



Qatar University
Honors Program Department
Academic Year 2012 – 2013

Honors Program Annual Report

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1- Summary

This academic year has been a remarkable year for the Honors Program. The academic year was mainly highlighted with the program's restructuring. The restructuring and review of the program was a major collaborative task that involved all the colleges and concerned committees. We have also managed to increase the awareness of the program inside and outside Qatar University (QU), attract external Sponsorship and establish excellent relationships with other USA Honors Colleges.

The Honors student numbers has increased dramatically and a well-defined admissions criterion was established. The program doubled its student numbers from the College of Arts and Sciences and attracted students from other colleges where zero student intakes were previously recorded, since the program was established in Fall 2009.

The program is also working effectively with colleges, admissions and registry departments to establish best practices and an advising system to help build guides and procedures. Communications and excellent working relationships where established with Qatar University Student advising unit. Specialist workshops and awareness sessions were given to help raise the level of awareness for the study plan and other academic and non-academic requirements of the Honors students.

The Honors Student Association was reactivated in a totally new way in accordance and collaboration with the university student activity departments. Our students have managed to maintain a high profile this academic year by integration fully with the Qatar University life, volunteer work and other outside university activities.

The Honors students managed to win outstanding national and regional recognitions and won prestigious awards, which were commended by the QU upper administration. The program has also offered the students a number of excellent learning and experience opportunities such as competing in competitions in Dubai, Oman and attending national and international conferences.

A student exchange trip to the USA was arranged and students reflected positively on this excellent learning experience.

1.1 New Mission, Vision and Program Learning Outcomes:

The Honors Program revised its mission, vision and learning outcomes as part of the restructuring of the program. Details of the restructuring are given in Section 6 below. The new mission and vision are as follows:

A) Mission

The Honors Program at Qatar University provides a highly intellectual environment for exceptional students to explore and achieve their full potential. It is designed to support self-motivated students in developing critical thinking skills and to foster their scholarly and intellectual curiosity. The enriched interdisciplinary curriculum prepares the students to face the challenges of an ever-changing world.

B) Vision

The Honors Program at Qatar University will be a community where exceptional, motivated, and innovative minds are challenged. It will serve as a vehicle to enhance the intellectual caliber and to inspire the overall academic culture of the university.

C) Learning Outcome

- Develop interdisciplinary perspectives on contemporary and current issues.
- Develop ability to conduct quality research or scholarship in their disciplines.
- Demonstrate advanced oral and written communication skills.
- Develop advanced level of critical thinking and problem solving skills.

2- Office Employment.

The Honors Program was successful in employing two full time staff before the end of the Fall semester.

TABLE 1: Current Honors Staff

Honors Program Staff				
Employee Name	Job Title	Starting Working Day	Department	Tel. no.
Sara S. El-Orfali	Coordinator	Sunday Dec. 2 nd , 2012	Honors Program	4403 4995
Takwa Jaber	Admin. Assistant	Tuesday Nov. 6 th , 2012	Honors Program	4403 4994

TABLE 2: Honors Staff Prior to Fall 2013

Staff – Prior to Fall 2012 (On Part-Time Basis)			
Employee Name	Job Title	Starting Working Day	Ending Working Day
Sehide Ruken Birinci	Admin. Assistant	March 2012	November 2012
Aida Rafat Abou Elela	Director Assistant	August 26th, 2012	October 20th, 2012

3- Student Numbers and Statistics.

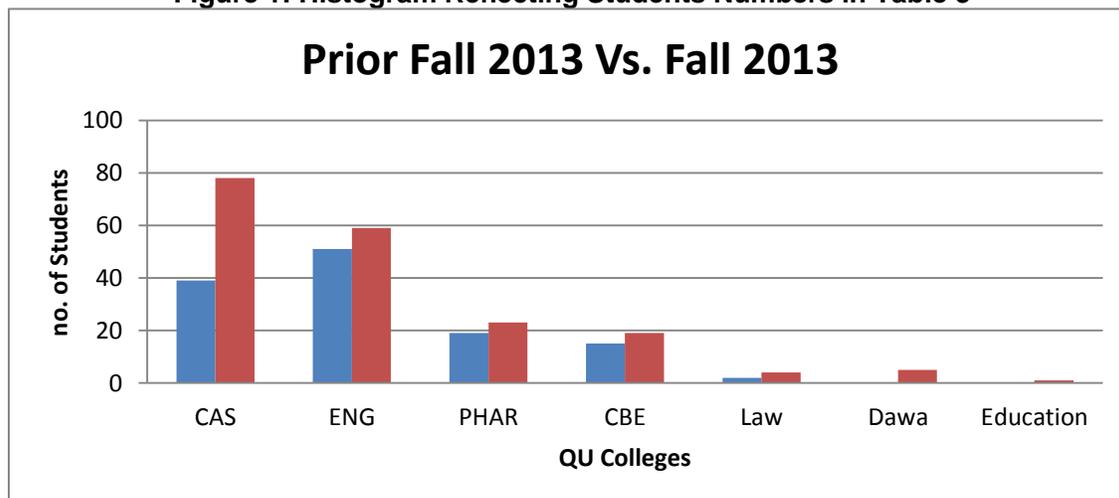
Below is a table showing the number of existing students in the Honors Program versus the number of the students who newly applied in Spring 2013 to join the program. These numbers illustrate an initial statistic since the office is still accepting admission applications of students until the mid of September 2013. According to the Honors Program requirements,, students with a GPA less than 3.00 are giving the chance till the end of Summer 2013 to raise up their GPAs before the necessary dismissal action is taken. Note that, there were 14 Honors Students who withdrew from the Honors Program, mainly due to a drop in their GPA.

