

# **Honors Report**

2020-21 April 18, 2022

### Context

The Honors Program is available to students at San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar Colleges. In the Honors Program, students explore course topics in greater depth and breadth than in regular courses. Students can participate in the Honors Program through either **Honors Contracts** or **Honors Courses**.

- Honors Contract: A student enters into a mutual agreement with the professor of a regular course; the student completes the regular coursework in addition to additional objectives, readings, and assignments.
- Honors Course: A course in which all enrolled students receive Honors credit. Honors
  courses vary by discipline, but all increase the range and depth of the learning experience by
  stimulating strong critical thinking skills, generating lively discussion, facilitating student
  collaboration, and teaching advanced research and writing skills.

Students may enroll in Honors Contracts, Honors Courses, or both types of courses; similarly, faculty may teach one or both types of courses.

This report includes Honors Program headcount, enrollment, faculty, and section counts, in addition to outcomes (Success, Completion, and GPA) for 2020-21, with some comparisons made to 2019-20 and 2018-19. This briefing covers primary terms only (Fall and Spring).

### **Definitions**

- **Headcount**: Unduplicated count of students. One students in two classes counts once.
- **Enrollments**: Duplicated count of students taking classes. One student in two classes counts twice.
- **Completion Rate**: Count of all students who receive any grade (A, B, C, D, F, P, NP, I, W, or EW) out of all students enrolled in the course as of census.
- Success Rate: Count of all students who receive a passing grade (A, B, C, P) out of all students enrolled in the course as of census.

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# Summary

• With 970 fewer honors students, the honors program saw a decrease of 45% from 2019-20 to 2020-21. The decrease was slightly more notable among Honors Contracts students (674 fewer students, -52%) than Honors Courses (253 fewer students, or -33%).

**Key Finding 1)** 2020-21 was the first year the Honors program served fewer than 2,000 students since 2016-17. The decrease from the prior year was consistent across the colleges (City: -44%, Mesa: -42%, Miramar: -44%).

See Metrics Section 1: Headcount for more detail.

- As in prior years, Latinx students made up the largest group of Honors students across the colleges (41%), followed by white students (26%). Female students made up 63% of Honors students. See Metrics Section 2: Demographics for more detail.
- Honors enrollments decreased 44% compared to 2019-20, with 1,327 fewer enrollments in 2020-21 than in 2019-20.

**Key Finding 2)** While the colleges did experience a decrease in overall enrollments from 2019-20 to 2020-21 of 11% (City: -15%, Mesa: -9%, Miramar: -9%), decreases in honors enrollments were much more significant.

See Metrics Section 3: Enrollments for more detail.

• There were 13 fewer Honors sections in 2020-21 than in 2019-20, a decrease of 29%. English accounted for the largest percent of Honors sections. Similarly, Honors Contracts were largely in English (363), with English and Fine Art seeing the largest decreases in Contracts enrollments in 2020-21 compared to 2019-20 (-248 and -137, respectively).

See Metrics Section 4: Honors by Subject for more detail.

- There were 238 Honors Faculty across the credit colleges in 2020-21 (City: 86, Mesa: 97, Miramar: 58), a decrease of 36% from the prior year (City: -32%, Mesa: -44%, Miramar: -22%). See Metrics Section 5: Faculty for more detail.
- As in prior years, Honors success rates were higher both across the colleges in 2020-21 (+12%) and at each college (City: +19%, Mesa: +8%, Miramar: +11%). Compared to 2019-20, success rates in Honors courses increased 1% (City: +2%, Mesa: -1%, Miramar: +2%). See Metrics Section 5: Outcomes for more detail.
- Asian and Filipino students have the highest success rates in honors courses (91%), and African American students have the lowest (76%).

**Key Finding 3)** Nearly all groups had higher success rates in Honors courses than in non-Honors courses, with Latinx (+15%), Filipino (+14%), African American (+12%), and Multi-ethnicity (+12%) students showing the largest differences. While Asian and White student success rates in Honors courses remained stable across the transition to online instruction in response to COVID-19, it should be noted that the success rates decreased 7% for African American Honors students as there was a 1% decrease for non-Honors African American students.

# Findings and Next Steps

# Key Finding

# 1) 2020-21 was the first year the Honors program served fewer than 2,000 students since 2016-17. The decrease from the prior year was consistent across the colleges. Decreases in Honors students were slightly larger for those enrolling in Honors Contracts (-52%) Honors Courses (-33%).

