



2025 Honors Orientation - Adventure Day at Camp Arrowhead

Jump for Joy - Honors is (almost) Back!

Hello Ryan! The Fall 2025 semester is almost here and we are gearing up for your arrival on campus!

We hope you had a fantastic summer filled with adventure, relaxation, and opportunities for personal and professional growth. We look forward to hitting the ground running in less than two weeks - providing you with the support, guidance, and a mix of events and activities that will help you achieve your goals this year.

Now is a great time to check on your progress in the program and reach out if you have any questions or need information from the office. There are some helpful reminders below to

keep you on track for the upcoming academic year, as well as details about upcoming events and complementary learning opportunities over the next few weeks.

Please email us at honors@rit.edu if you have any questions!

In this message

- **Helpful Reminders**
- **Honors Option Proposals Due 9/7**
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - **Buffalo / Niagara Trip**
 - **Group Discussion with Fram Lecturer Anshu Kak**
 - **Engineering for Good**
- **Complementary Learning - Goodbye, Goodbuy!**

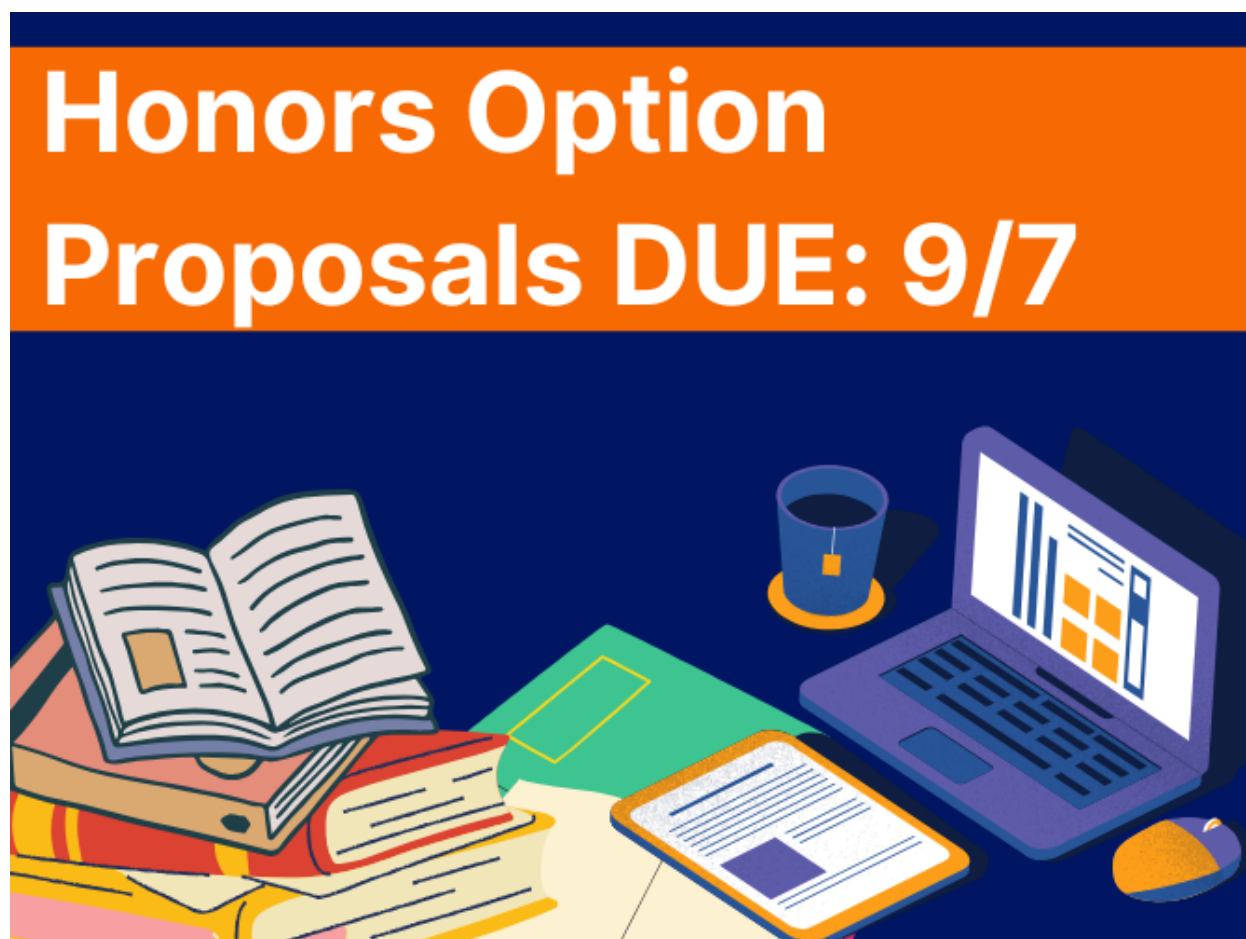


Helpful Tips and Reminders

Here are some helpful tips to help you move into the fall semester with confidence. Please always refer to the [handbook](#) (for your entry year) for full details, but this list will get you started on a solid path this fall.

- **Honors Points** - Students must earn at least 1 point every academic year to stay in good standing in the program. Visit the [Honors Points page](#) of the website for all of the ways you can earn points and submission forms for each type of activity.
- **Complementary Learning** - Students must engage in at least 20 hours per cycle which runs from Sept. 1 - Aug. 31 each year. Check the details in your handbook and visit [Honors Complementary Learning](#) for opportunities and to submit your hours. Please report your complementary learning within 30 days of the activity.
- **GPA** - The GPA requirement increases every year according to your entry year at RIT. Students finishing their first year at RIT must have at least a 3.2 GPA, a 3.3 when finishing their second semester, and so on, finishing year four and any years beyond (and at the time of graduation) with at least a 3.5.
- **Honors Hour** - We meet on alternating Fridays, 11:30 - 12:30, throughout the semester to share information, take part in fun activities (like yoga, kickball, therapy dogs, and trivia!), and communicate upcoming opportunities that will support your Honors experience. And there's pizza! **Our first Honors Hour will take place on Fri. Aug. 29, 11:30am-12:30pm in SAU 1829 Room** - Hope to see you there!