TABLE 3: Honors Students Numbers Fall 2009 – Fall 2013

	Numbers of students since start of program (Fall 2009 – Spring 2011)	New students accepted into the program in the current academic year Fall 2012 - Spring 2013
College	No. of Students Exist in HP	No. of Students Applied to HP
CAS	39	39
ENG	51	8
PHAR	19	4
CBE	15	4
Law	2	2
Dawa	0	5
Education	0	1
Total	126	63

Figure 1, depicts some statistics about the current Honors student numbers (through June 2013). The figure is a histogram reflecting the number of students in each College prior to Fall 2012 (blue bar) versus the total number of Honors students as of Fall 2013 (red bar), as illustrated in the previous table.

Figure 1: Histogram Reflecting Students Numbers in Table 3



The Honors Program initiatives and campaign to raise awareness and improve the image of the program resulted in an increase in the number of admitted students. In Spring 2013, more than 63 students were newly accepted in the program. They will start taking the Honors Core courses Fall 2013. This number may increase since we are still interviewing new students. Cut off point for accepting new students for the Fall 2013 semester has been decided to be the add and drop date for the Fall 2013 semester.

Of the new students accepted, CAS student numbers doubled this semester with more than an 80% increase; this was the largest increase in student numbers achieved in a single semester. The program also attracted for the first time students from Colleges such as Sharia, Education and Law.

The program will continue to work with the various Colleges and advisors to attract the high caliber students the Honors Program was designed to attract.

4- Student and Faculty Orientation

The Honors Program was very active from the onset of this academic year in raising the awareness about the Program. The following events are examples of events that place this past year.

4.1- Yahala Event

The Academic Orientation for the new faculty took place over two days on September 11-12, 2012 at the new Library.

4.2- New Student Orientations

The Honors Program met with the new QU students in a number of orientation events as an integrated part of the orientation activity organized by the University. Further, the program organized open days for high school pupils and their teachers on QU campus. The following is an example and details some of the events the Honors Program participated in for new QU students.

- 1- 101 Orientation Day held for new students, CBE, Wed. - Jan 30th, 2013.
- 2- Open day for schools, Ibn-Khaldun, Mar 05, 2013 - Mar 06, 2013.

The Program also targeted existing QU students and organized a number of events to further showcase and address questions about the Program.

A number of potential students, with GPA of 3.5 and above and who meet the required admission criteria of the program, were invited via the college advisors to an end of the year event. This End of the Year Event was organized by the Honors Program to celebrate the achievements of the top honors students and highlight the new structural changes to the Program. It also served as a vehicle to show new potential students the breadth and depth of the Honors Program activities and to allow a question and answer session to be conducted. The event was

held on Thursday, 16th of May 2013 in Ibn-Khaldun Hall. The list of awarded students can be checked on the following link: http://www.qu.edu.qa/honors_program/newsletter_publications.php

The Program was also active in meeting new potential Honors students from a number of Colleges and programs by giving talks and presentations for a number of gatherings such as those in the Department of History, College of Sharia and CAS (CAS Female Days), Wednesday, May 7 at 12:30 Stairs 4, Room 203 (women’s Building; CAS (Male Days), Wednesday, May 15 at 12:30 CBE Building, H08-E203). Furthermore, the Director was active in presenting to students in a number of Dean’s list events such as:

- College of Business (Female Day), Tues., April 30 at 12:30 in E 108 (CBE Building).
- College of Business (Male Day), Wed., May 1 at 12:30 in C219 (CBE Building).
- College of Arts & Science (Female Day), Wed., May 7th at 12:30 in E 108 (CBE Building).
- College of Arts & Science (Male Day), Wed., May 15 at 12:30 in H08-E203 (CBE Building).
- College of Sharia. Tues., March 26th 2013 in the college of Sharia.
- College of Engineering.

5- School Visits

Two orientation events were organized on two consecutive days for High School Honors students to introduce them to the QU Honor Program and encourage them to join and be aware of its benefits. The table below lists the event details.

TABLE 4: Detailed information of the School’s Visit

High School Female	Sunday, May 5 at 9:00 in Administration Building, Reception Hall.
High School Male	Monday, May 6 at 9:00 in Administration Building, Reception Hall.

