies.

**Who are Faculty Sponsors and Readers?**

For completion of the Senior Project in the major during the 2019-20 academic year, one Sponsor and one Reader are required to assist in mentoring the work of each student. Each students selects their Sponsor; a Reader is selected by the Faculty Sponsor and student in consultation. Often these Readers provide competence in disciplines outside the field of the Faculty Sponsor but related to the work of the student, especially in the case of double majors or minors. Detailed information about recommendations and expectations is posted on the Honors website. After this year, students will not be required or expected to have a faculty reader.

**What forms do I need to supplement my Senior Project?**

Over the course of your college career, you should be consistently meeting certain goals in order to ensure that you are on the correct path toward completion of your Senior Project. Accompanying these goals are several forms that must be submitted during the junior and senior academic year. These forms, including the Project Idea Form, the Senior Project Proposal Form, and the Senior Project Completion Form, can be found on the Honors website.
Senior Project Timeline

First Year: Gain a comprehensive knowledge of the Senior Project and what is involved in the process. The earlier you are aware of it and comfortable with the parameters, the easier it will be for you to complete. By the end of your first year, you should be narrowing the field in which you might conduct your research or creative work. You will also be invited to the Honors Lunch with a Professor each year. You should plan to attend and invite a professor you may be considering to be your sponsor. You should also attend the Honors Symposium in April to get a sense of what completed projects and presentations look like.

Sophomore Year: Begin seriously considering what field of study you will choose for your Senior Project. By the end of your sophomore year, you should be well into the core of your major and thereby giving serious thought to which of your interests you would like to explore for your project. You should meet one-on-one with the Director at least once by the end of your sophomore year to discuss your progress in the Honors Program and ideas for your Senior Project. You might also have applied to an Honors conference (NRHC or NCHC) by this point or be planning to apply to a future conference. You should attend the Honors Symposium in April to get a sense of what completed projects and presentations look like.

Junior Year: At this point, you might consider starting your Senior Project to offset the workload during your senior year. Most students will spend this year determining the subject of their project and then seek out a Faculty Sponsor. Your Senior Project Idea Form is due by October of Junior Year. You must submit a Senior Project Proposal Form by May 1 of your junior year. For students graduating after May 2020, you will need to schedule thoughtfully to determine when to complete your 2-4 credit Honors Independent Study, which you and your faculty sponsor will design so as to significantly advance or even complete your senior project. (Students completing their senior project this year are not required to complete an Independent Study and should, in most cases, instead complete HNRS 420 in Fall 2019 and work on their senior projects within that course and during winter break and the first part of Spring semester.) Students completing an Independent Study must fill out a Contract for Honors Independent Study and an Independent Study Registration Form, which must be submitted to the Registrar’s office. You should also attend the Honors Symposium in April to get a sense of what completed projects and presentations look like.

Senior Year: Most Honors students spend their senior year completing Senior Projects. The Honors Program requires that you develop a timeline with your advisors and adhere to it throughout the year. We will monitor check-ins with your Sponsor and Reader on a consistent basis and see to it that you’ve completed the Project Completion Form by the spring deadline. You will be required to give a brief oral presentation or present a poster of your research at the Symposium to your family, your peers, and the Ramapo faculty, staff, and administration. It is at this time that you will receive your Honors medal and certificate. It should also be noted that the Application for Graduation with College Honors is due by the end of January your senior year or the end of September if you are graduating in January.
Co-Curricular Requirements

For successful completion of the Ramapo College Honors Program, along with the curricular requirements outlined in the College Catalog, students are required to demonstrate:

- Engaged citizenship in the learning community of students and faculty in the College Honors Program
- Engaged citizenship in the Ramapo College community, the wider local community or socially engaged projects generally

The Ramapo College Honors Program is intentionally designed to be a supportive, active, and engaged community. A significant part of any community is participation and engagement. The Ramapo College Honors Program requires this engagement to maintain membership. Each year, Honors students are required to attend vital events in the life of the community and a number of other significant events within that community. This participation leads to the development of the community and strengthens and supports it. Students who do not fulfill these requirements in a given semester will be required to meet with the Director to discuss their status in the College Honors Program. Students who do not participate according to the expectations of the Program as outlined below will not be able to graduate with Honors.

All of your Honors activity should be recorded for your personal records. (See Appendix A) In addition, you should sign an attendance sheet at every Honors event so that we can keep accurate records. Typically a student director or Executive Board member will present the attendance sheet at an event.