- **Continuation Review** - We review student records three times during the academic year in Sept., Dec./Jan., and May to assess progress towards program completion. If a student falls behind in any aspect of the program (GPA, points, or complementary learning) they will be placed into conditional standing at which time they will have one semester to remedy their issue. The upcoming review in Sept. will check if students have completed their complementary learning requirement for the '24-'25 cycle.
- **Honors Council** - The Honors Council is the student-run leadership group of Honors that promotes the pillars of citizenship, leadership, and scholarship; fosters community and wellness among students; and represents the interests of the Honors student body to the faculty and administration. Council is made up of delegates representing each college, as well as several affinity / identity groups. Visit the Honors Council webpage to identify your delegate and learn more about what Honors Council does and how you can get involved. Council meets bi-weekly throughout the semester

and all Honors students are encouraged to attend (you receive a 1/2 hour of complementary learning for attending). Keep an eye out for the date and location of the first meeting of the semester in an upcoming Wednesday message - and please consider joining the [Honors Council Discord](#) to stay up to date on all council related activities.



Honors Options are a great way to turn earn honors points by expanding upon the curriculum of a standard course with Honors-level work. Students collaborate with their professor to develop a proposal that helps them take a deeper dive into a topic, conduct additional research, or engage in a creative project.

Options culminate with a public presentation at the end of the semester. The *Honors Research and Creativity Symposium* that will take place on the afternoon of Sat. Dec. 6th this year is the ideal place for students to present their work. Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for details as we move into the fall.

Click the button below that will take you to a resource page with additional information about options, examples of past projects, and a list of previously "optioned" courses. Students will

need to meet with their professor prior to submitting their proposal to get their support and create a plan for the semester.

The submission portal is currently open and will accept proposals until the deadline on Sunday Sept. 7 at 11:59 pm.

[Honors Option Info & Submission Portal](#)

More ways to Engage



Honors Trip to Buffalo & Niagara Falls - Sun. 9/14

Mark your calendars for our 2nd annual trip to Niagara Falls and Buffalo on Sunday, Sept. 14 - 8:30 am - 9:30 pm!