High schools visited include:

- 1- Qatar Leadership Academy (Male School).
- 2- Jassim bin Hamad Independent Secondary School (Male School).
- 3- Al-Wakrah Independent Secondary School. (Female School).
- 4- Om Ayman Independent Secondary School. (Female School).

6- Restructuring of the Honors Program

The establishment of the QU Honors Program was approved by the Executive Management Committee Affairs (EMC) in June 2008 and the program was launched in the following Fall (Fall 2009). The program started with 4 students and currently has 139 active students in different stages of their study plan.

In Fall 2012, the new Honors Director together with the Honors council carried out a thorough review of the current status of the program. Major tasks were identified to be carried out for the academic year 2012-2013. The main tasks were:

- 1- Review and restructure the Honors Program
- 2- Organize outreach activities to attract and retain high caliber students to the program
- 3- Establish a strategic plan for the program for the next 3 years
- 4- Carry out gap analysis on the current status of the program (internal audit).
- 5- Establish the degree requirement for the HP.
- 6- Review the HP learning outcomes. The HP program learning outcomes (PLO) should be revisited and changed to reflect the HP mission and vision and to align them with those of QU, and to map the PLO with the required Honors courses.
- 7- Identify, develop and re-assess courses that are selected for the Honors students in line of the current changes to the core curriculum program (CCP) course offerings and the change in the language of instruction.
- 8- Address course substitution issues arising from the current Honors Program structure and lack of definition of the placement of the Honors courses.

The QU Honors Program is designed for highly motivated and academically inquisitive students who are looking for an enriching college experience by enhancing their critical thinking and ability to engage in scholarly activities. Advancing written, analytical and oral communication skills within a community of excellence is a main priority of the Program.

Preparing competent graduates for employment by providing high quality education is one of the main key performance objectives of Qatar University. With this in mind and in an effort to enhance the standard and quality of the Honors Education, a review of some of the policies and procedure has been undertaken. The main justification for the review is to clarify the policies, explain procedures, and eliminate ambiguity, which had been identified as a weakness of the program. All the proposed changes are in line with the practices of leading USA Honors Programs. Comprehensive benchmarking was carried out and is reported in the main restructuring document. The benchmarking was undertaken with SACS accredited institutions where possible.

Key Changes:

1. The changes proposed will not change the number of credit honors needed for a student to fulfill the Honors curriculum requirements. The 24 credit hours will remain. A shift towards higher-level courses, such as research methods, senior thesis and capstone projects are proposed. As a result, the distribution between Honors courses taken from core curriculum program will be reduced by 3 CH. These 3 CH will be taken as an honors course in the student's major at 300-400 level courses. Benchmarking and gap analysis (USA Honors offering universities) highlighted a need to offer higher-level Honors courses, which focus on research and scholarly development and capstone experience and/or thesis.
2. Furthermore, in an effort to attract and retain high caliber students from all university disciplines, benefits to students and to faculty involved in teaching Honors courses are also proposed. Table 3 summaries some of the benefits proposed to both students and faculty. Full details are shown in the main restructuring document.

Impact of Changes:

1. The proposed changes went into effect Fall 2013. Previously enrolled students in the Program can also benefit from the current changes and may opt to switch to the new plan where applicable.
2. The Honors Program is also working to develop guidance and more clarifications on issues related to the selection of faculty to teach in Honors courses, selection of courses to be offered as honors courses as well as rules and regulations related to the honors course contracts and assessment.

In addition, changes to the current curriculum structure are proposed. The main changes are requested to accommodate higher-level courses in the Honors curriculum and to add more emphasis on the Honors Senior Thesis courses to achieve the anticipated Honors Program Learning outcomes. All the details are given in the main body of this report.

The integration of the curriculum changes on the various university programs is also included in the report. A full analysis of each program study plan was carried out. Major courses that will be used for the Honors Senior seminar and Honors thesis (Capstone) were identified and agreed by the colleges and the college programs.

Mapping of the program learning outcomes (PLO) to the Honors courses is also given. Benchmarking analysis took place with a large number of USA Honors Universities. Most of the research was devoted to SACS accredited institutions. The benchmarking was carried out for use as a reference to check the validity of some of the proposed changes. The proposed changes fall within common practice of other institutions.

The main changes made include the following:

- 1- Mission and vision: revert back to the original text as approved by EMC
- 2- Objectives of the program: add to the website
- 3- Honors Program learning outcomes (PLO): stick to the current PLO with possibility for review after the end of the current assessment cycle.
- 4- Admission requirements: slight changes to reflect the current QU admission requirements.
- 5- Admission for current QU students (transfer to the program): maintain the 3.5 GPA required for current QU undergraduate students to join the program.
- 6- Continuation in the program: use the originally approved rules and add rules to the HP website.
- 7- Graduation from program: again revert back to use the originally approved rules. The most important issues here will be related to the designation at graduation.
- 8- Dismissal from the program: use original approved rules. Students with GPA below 3 will be dismissed from the program.
- 9- Readmission: no change to the policies
- 10- Curriculum structure: same number of credit hours is required (24 CH). Distribution will change to accommodate a Senior Honors Seminar course.
- 11- Benefit to Faculty: benefits are proposed to encourage teaching in the honors courses
- 12- Benefits to Students: the benefits need to be activated.
- 13- Honors Program Organizational structure: Honors Program advisory board and Curriculum committees are established.

