

HONORS POINT SYSTEM

Palm Beach State Honors College Mission: In keeping with the mission of Palm Beach State, the purpose of the Honors College is to provide a challenging and supportive academic environment in which students are encouraged to think critically, demonstrate leadership, and develop ethical standards. Honors pursues an interactive learning experience where students acquire a creative and comprehensive understanding of concepts in an interdisciplinary and global context. Palm Beach State Honors students and faculty share a commitment and civic responsibility that extends beyond the classroom to local, national, and international communities.

Description and Purpose of Point System: The Honors College Point System is designed to encourage active participation in the Honors community, in the Palm Beach State community, and in the local, national, and international communities to which we belong. Students pursuing the Honors Diploma are expected to earn a minimum number of points, as described below. In addition, Honors Points may also provide a quantitative basis for scholarship determinations, program awards, and other merit-based benefits.

Minimum Points Needed for the Honors Certificate: A minimum of 20 total Honors Points will be required to graduate with an Honors Certificate, in addition to other established requirements for Honors coursework and GPA. A minimum of 15 points are required in Honors Activities, Service Activities, and Cultural Events (see chart). The remaining points may be earned in any of the six categories, which are described below.

Category of Activity	Minimum Honors Points Required
Honors Activities	5
Service	5
Cultural Events	5
Leadership	No minimum points required
Scholarly Activities	No minimum points required
Employment-Related Activities	No minimum points required

Minimum Points Needed for the Honors Diploma: A minimum of 40 total Honors Points will be required to graduate with an Honors Diploma, in addition to other established requirements for Honors coursework and GPA. A minimum of 35 points are required in Honors Activities, Service Activities, and Cultural Events (see chart). The remaining points may be earned in any of the six categories, which are described below.

Category of Activity	Minimum Honors Points Required
Honors Activities	10
Service	20
Cultural Events	5
Leadership	No minimum points required
Scholarly Activities	No minimum points required
Employment-Related Activities	No minimum points required

HONORS ACTIVITIES

- **Definition of Activity:** Honors activities include attendance at program-sponsored meetings, receptions, lunches, parties, symposia, etc.
- **Point Values:**
 - Attendance at Honors Student Advisory Committee meetings = 2 points each meeting
 - Attendance at other events & meetings = 1 point each
 - Attendance at Honors Class IDH2911 = 6 points
- **Documentation:** If there is a sign-in sheet provided by the Honors College, then no other documentation is required.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

- **Target:** 5 points / semester
- **Definition of Activity:** Students pursuing the Honors Diploma are expected to engage in activities that promote civic responsibility and demonstrate a commitment to community. These activities may be with on-campus or off-campus organizations.
- **Point Values:**
 - Completion of a Service Learning component in a PBCC course = 5 points
 - Reviewing a Paper for Sabiduria = 3 Points
 - Other service activities = 1 point for each volunteer hour
- **Documentation:** Successful completion of a Service Learning component will be verified by the Center for Academic Service-Learning at Palm Beach State. Other activities require a form (available on the Honors Web Page) describing the activity, indicating the number of hours worked, and signed by an activity supervisor.

CULTURAL EVENTS

- **Target:** 1-2 points/semester
- **Description of Activity:** Cultural events may include lectures, concerts, performances, plays, art exhibits, etc.
- **Point Value:** Each activity = 1 point
- **Documentation:** Student must submit a ticket stub or performance program from the event, along with a brief (one-half to one typed page) summary of the event. Prior to the event, students should consult the Honors College Manager to determine if the event will qualify for cultural points. Points submitted without pre-approval are subject to being rejected by the Honors College Manager. Rejected events can be appealed to the Honors Student Advisory Council.

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

- **No minimum points required**
- **Definition of Activity:** Leadership activities include those in which the student serves as an officer in a Palm Beach State student organization or completion of the Center for Student Leadership.
- **Point Value:** Each semester served as officer = 1 point, Completing Palm Beach State's Center for Student Leadership = 5 Points
- **Documentation:** Student will submit a form (available on the Honors Web Page) describing the organization and the position held; the form will need to be signed by the faculty or staff advisor.

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

- **No minimum points required**
- **Definition of Activity:** Scholarly activities include presenting papers at academic meetings, publishing in peer-reviewed journals, receiving competitive academic awards, being named to the All-Florida or All-USA Academic Team, being inducted into academic honorary societies (e.g., Phi Theta Kappa), etc.
- **Point Value:** Each activity will be worth either 1 or 2 points. The Honors Student Advisory Committee and Honors College program manager will assess each individual activity and determine a point value.
- **Documentation:** Student must submit evidence of each activity qualifying in this category – e.g., copy of meeting program, photocopy of publication, notification of award, certificate of membership in honorary society, etc.

EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES

- **No minimum points required**
- **Definition of Activity:** Employment activities include any activity, event, or award that demonstrates excellence in the workplace, including but not limited to the following: employee of the month, special commendation, recognition of a job well-done, etc.
- **Point Value:** Each activity = 1 point
- **Documentation:** Student must submit a written statement explaining each qualifying activity; the statement should be signed (for verification purposes only) by the student's direct supervisor.