Students will visit Niagara Falls and take a ride on the [Maid of the Mist](#), and then have lunch together at the Rainforest Cafe. After lunch the group will travel to Buffalo where students will have their choice of



Small Group Discussion with Fram Lecturer Anshu Kak - Mon. 9/29

Join your Honors peers on 9/29 at 3 pm for a group discussion with this year's Fram Lecturer, Anshu Kak, Vice President Google Cloud Platform and Data/Private AI practice at Kyndryl.

A highly accomplished C-level executive and distinguished engineer, specializing in Data, AI and cloud technologies, Kak's



Academic and Applied Learning Opportunities

As an Honors student you are always looking for ways to go above and beyond and to apply your knowledge and skills in challenging and dynamic ways. Checkout these opportunities that will allow you to draw on your background and education to contribute to the social good on campus and in the Rochester community

- *EGEN.289 Special Topics: Engineering and Social Justice*

visiting the Buffalo AKG Art Museum or the the Botanical Garden (or other location - details still being finalized), and we'll finish up our day at Canalside where you'll get to eat dinner and explore on your own before retuning to RIT.

We will have a sign up ready by next week's Wednesday Message!

focus during her visit to RIT will be to cut through the noise of AI's advancing technologies to discuss the critical role of leaders as orchestrators of intelligent systems and facilitators of seamless human-AI collaboration.

Use the link below to sign up. Students will be asked to prepare for the visit and will receive complementary learning for taking part in the discussion.

[Register for Anshu Kak Discussion](#)

Learning Circle,
5:00-5:50pm
Wednesdays, 1 credit.

- *EGEN.495 Collaborative Community Capstone, M/W 11am-2pm*
- *EGEN.210/420 Vertically Integrated Projects in Engineering, Community Initiated VIP (CI-VIP). Time TBD based on interest. 1-3 credits. **PLEASE NOTE: This experience can be used to earn Honors Points***
- *BIME.395 Biomedical Instrumentation Repair and Maintenance. Friday 1-4 pm. 2 credits.*

To connect these opportunities to your Honors experience, as noted above, you can earn points by engaging in the EGEN 210/420 VIP. Students could also

potentially add an Honors option to one of the other courses to earn points as well. If you have questions about earning points through these courses contact the Honors office.

If you have questions about the content of the courses please reach out to Sarah Brownell (sabeie@rit.edu), Senior Lecturer and Director of RIT Grand Challenges Scholars Program Dean's Office Kate Gleason College of Engineering.

Click the link below for more details about each credit-bearing experience.

[Click for more details!](#)

Complementary Learning

Please see below our highlight opportunities this week. There are many other's listed on the [complementary learning webpage](#) that can fit almost anyone's busy schedule and diverse set of interests.

Students are expected to engage in at least 20 hours of complementary each cycle (Sept.- Aug.) to remain in good standing in the program.

All complementary learning hours should be submitted contemporaneously, within 30 days of the event or activity, through the submission [form](#) located within the *User Tools* tab of the Honors website.

Goodbye, Goodbuy!



[Goodbye, Goodbuy](#) is an annual program that collects items as students leave campus in the spring that are then sold to students and families when they arrive back on campus in the fall. Since the start of this program, Goodbye, Goodbuy has saved over 100 tons of goods from landfills. This sustainable cycle reduces waste, ensuring usable items find new homes instead of ending up in landfills.

Goodbye, Goodbuy relies on volunteers to help organize and facilitate all operations - and this fall they are looking for students to help out with the upcoming sale.

Sale volunteering times are now open! We are looking for volunteers from August 14th - 21st to help prepare the sale floor, assist customers, and deliver furniture. Volunteers will receive access to the presale.

Volunteer Opportunities Aug. 14-21

Click the button below to select your shifts.

[Volunteer with
Goodbye, Goodbuy!](#)

"Summer was about freedom and youth and no school and possibilities and adventure and exploration. Summer was a book of hope."

-Benjamin Alire Sáenz