7. Honors Program Revised Policies:

7.1 Admission to the program:

Figure 2: Admission Criteria

Admission Requirements for Newly Admitted Undergraduate students	Admission Requirements for Current QU Undergraduate Students (Transfer to the program)
1. Minimum of 95% in high school certificate or equivalent	1. Complete or about to complete min 12 to 18 credit hours in undergraduate level courses with 3.3 GPA
2. Satisfying the acceptance requirements of the undergraduate program he/she registered to	2. Have no record of academic probation or disciplinary misconduct or violation
3. Successfully pass an interview	3. Recommendation letters from current or previous instructors, counselors, or academic advisors
4. Recommendation letters	4. Successfully pass an interview
5. Written essay exam	5. Written essay exam

7.2 Transfer to the program

Regular undergraduate students can apply to enroll in the Honors Program if they satisfy the following requirements:

1. Complete or about to complete minimum of 12 to 18 credit hours in undergraduate level courses with 3.3 GPA.
2. Have no record of academic probation or disciplinary misconduct or violation.
3. Recommendation letters from current or previous instructors, counselors, or academic advisors.
4. A written essay.
5. Successfully pass an interview

7.3 Continuation in the program

All undergraduate students admitted to the Honors Program have to satisfy the following requirement in order to maintain their enrollment in the Honors Program.

1. A minimum cumulative Qatar University GPA of 3.30.
2. Progress towards completion of his/her degree requirements.
3. Not having more than two consecutive semesters with no Honors course.
4. Having no violations, probation or have a record of any misconduct.

7.4 Graduation from the program

1. Earn a minimum cumulative Qatar University undergraduate GPA of 3.50 at graduation.
2. Complete a minimum of 24 credit hours of Honors Program courses.
3. Complete all Honors Program courses with a minimum grade of C.
4. Have never been placed on academic probation, nor was subjected to disciplinary action while studying at QU.

For student completing the entire honors requirement but having a GPA of less than 3.5 and no lower than 3.3, will be:

1. Issued with a certificate of honors course completion (for Students who has successfully completed all required).
2. Courses in the honors study plan, course listing and grades.
3. Will be identical to what is officially stated on the students.
4. Official academic record.

7.5 Dismissal and withdrawal from the Honors Program

An Honors student will be dismissed from the Honors Program when:

1. Declining GPA below 3.3.

2. A student is found by the university to have committed or participated in an incident of academic dishonesty or any other violation.
3. Failure to successfully complete an Honors course in two consecutive semesters.

Students wishing to **withdraw from the program** must fill a “withdrawal form” and submit it to the Honors office for evaluation.

7.6 Reinstatement to the Honors Program

A student who has been dismissed/ withdrew from the Honors Program can rejoin the program by doing the following:

1. Submit a formal petition in the form of a letter requesting re-instatement to the program.
2. The typed letter must be submitted to the Director of the Honors Program explaining the circumstances of dismissal/ withdrawal and reasons for re-instatement.
3. After considering the circumstances and the student’s academic history, current GPA and academic progress, the Honors Director with consultation of the Honors council decides whether the student is to be reinstated.

8- Benefits for Students and Faculty

8.1 Benefits for Students

- 1- Recognition at graduation and on the transcript of successful participation in a challenging, high-quality honors program.
- 2- Innovative courses created especially for the Honors Program by outstanding scholars/teachers.
- 3- Participation and intensive faculty guidance.
- 4- Priority for Undergraduate Research Funding a scholarship , if the student persists in good standing as a member of the college-wide Honors Program and maintains a GPA of 3.5.
- 5- Opportunities for outstanding Honors students for Conference Attendance Support.
- 6- Annual Honors Program Awards for the best academic performance and best services award.
- 7- Possibility of attendance of conferences and events sponsored by Industrial sponsors.
- 8- Possibilities for Funding for senior projects and Capstone Honors Thesis.
- 9- Free joining fees for QU clubs or 25% reduction in other selected clubs.
- 10- Scholarships for Master and PhD studies at QU and Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTAs).
- 11- Priority for students International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE) exchange program.
- 12- Priority for internship and summer training.