- 2) While the colleges did experience a decrease in overall enrollments from 2019-20 to 2020-21 of 11% (City: -15%, Mesa: -9%, Miramar: -9%), decreases in honors enrollments were much more significant.
- rates in Honors courses than in non-Honors courses, with Latinx (+15%), Filipino (+14%), African American (+12%), and Multi-ethnicity (+12%) students showing the largest differences. While Asian and White student success

3) Nearly all groups had higher success

rates in Honors courses remained stable across the transition to online instruction in response to COVID-19, it should be noted that the success rates decreased 7% for African American Honors students as there was a 1% decrease for non-Honors African American students.

# **Next Steps**

The transition to online instruction in response to COVID-19 likely impacted the number of students requesting Honors Contracts for their courses. While this may have been because students had increased work or family care responsibilities, it is also possible students were not aware of the opportunity to enter an Honors Contract in an online course.

As instruction transitions back on campus, students may benefit from additional messaging about Honors Contracts opportunities in on-campus, hybrid, and online modalities.

Decreased enrollments across the colleges mean that resuming growth in the honors program should be approached strategically.

Sharp decreases in English Honors Contracts may reflect a combination of COVID-19 related factors, such as modality and students' available time. On the other hand, the sharp decrease in Fine Art in 2020-21 likely reflects the decreased availability of on-campus art courses, and demand for these contracts may return as we progress into the endemic stage of COVID-19.

The transition to online instruction has brought extraordinary challenges to the community college system, and a disproportionate impact has been observed on Latinx and African American students in a number of areas. It appears this effect extends to the Honors program, with African American students experiencing a significant decrease in success rates. The re-activation of on-campus instruction may help reverse this trend, although it is important to continue to monitor these outcomes.

### Metrics

1. Headcount: With 970 fewer honors students, the honors program saw a decrease of 45% from 2019-20 to 2020-21. The decrease was more notable among Honors Contracts students (674 fewer students, -52%) than Honors Courses (253 fewer students, -33%).

2020-21 was the first year the Honors program served fewer than 2,000 students since 2016-17. The decrease was consistent across the colleges (City: -44%, Mesa: -42%, Miramar: -44%).

See Table 1 on the next page for more detail. -45% Figure 1. Honors Student Headcount, All Colleges ■ Honors Contracts
■ Honors Courses Both Total Total Total 2.285 2,158 Total 2,049 133 1,935 111 120 105 668 520 761 Total 561 1.188 68 508 1,484 1,409 1,269 1,286 612 2016-17 2017-18 2018-19 2019-20 2020-21

As in prior years, City and Miramar Colleges had mostly Contracts students (City 2019-20: 86%, City 2020-21: 84%, Miramar 2019-20: 71%, Miramar 2020-21: 64%), and Mesa College had mostly Courses students (2019-20: 63%, 2020-21: 72%).

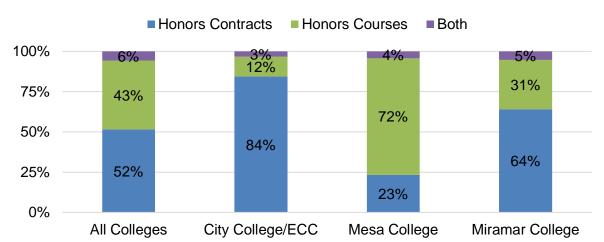


Figure 2. 2020-21 Honors Student Type, by College

Table 1. Honors Student Headcount, by College and Student Type

Honors Student Type	Campus	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Diff. 19-20 to 20-21	% Change 19- 20 to 20-21
	City College/ECC	667	683	374	-309	-45%
Honors	Mesa College	445	322	128	-194	-60%
Contracts	Miramar College	436	339	171	-168	-50%
	All Colleges	1,484	1,286	612	-674	-52%
	City College/ECC	80	75	54	-21	-28%
Honors	Mesa College	464	593	395	-198	-33%
Courses	Miramar College	138	115	82	-33	-29%
	All Colleges	668	761	508	-253	-33%
	City College/ECC	21	40	15	-25	-63%
Enrolled in	Mesa College	63	29	23	-6	-21%
Both Types	Miramar College	37	24	14	-10	-42%
	All Colleges	133	111	68	-43	-39%
	City College/ECC	768	798	443	-355	-44%
All Honors Students	Mesa College	972	944	546	-398	-42%
	Miramar College	611	478	267	-211	-44%
	All Colleges	2,285	2,158	1,188	-970	-45%

2. Honors Student Demographics: As in prior years, Latinx students made up the largest group of Honors students across the colleges (41%), followed by white students (26%). Female students made up 63% of Honors students.