Students attending the NRHC Conference in Providence, RI in April 2018
• **General Meetings**: Each student is required to attend the General Meeting at the beginning of each semester. These are not just vital for their information, but are a chance for us to convene as a community near the beginning of each semester.

• **Academic Events (AE)**: These events emphasize the principles of the Honors Program and develop and express the intellectual lives of the students associated with them.
  
  o You are required to attend a minimum of two of the following per year:
    ▪ Family Day
    ▪ Lunch with a Professor
    ▪ Honors Symposium (required of all Juniors and Seniors)
    ▪ Fall Honors Trip (does not count as AE if attended for a class you are currently enrolled in)
    ▪ Alumni Panel
    ▪ Mental Health Awareness Panel
    ▪ Honors Networking Dinner
    ▪ Lunch in the Lounge Presentations
    ▪ National Collegiate Honors Council Conference
    ▪ Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference
    ▪ COPLAC Conference

• **Civic Engagement**: Each student should perform a minimum of 10 hours of community service per year or make an equivalent contribution to a worthy cause. Students must submit a reflection of service at the end of each academic year. We will announce opportunities throughout the year, but you can also visit the Center for Student Involvement for more information.

• **Honors Development Groups (HDGs) (First-Year Honors Students Only)**
  
  o Students must attend at least eight meetings in the fall semester.
  o Community Service Project in spring semester (counts toward 10-hour civic engagement requirement)

• **Special Events (SE)**: These optional events are planned by students to strengthen the relationship among Honors students and develop the community aspect of the program. These are great ways to meet other Honors students and have a great time in the process.
  
  ▪ Honors Banquet
  ▪ Extreme Team-Building
  ▪ Halloween Party
  ▪ Toys for Tots Dance
  ▪ Minute to Win It Night
  ▪ Talent Show
  ▪ Honors Olympics
Academic Events

Honors Symposium

We host an annual Honors Symposium each April to recognize the outstanding work done within the College Honors Program. Students present their Senior Project in the major at this all-college event celebrating the work of students with their faculty mentors, family, and friends. All Honors students are invited and encouraged to attend. This is a great way to get a sense of what completed projects and presentations look like.

Family Day

Family Day is a great opportunity for you to meet other College Honors students and their families and learn more about the College Honors Program, while enjoying a fun day of activities. Family Day usually includes events such as a master class for family members taught by an Honors faculty member. We also provide a taste of our co-curricular activities through an informal question and answer panel session, some engaging icebreakers and mini-games, a catered lunch, and a trivia game where prizes will be awarded.

Lunch with a Professor

This casual event gives students the chance to meet with professors of their choice through an informal lunch session. All students can invite a professor and spend some time one-on-one over a catered lunch to discuss the details of their major, their field of study, or the details of their Senior Project. Students are expected to read a piece of the professor’s research in advance.

Lunch in the Lounge Presentations

These presentations take place in our Honors Lounge at lunchtime 2 or 3 times per semester. Lunch is usually provided.

Some examples of Lunch in the Lounge topics include:
- Senior Project Info Session
- Conference Proposal Workshop
- Presentation from the Office of Fellowships, Scholarships, and Graduate School Advisement
- Presentation from the Counseling Center
- Idea Exchange on improving the Honors Program
Conferences

One of the best ways for you to get to see the world while networking and practicing your presentation skills is to attend an Honors Conference. Every year we take students to the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in the fall and the Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference in the spring where they spend 2-4 days exploring a new city, meeting other Honors students, and presenting to students and professors from across the country. Conferences are competitive, and you are required to submit proposals to the Director as well as a signed attendance policy if your proposal has been selected. (See Appendix B)

Special Events

We typically plan a number of different social gatherings for our students including but not limited to Extreme Team-Building, a Halloween Party, a semi-formal awards banquet/dance, a Talent Show, and the Honors Olympics. The better the turnout for these events, the more we will continue to plan. Suggestions for different kinds of events are always welcome.

Honors Development Groups

An Honors Development Group is a group of seven to nine Honors students with two sophomore or junior leaders that meet on a weekly basis for eight weeks during the Fall semester. The purpose is simple: to make the transition into college and the Honors Program as seamless as possible by surrounding you with supportive peers and presenting you with various opportunities to get involved. All first-year Honors students are assigned to an HDG based on the availability within their class schedule.

What is an HDG?

HDGs participate in a variety of activities throughout the year to help students make friends, become acclimated to campus, and feel a part of the Honors Program. Some activities that an HDG might partake in include discussing in-depth topics, watching and discussing films, visiting various parts of campus, playing board games, doing scavenger hunts, decorating the Honors Lounge, and much more. Your HDG leaders are sophomores and juniors who have gone through a comprehensive training program before leading.