8.2 Benefits to Faculty

- 1- Teaching a freestanding Honors course or an Honors contract major course should be recognized in the faculty annual appraisal. In the teaching part of the faculty appraisal, more percentage or weight can be given to faculty teaching such courses to reflect the high level of preparation needed for such courses.
- 2- Teaching Honors courses may be used as dimension/ criteria in the rubric used to judge the QU Outstanding Teaching/ Merit awards.
- 3- Upon meeting a certain criteria and on competitive basis, faculty involved in teaching Honors courses may be entitled to one or more of the following:
 - a. Invitations to attend workshops related to enhancing teaching and education methods.
 - b. Be entitled to the Best Honors Faculty teaching award.
- 4- Priority funding through internal grants in the support of Capstone or design projects involving Honors students.
- 5- Monetary reward for teaching courses in the Honors via contract. This is only applicable for Faculty teaching students in their sections via contracts.

9- New Study Plan

Credit Hours	Courses
3	Freshman Seminar (Honors Core 1)
6	Two University Curriculum Courses from different packages (Honors Core 2, Honors Core 3)
9	Three Major-based Honors Courses at the 300/400 level
6	Honors Senior Seminar 498, Honors Thesis 499 (Senior Project, Senior Seminar, Capstone, etc.)
24	Total Program Credit Hours*

* Please note that the 24 credit hours to complete the Honors Program are included in the overall hours required to earn an undergraduate degree at Qatar University

Figure 3: Honors Study Plan

For further information about the new study plan, refer to the study plan web page at:

http://www.qu.edu.qa/honors_program/curriculum_studyplan.php

10- Honors Core Courses Offered Fall 2012 and Spring 2013

The Program continued to offer a number of courses taken from various packages of the Core Curriculum program. All Syllabi were reviewed and revised as needed by the Director and Honors council to reflect the Honors Program learning outcomes.

Figure 4: Courses Taught in Fall 2012

SUBJECT	COURSE_NO	COURSE_TITLE	INSTRUCTIONAL_METHOD	BEGIN_TIME	END_TIME	ROOM_NO	INS_NAME
ARAB	200	Arabic Language II (H)	Arabic Language Section	14:00	15:15	C01-B228	Mohammad Abdel-Latif
ENGL	203	Engl Lang II Post Found (H)	English Language Section	8:00	9:15	C04-0241	Ozgur Parlak
HONS	100	Freshman Seminar (H)	English Language Section	15:30	17:50	C04-0241	Ahmed H Ibrahim
HONS	100	Freshman Seminar (H)	English Language Section	15:30	17:50	C04-0241	Olga Nefedova
INTA	306	Gulf Studies (H)	English Language Section	15:30	17:50	C04-0201	Birrol Paskan
INTA	415	History of the Middle East (H)	English Language Section	15:30	17:50	C04-0241	Ahmed H Ibrahim

Figure 5: Courses taught in Spring 2013

SUBJECT	COURSE_NO	COURSE_TITLE	INSTRUCTIONAL_METHOD	MEETING_TIMES	BEGIN_TIME	END_TIME	INS_NAME
HONS	100	Freshman Seminar (H)	English Language Section	Tue	15:30	18:30	Ahmed H Ibrahim
HONS	100	Freshman Seminar (H)	English Language Section	Mon Wed	15:30	16:45	Lina Beydoun
HIST	432	Eurp.Bet. Two World War (H)	English Language Section	Sun	14:00	16:50	Peter Polak-Springer
ECON	111	Principles of Microecon (H)	English Language Section	Sun Tue	14:00	15:15	Mirza Baig
PSYC	201	Introduction to Psychology(H)	English Language Section	Mon Wed	15:30	16:45	Chris Coughlin
PSYC	201	Introduction to Psychology (H)	English Language Section	Mon Wed	14:00	15:15	Chris Coughlin

11- Workshops

A workshop was organized for advisors and faculty teaching Honors courses. The event took place on the 9th of June 2013. New Honors changes, restructured curriculum plan and teaching via Honors contracts were discussed.

12- Advising:

From the start of the academic year and upon conducting a SWAT analysis for the Honors Program, it was highlighted that advising is a major weakness. The Program has thus created a strategy to enhance student advising which includes the following:

1. Establishing a system of regular student transcript review.

2. Establishing advising days for students at specific term dates before the drop and add period. Details are given in table 5 below.
3. Establishing folders and files for each honors students to record amongst other things, issues related to advising.
4. Creating better collaboration with the student advising unit at QU as well as student advising units in each College.
5. Trained Honors staff and college advisors on the best way to advise Honors students.