In 2020-21 across the colleges, compared to the student population, white students were underrepresented in the Honors program (-4%). Below are all instances, by college, when student representation in the Honors program differed from the non-honors population by more than 3% in 2020-21. See Table 15 in the appendix for more detail.

- City College
  - Latinx +7% (non-Honors: 45%, Honors: 52%)
  - o White -4% (non-Honors: 25%, Honors: 21%)
- Mesa College
  - o White -4% (non-Honors: 30%, Honors: 26%)
- Miramar College
  - Asian +4% (non-Honors: 13%, Honors: 17%)
  - o Latinx -9% (non-Honors: 33%, Honors: 24%)

Female students were significantly over-represented in the honors program in 2020-21 (54% of non-Honors students, compared to 63% of honors students). This trend held true at each of the credit colleges, but was more notable at City and Miramar Colleges (City: +11%, Miramar: +9%) than at Mesa College (+3%).

3.2% of Honors students in 2020-21 stated an orientation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or other on their community college application, compared to 2.5% of non-Honors students. It is important to note that this data has large rates of unreported data (81% of Honors students, 71% of non-Honors students).

Table 2. Honors students by ethnicity, All Colleges

	Group	2019	-20	2020	-21
	Group	Count	%	Count	%
	African American	167	8%	92	8%
	Asian	227	11%	125	11%
	Filipino	94	4%	49	4%
	Latinx	958	44%	486	41%
Ethnicity	Multi-Ethnicity	134	6%	87	7%
	Native American	6	0%	5	0%
	Pacific Islander	9	0%	7	1%
	Unknown	41	2%	25	2%
	White	522	24%	312	26%
	Female	1,368	60%	748	63%
Gender	Male	917	40%	435	37%
Gender	Non-Binary	0	0%	3	0%
	Unreported	0	0%	2	0%
	Total	2,158	100%	1,188	100%

3. Enrollments: Honors enrollments decreased 44% compared to 2019-20, with 1,327 fewer enrollments in 2020-21 than in 2019-20. While the colleges did experience a decrease in overall enrollments from 2019-20 to 2020-21 of 11% (City: -15%, Mesa: -9%, Miramar: -9%), decreases in honors enrollments were much more significant.

Decreases in Honors enrollments were generally in line with headcount decreases and decreases in Honors Course sections, except for Miramar College, which saw a 32% decrease in enrollments in Honors Courses, but the same number of Honors sections were offered in 2019-20 as in 2020-21 at that college (see Table 6 for more detail). Honors contracts at each of the colleges saw more significant decreases (-48% to -59%) than Honors courses (-24% to -32%).

Table 3. Honors Enrollments by College

Campus	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Diff. 19-20 to 20-21	% Change 19-20 to 20-21
City College/ECC	1,078	1,216	664	-552	-45%
Mesa College	1,354	1,172	672	-500	-43%
Miramar College	795	610	335	-275	-45%
All Colleges	3,227	2,998	1,671	-1,327	-44%

Note. Data for the academic year excludes summer terms (no Honors Contracts or Courses are scheduled over summer).

Table 4. Honors Enrollments, by Type and College

Honors Type	Campus	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Diff. 19-20 to 20-21	% Change 19-20 to 20-21
	City College/ECC	926	1,070	553	-517	-48%
Honors	Mesa College	780	509	208	-301	-59%
Contracts	Miramar College	600	465	236	-229	-49%
	All Colleges	2,306	2,044	997	-1,047	-51%
	City College/ECC	152	146	111	-35	-24%
Honors	Mesa College	574	663	464	-199	-30%
Courses	Miramar College	195	145	99	-46	-32%
	All Colleges	921	954	674	-280	-29%

Note. Data for the academic year excludes summer terms (no Honors Contracts or Courses are scheduled over summer).

Table 5. Overall Enrollments, by College, excluding Summer Terms

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Diff. 19-20 to 20-21	% Change 19-20 to 20-21
City College/ECC	65,695	65,102	55,633	-9,469	-15%
Mesa College	109,413	102,907	93,607	-9,300	-9%
Miramar College	66,676	59,730	54,180	-5,550	-9%
All Colleges	241,784	227,739	203,420	-24,319	-11%

Note. Data for the academic year excludes summer terms (no Honors Contracts or Courses are scheduled over summer).