What are my responsibilities?

Students in the first year cohort are required to attend one HDG per week for eight weeks, each meeting lasting approximately one hour. Your group will meet at the same time every week in the Honors Lounge, though you may choose to hold meetings elsewhere from time to time. Your group may also choose to make some meetings last two hours in order to skip a week or make up for a missed meeting. Occasionally, meetings may have to be cancelled or times changed. It is very important that if you are not going to make your HDG meeting, you let your leader know so they know not to expect you. It can be difficult for leaders to execute their plans properly if their entire group doesn’t show up. First year students must attend a minimum of 8 meetings in the Fall semester.
*International Study*

Participating in a Study Abroad program during your time at Ramapo College will allow you to become a global citizen. Experiencing life in other countries and cultures, developing foreign language skills, broadening your worldview, and making lifelong friends while earning college credit are just some of the ways students benefit from their time abroad. Many students use Study Abroad to prepare for graduate school and future employment. Most importantly, students remember and value their study abroad experiences for the rest of their lives.

Students in the College Honors Program who enroll in a study abroad program that is at least four weeks long may request that they be waived from taking Honors 420.

Students who study abroad may apply for the Hiden Family College Honors Scholarship or the Century 21 Scholarship. These scholarships can pay for a large percentage of the costs of an international trip. Students should indicate their interest in being considered for this scholarship when they apply to Study Abroad through the Roukema Center for International Education Website. These scholarships are only open to College Honors students.

This year, like last, we plan to take a group of Honors students abroad during Spring Break 2020. Details will be announced in October. Students are required to apply and pay the majority of the expense of the trip, though the college and Honors Program also defray part of the cost.
Getting Involved

Admissions Team

The Admissions Team is a great opportunity to gain valuable presentation skills while giving back to the Honors Program by assisting with the Admission process. Members of this committee will attend Open Houses and Admitted Students Days, meet with parents during Admissions interviews, and meet weekly to discuss ways to market our program to prospective students.

Honors Development Group Leadership

Throughout the course of your first year, you’ll have spent a great deal of time in your HDG. Hopefully by the end of the year you will have had such a great time that you’ll want to become a leader yourself to take what you’ve learned from your co-leaders and pass it on to future generations of students. Becoming an HDG Leader involves a training seminar in the spring to ensure that you have all the tools you need to be an effective HDG leader.

Student Executive Board

The purpose of the Student Executive Board is to provide assistance to the Director pertaining to the development of co-curricular resources and events. The E-Board is responsible for a great deal of the legwork and behind-the-scenes planning for the Honors Program. Goals of the Executive Board include promoting the College Honors Program, strengthening the program’s learning and social community, and creating, promoting, and maintaining College Honors programming which supports co-curricular development within the community. New members are chosen each year. Consider applying if you feel you would enjoy having a serious leadership role within the program.
Appendices

- A: Honors Requirement Personal Checklist
- B: Conference Attendance Policy
Appendix A: Honors Requirements Personal Checklist

This form is for your personal records.

General Meetings (1 per Semester)

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Academic Events (Minimum 2 per Year)

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Special Events (Optional)

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Civic Engagement (Minimum 10 hours per year, excludes seniors)

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Honors Development Groups (Minimum 8 in Fall semester, First-Year students only)

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Appendix B: Conference Attendance Policy
For inquiries, email honors@ramapo.edu

By agreeing to attend a conference at the expense of the Honors program, you agree to attend the conference sessions and to be an active participant in the proceedings. You must attend at least three (3) conference sessions in addition to the one you are participating in or moderating, and write a two-page reflection on your conference experience that describes each session you attended and what you learned. These reflections will be given to the Assistant Director of the Honors Program within five days of the end of the conference.

You understand that you represent Ramapo College of New Jersey and the College Honors Program, and that your conduct reflects upon the College, the Honors Program, and its community. Accordingly, you agree to set a stellar example at the conference: to follow all laws, rules, and instructions; to behave in a professional and dignified manner; to strive to exceed any and all academic and conduct expectations of the conference planners.

Failure to comply with this agreement will lead to consequences as deemed appropriate by the Honors Program. Such consequences range from requiring additional follow-up work to losing privileges to attend other conferences or other off-campus Honors-sponsored activities.

By signing below, you indicate that you agree to the above.

Student Name: ________________________________

Student Signature: ______________________________

Date: ________________________________