The following presents details of the contact numbers of the special College advisors (Table 5). A system of peer advising was also established and the name of student advisors volunteering to help other honor students is also available. Please refer to the following web site for more detailed information. http://www.qu.edu.qa/honors_program/student_mentoring.php

TABLE 5: Honors Advisors

Director Center for Academic Advising and Retention			
Advisor's Name	Office Location	E-mail address	Office Tel.
Selma Abdelrahim Haghamed	VP for Student Affairs Office	shaghamed@qu.edu.qa	44033874
Art & Science			
Wedad Abdullah Mohammed Rebeehai	Women's Main Building / 201	w.rebeeha@qu.edu.qa	44036533
Amra Music Ikanovic	Women's Main Building / 201	amra.ikan@qu.edu.qa	44036437
May Habib	Women's Main Building / 201	mayhabib@qu.edu.qa	44036534
Business & Economics			
Maha Jassim M J Al-Thani	CBE 2nd floor / C204 + C232	m.jassim@qu.edu.qa	44035021
Amr Hosny Mohammed Refaat Hosny	CBE 2nd floor / E221	amr.hosny@qu.edu.qa	44035023
Engineering			
Ranya Omar Reda	Female Engineering Building / 246	ranya@qu.edu.qa	44034113
Abeer Mousa	Female Engineering Building / 240	mousaabeer@qu.edu.qa	44033866
Ahmad Mohammad Alhariri	Annex Building / 112	alhariri@qu.edu.qa	44034116
Chithira Johnson	Female Engineering Building / 240	chithira@qu.edu.qa	44034120
Saifullah Mohammad Rafiullah	Annex Building / 112	Saif.m@qu.edu.qa	44035305
Education			
Abdullah Hamad Al-Muraikhi	Main Women's Building / 1st floor / C04 / Room 168	abdullah.almuraikhi@qu.edu.qa	44035977
Laila Haider Babiker Elmusharaf	Main Women's Building / 1st floor / C04 / Room 166	l.elmusharaf@qu.edu.qa	44035112
Law			

Fatima Khalil Hassan	CBE 2nd floor / A206	-	44035268
Pharmacy			
Ghada Saif A S Al-Kuwari	Female Science Building / E105	ghadahsaif@qu.edu.qa	44035557
Sharia			
Abdullah Hamad Al-Muraikhi	Main Women's Building / 1st floor / C04 / Room 168	abdullah.almuraikhi@qu.edu.qa	44035977

TABLE 6: Student Advising Sessions Organized by the Honors Office

Session Description	Date	Duration	Location
end of the Gathering day session for the students is done to solve Honors student's problems in substituting and registering courses	Dec. 8th 2012	2:30pm - 6:30pm	Ibn Khaldun Hall
session for interviewing new accepted students in the Honors Program	Jan. 2nd 2013	10:00 am - 11:30am	Honors Office Room 104
session for interviewing new accepted students in the Honors Program and solving problems of existing Honors students	May 5th 2013	8:30am - 6:00 pm	Honors Office Room 104
session for interviewing new accepted students in the Honors Program	May 27th 2013	8:00 am - 2:30 pm	Honors Office Room 104

13. Sponsorships

In an effort to involve the local industry in the Honors Program, a two year agreement was made between Oryx –GTL and the Honors Program. The main aim was to increase the profile of the Program by involving employers as a main stake holder. This agreement was signed by the VPCAO on the 12th May 2013. It is a two-year agreement will offer excellent support to Honors students to attend local and international conferences, obtain funding for best thesis awards as well as top academic and services achievements.

14- Student activities.

14.1 The 12th Inter College Environmental Public Speaking Competition held in Dubai.

Below is a list of the Honors students who participated in the *12th Inter College Environmental Public Speaking Competition* held in the United Arab of Emirates (UAE).

Students went to Dubai are:

- 1- Ibtihal Mahmoud Hassan Abdallah.

- 2- Mohamed Mostafa Mohamed.
- 3- Mohammad Minhal Hussain.
- 4- Hayder Ahmed Almazraqchi.
- 5- Randa Al-Shaikh.

14.2 Trip to Grand Valley State University in USA.

The Honors Program organized a trip to the Honors College in Grand Valley State University, USA, at the end of the academic year 2012-2013. Ten of the top Honors students were selected under a certain criteria by the director of the Honors Program and the members of the Honors council (selection criteria included GPA, number of completed credit hours, etc.) The trip took place from June 15th through June 25th. Honors Program Director Dr. Khraisheh and Dr. Alaa Al Hawari, Honors council member, supervised the students who participated in this event. Below is a table of the selected students who participated in this event.

The Honors students who went on this trip were very pleased and felt it was a very beneficial experience. The trip was an unforgettable due to the well-organized plan initiated by the Grand Valley University. While attending the event, QU students has an opportunity to share information about QU Honors Program as well as information about Qatar and Qatar University with the US students attending the event.

