

## Weekly Newsletter Aug. 20, 2025

### The Honors Program is swinging into the new year!



One of our 2024 incoming students enjoys the zip line at Camp Arrowhead during last year's Orientation.

Welcome back Honors Student!

The new academic year is upon us and we can feel the excitement as students arrive back on campus! This week, the office staff, student employees, 30 mentors and 3 lead mentors will facilitate the three-day Honors Orientation beginning on Friday 8/22 that will lead our newest students through a range of activities and programming to establish a strong foundation in the program and build relationships that will last a lifetime.

We will send a Wednesday Message each week during the semester that contains information, opportunities, deadlines, and reminders that will ensure your ongoing success in the program. Please take the time to open the message to see how you can engage with the Honors community and take advantage of the academic and co-curricular offerings that are available to you. And as always, please reach out with any questions, concerns, or thoughts to [honors@rit.edu](mailto:honors@rit.edu).

### In this message

- End of the '24-'25 Complementary Learning Cycle
- Honors Option & Independent Study proposal deadline - 9/7

- First Honors Hour | Honors Council Yard Games Event | Buffalo / Niagara Trip
- Complementary Learning Highlight - RIT Foodshare



## The 2024-25 Complementary Learning cycle closes on 8/31

We know you have engaged in a lot of activities for complementary learning this year - nice job supporting your community through service, leadership, and cultural involvement!

If you have hours to report to complete your annual requirement, please submit them before Aug. 31. Remember, complementary learning is an annual (not cumulative) requirement of the program - please follow the link below for more information and to submit your hours. If you have additional questions about your complementary learning requirements please refer to the [Honors handbook](#) or connect with the office for more details.

In early September we will conduct the *continuation review* process to assess student completion of the annual complementary learning requirement. If after this review you have an hours deficit, you will be placed into *conditional* standing and will have the remainder of the fall semester to make up the hours that you are behind.

[Submit Complementary Learning](#)



If you are planning to engage in an Honors Option or Independent Study for Honors points the deadline to submit is **Sunday, Sept. 7 at 11:59 PM.**

Honors Options are a great way to create an honors-level course by enriching a standard course - you can do this through a deeper dive into the material or a particular aspect of the class that involves additional research, expanded coursework, or project - all culminating in a public presentation. If you are thinking about an option or independent study now is the time to have a conversation with your faculty member to develop your proposal and come up with a plan for the semester.

Please note, independent study courses must be approved by your college (reach out to your Honors Advocate if you have questions about this process) and then are submitted to us as a separate proposal using the same form as honors option.

You can find information about applying for an option / independent study, examples of successful Options, lists of previously "optioned" courses, and the proposal submission form by clicking the button below.

[Honors Option / Independent Study Info & Submission Form](#)

## Updates & Announcements



**Fri. Aug. 29 | 11:30 am - 12:30 PM | SAU 1829**

Join your honors peers and the office staff for a welcome back Honors Hour on Friday 8/29, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm in SAU

1829 Room. We will share information about the events and activities we have planned for the fall and will have plenty of time for you to catch up with old friends and make some new ones!

Honors Hour takes place on alternating Fridays (with some variance) throughout the semester. This fall we've planned yoga, trivia, therapy dogs, and a presentation from the CLCE about the spring alternative break trips - plus many more activities!

We'll provide pizza, drinks, and snacks! Register below for the first Honors Hour of the year!

Register for 8/29 Honors Hour



**Fri. Sept. 5 - 4:30 - 6 PM**  
**North Quad**

Join Honors Council and your Honors peers for a back to school party with yard games and popsicles! Council president and delegates from council will be present to welcome you all back to campus and to have some outdoor fun.

This is a great opportunity to connect with council in a casual setting. You'll be able to hear some of the events and activities council has in store for the semester.

Click the button below to register - or just show up!

Yard Games with Council



**Sun. Sept. 14 Honors**  
**Trip to Niagara Falls & Buffalo**

The Honors program is taking a trip to Niagara Falls and Buffalo, NY on **Sunday, Sept. 14.**

Students will travel via charter bus to Niagara Falls where we will view the falls from the [Maid of The Mist](#) - a boat ride to the bottom of the falls (you will get wet!) We'll eat lunch at the Rainforest Cafe and then will travel to Buffalo where students will have a choice of visiting the Buffalo AKG Art Museum, or can take part in an immersive escape room experience at [5 Wits](#) where students will team up to solve problems and complete the interactive story. We'll wrap up the day touring the Canalside neighborhood where students will be on their own for dinner and sightseeing. We'll return to campus by 9:30 pm.

## 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 1.-Aug. 31) 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.

## RIT FoodShare



The RIT FoodShare Center was established in 2015 with two simple goals: to reduce food waste on campus and to provide RIT community members with access to safe and nutritious food. For the past eight years, the Center has done just that, logging over 37,000 visits to its location at 113 Riverknoll, and ensuring access to nutritious food for almost a thousand community members each year.

In 2018, the FoodShare became the permanent home for Bern's Closet, a clothing closet for community members in need of professional clothing. The closet is named after beloved RIT staff member, and founder of the I'm First program, Bernadette Lynch, who sadly passed away from cancer in 2017.

FoodShare is made possible because of generous support from the RIT and greater-Rochester communities - and from volunteers like you!

Foodshare is a great place to volunteer your time and earn a good number of your required complementary learning hours for the year. It's on campus, flexible in terms of your time, and a great way to give back!

Click the button to learn more and volunteer today!

[Volunteer with RIT Foodshare](#)

“If you don’t risk anything, you risk even more.”

- Erica Jong

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