TABLE 7: Students Selected to US Trip

No.	Name	QUID	College	Department
1	Randa Shaikh	201103948	Business & Economics	General Business
2	Sharifa Al kindi	201005490	Business & Economics	Accounting
3	Tahniyath Fatima	201001585	Business & Economics	Management & Marketing
4	Khaled Hosny Mohamed Hosny	201206673	Business & Economics	General Business
5	Amani Alhaddad	201107367	Pharmacy	
6	Noha Soliman El-Sakrmy	201104361	Pharmacy	
7	Mohammed Osama Mahjoub	200905001	Engineering	Electrical Engineering
8	Ali Hassan Abdelaal	201001645	Engineering	Mechanical
9	Salem A Alyafei	201209561	Sharia	Dawa
10	Mohamed Shaheem Purayil	200907882	Art & Science	International Affairs

14.3 Volunteering:

A survey was distributed among the Honors students to access their volunteer experience. Three of our Honors students reported prior volunteered experience with ROTA and another 2 students stated they had been volunteers with Qatar Charity. Additionally, six of our Honors students donated their time for the first Doha Tribeca Film Festival (DTFF) event.. Other volunteer

experience, reported by the students, included work with the Al-Shafalah Community, Graduation Ceremony, COP 18, teaching, QU Orientations, QU Campus day, and helping organizing various Honors Program events.

15- Student Organized Activities

The following is a list of Honors students who volunteered in organizing the activities done in the End of Year Event. Various tasks were distributed among the volunteers and their work included, organizing the sign-in sheet and name tags, organizing and guiding guests to their seats, as well as holding the microphone and giving it to the competitors in the trivia game that the students organized.

Honors students Mohamad Pyrull (who was the team leader) and Randa al-Shaikh started the event by welcoming the guests and sharing the event schedule. Honor students Sara El-Noor and Fatima Elahbaby also helped to host the event.

Honor students with volunteer experience include:

- 1- Kaniz Fatima Mohamed
- 2- Abdelrahim Mohamed
- 3- Anab Sundus Khan
- 4- Suad Ashimi
- 5- Randa Sheik
- 6- Ghada Abdul-Aziz
- 7- Maimoona Rahman
- 8- Sehida Ruken Birinci
- 9- Asmaa Khaled Ahmed Khairy
- 10- Tahniyath Fatima
- 11- Noura Abdulkrim Dawass
- 12- Musab N A Almozien
- 13- Shifa Mohammed razzaq Shaikh
- 14- Fatma Jaber Elahbaby
- 15- Mahveesh Masood Malgi
- 16- Sara El-Noor
- 17- Mohamed Mohamed
- 18- Mohamed Shaheem Pyrull

16. Student Achievements, Awards, Winnings

At the End of Year Event the students received awards based on three main categories which are: Top Academic Achieving Award, Best Service Achieving Award, and finally the Thesis Award. Students receiving these awards were selected based on the following criteria:

- **Best Student - Academic Performance**
 1. The student must be registered and enrolled for Honors courses in at least 2 consecutive semesters including the current semester.
 2. The students should at least have spent 4 semesters at QU as an undergraduate student.
 3. The student has shown steady upward progress and maintained a GPA of 3.85 to 4.
 4. The student must have received a grade of B+ or higher in the Honors courses previously taken.
 5. The student should maintain a full time status of 12 credit hours or more every semester.

- **Best Student - Service**

The students shall be selected on the basis of their service to the following:

1. Honors Program
2. College that the student belongs to
3. The University
4. Community

To be eligible for an award in Service, the student must present 2 recommendation letters from individuals familiar with his/her contribution. The recommendations can either be from the University or community.

The selection of winning students was selected by members of the Honors Program council after careful consideration of each application, and the winners are listed below.

Top Academic Achieving Award:

- 1- Shaima Ali.
- 2- Maimoona Rahman.
- 3- Mohamed Shaheem.
- 4- Mohamed Mahgoob.

Best Services Awards:

- 1- Omayma Al-Saei
- 2- Saad Elasad

Thesis Awards:

- 1- Sara Al-Kuwari.
- 2- Razan Zaghmout.
- 3- Mahveesh Masood Malgi.
- 4- Mohammed Mushtaha.

17. Honors in the Media

As part of the program's strategy for the academic year 2012-2013, a number of media releases and contributions took place in an effort to raise awareness about the Honors Program which included newspaper articles as well as TV and radio program contributions.

A telephone meeting was organized with Dr. Majeda Khraisheh and Qatar Radio. Dr. Mazen Hasna the VPCAO spoke about the Honors Program and QU support for the Honors Program. Information about the Honors Program was also discussed on Rayyan TV on Thursday 16th May 2013 on the "Al-Sabah Rabah" show. A video of the show can be found on the following YouTube link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=R5UdMiu2Tv8

Further and in the cooperation with the external relation's Media department, reports about the Honors Program were prepared and sent to various local newspapers.

Moreover, Honors Program newsletter was established and run by Honors students. QU Honors Program newsletter was totally prepared and written by Honors students (student Shifa al-Shaikh) under the supervision and help of the Honors office coordinator and reviewed by the Honors Director.

The completed first edition of the academic year 2012-2013 can be found via the following link: http://www.qu.edu.qa/honors_program/documents/newsletter_2013.pdf

18. Graduating Students

TABLE 8: Graduated Students

Student Name	College	QU - ID
Mahveesh Masood Malgi	College of Business and Economics	201002973
Razan Adnan Zaghmout	College of Business and Economics	200804589
Mohammed A Mushtaha	College of Engineering	200803675
Omayma Abdulla Al-Saei	College of Arts and Sciences	200905687
Amal Khalifa Al Abaidli	College of Arts and Sciences	200802550
Sara Majid Al Kuwari	College of Business and Economics	200910442

19. Letters from VP to Graduating Honors Students.

Congratulation letters sent from the VP Office (From Dr. Mazen Hasna) to all graduating Honors students as an appreciation for their hard work and to be as a recommendation letter that helps Honors graduate students when applying for a job or when deciding to continue their graduate studies.

20. Assessment: On-line Assessment and Improvement Actions.

In this section, a report on the results of the assessments carried out in the Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 semesters will be illustrated. In appreciation of the value of program outcome assessment, the Honors program made sure that all the required assessments were carried out in a timely fashion. In current three-year assessment cycle was concluded by the end of the Fall semester (2012) for all the program learning outcomes (PLOs). Upon review of the submissions and assessment, it was decided to use the Spring term 2013 to enhance and retest some of the PLO.

The reason for the extra/repeated assessments was:

- 1- Enhance the assessments carried out for some of the PLO.
- 2- The courses taught in Spring 2013 used to retest and reinforce the assessment, enjoyed a good number of students that allowed, statistically, a better picture to be drawn for the achievements of the PLOs.

It is also worth noting that as a result of the restructuring of the Honors program, a review of the learning outcomes was carried out to support the requirements of the Honors Program at a higher level of Bloom's taxonomy. The new revised learning outcomes are:

1. Develop interdisciplinary perspectives on contemporary and current issues.
2. Develop ability to conduct quality research or scholarship in their disciplines.
3. Demonstrate advanced oral and written communication skills.
4. Develop advanced level of critical thinking and problem solving skills.

The changes were approved by the EMC in 26th of May 2013. It is important to note that the old learning outcomes (reported in Section 2 below) are used in the assessment of the PLO for this academic year. The 4 main learning outcome pillars are the same; the wording is the only thing that was changed at this stage. The new learning outcomes will be used in the set up and planning of the new three year assessment cycle.

21-Web site updates

A series of continuous updates on the Qatar University Honors Program web page have been uploaded starting with updating the forms and updating the information of the programs' policies and regulation after the acceptance of the program restricting. Currently a shifting phase of the QU Honors web page is studied and a whole restructuring for the QU Honors web page is done by Eng. Sara El-Orfali (coordinator in the Honors Program). The following link is related to the QU Honors web page: http://www.qu.edu.qa/honors_program/

22-Scholarships

For the first time, the Honors Program is now offering a scholarship for 5 Honors students each academic year under certain selection criteria that will be developed this academic year, 2013-2014.

23- Honors Council

The following lists the Honors Program committee meetings for the academic year Fall 2012 – Spring 2013, the dates on which the meeting were held, and also the replacement of some old members who completed their 4 years serving on the Honors Council.

23.1 Council Members

Fall 2013

- Dr. Majeda Khraisheh
Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering - Director of Honors Program
Department of Chemical Engineering
Qatar University
- Dr. Chris Diane Coughlin
Associate Professor of Psychological Sciences
Department of Education
Qatar University
- Dr. Mohammed A. AL-Khulaifi
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs
College of Law
Qatar University
- Fatima Al-Naemi ,PhD
Assistant Professor of Biomedical Science
College of Arts and Sciences
Qatar University

- Dr. Daoud Al-Badriyeh
Assistant Professor of Pharmacy
College of Pharmacy
Qatar University
- Dr. Alaa Al-Hawari
Associate Professor of Civil Engineering
Department of Civil Engineering
Qatar University
- Dr. Abdalkareem Salameh Awwad
Associate Professor in College of Business
Qatar University

Spring 2011 – Spring2013

- Dr. Majeda Khraisheh
Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering - Director of Honors Program
Department of Chemical Engineering
Qatar University
- Dr. Daoud Al-Badriyeh
Assistant Professor of Pharmacy
College of Pharmacy
Qatar University
- Dr. Adam M. Fadlalla
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
College of Business and Economics
Qatar University
- Dr. Maher Abu Munshar
Assistant Professor of Islamic History
College of Arts and Sciences
Qatar University
- Dr. Arslan Ayari
Coordinator, Research and Graduate Studies
College of Engineering
Qatar University
- Dr. Alaa Al-Hawari
Associate Professor of Civil Engineering
Department of Civil Engineering
Qatar University

23.2 Meeting Dates

Spring 2013 Meeting Dates

- Jan, 17th, 2013
- Feb.13th, 2013
- Feb.27th, 2013
- May 2nd, 2013

Fall 2012 Meeting Dates

- Sept. 1st, 2012
- Sept. 11th, 2012
- Oct. 8th, 2012
- Dec. 6th , 2012

Spring 2012 Meeting Dates

- March 14, 2012
- April 18, 2012
- May 16, 2012
- June 6, 2012