4. Honors by Subject: There were 13 fewer Honors sections in 2020-21 than in 2019-20, a decrease of 29%. English accounted for the largest percent of Honors sections. Similarly, Honors Contracts were largely in English (363), with English and Fine Art seeing the largest decreases in Contracts enrollments in 2020-21 compared to 2019-20 (-248 and -137, respectively).

Section count decreases were generally followed by comparable decreases in enrollment at City and Mesa Colleges (City Sections: -33%, City Enrollment: -24%, Mesa Sections: -37%, Mesa Enrollment: -30%). Miramar College offered 7 Honors Sections in both 2019-20 and 2020-21, and saw a 32% decrease in enrollments over that time (46 fewer enrollments). As in prior years, English accounted the most honors sections by subject (2020-21: 37%), followed by Sociology (13%) and Fashion (10%).

English accounted for the largest group of Honors Contracts across the colleges (363), although that subject saw a large decrease in 2020-21 compared to 2019-20 (-41%). Subjects that saw smaller decreases in Honors Contracts enrollment were Math (-28% or -39 enrollments), Biology (-29% or -18 enrollments). Political Science saw a small increase (+22% or +5 enrollments).

Table 6. Honors Sections, Whole Class, by College

Campus	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Diff. 19-20 to 20-21	% Change 19-20 to 20-21
City College/ECC	6	6	4	-2	-33%
Mesa College	29	30	19	-11	-37%
Miramar College	10	7	7	0	0%
All Colleges	45	43	30	-13	-29%

Table 7. Honors Contracts Enrollments by Subject, subjects with more than 15 enrollments in 2020-21

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	19-20 to 20-21 Diff.	19-20 to 20-21 % Change
ENGL	624	611	363	-248	-41%
MATH	140	138	99	-39	-28%
PERG	11	91	54	-37	-41%
ARTF	199	189	52	-137	-72%
BIOL	63	63	45	-18	-29%
COMS	128	79	42	-37	-47%
PSYC	70	70	36	-34	-49%
POLI	46	23	28	5	22%
HIST	56	66	27	-39	-59%
SPAN	78	76	24	-52	-68%
FREN	9	45	21	-24	-53%
ANTH	79	36	19	-17	-47%
SOCO	143	56	17	-39	-70%
PHYS	31	21	17	-4	-19%
CHIC	81	51	16	-35	-69%

Note. Excludes subjects with 15 or fewer Honors Contracts enrollments in 2020-21.

Table 8. Honors Sections by Subject

Subject	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	% of Total in 2020-21
ENGL	13	7	11	37%
SOCO	4	4	4	13%
FASH	3	3	3	10%
MATH	3	3	1	3%
PSYC	3	2	2	7%
ARCH	1	2	2	7%
ANTH	2	2	2	7%
SPAN	2	2	1	3%
ARTF	2	1	1	3%
HIST	3	1	2	7%
ECON	2	0	0	0%
COMS	0	0	0	0%
BLAS	1	1	0	0%
HUMA	1	1	1	3%
PHIL	2	0	0	0%
CISC	0	1	0	0%
GEND	0	0	0	0%
BIOL	2	0	0	0%
PEAC	1	0	0	0%
Total	45	30	30	

5. Faculty: There were 238 Honors Faculty across the credit colleges in 2020-21 (City: 86, Mesa: 97, Miramar: 58), a decrease of 36% from the prior year (City: -32%, Mesa: -44%, Miramar: -22%).

Table 7. Honors Faculty, by type and College

Honors Faculty Type	Campus	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Difference	% Change
	City College/ECC	138	120	81	-39	-33%
Honors	Mesa College	207	153	82	-71	-46%
Contracts	Miramar College	82	69	52	-17	-25%
	All Colleges	421	338	212	-126	-37%
	City College/ECC	0	1	1	0	0%
Honors	Mesa College	5	12	11	-1	-8%
Courses	Miramar College	1	1	1	0	0%
	All Colleges	6	14	13	-1	-7%
	City College/ECC	7	5	4	-1	-20%
Taught Both	Mesa College	17	9	4	-5	-56%
Honors and Courses	Miramar College	6	4	5	1	25%
Courses	All Colleges	30	18	13	-5	-28%
	City College/ECC	145	126	86	-40	-32%
All Honors	Mesa College	229	174	97	-77	-44%
Faculty	Miramar College	89	74	58	-16	-22%
	All Colleges	457	370	238	-132	-36%

Note. All Colleges totals are unduplicated across the colleges. This total may exceed the sum of each college's totals due to faculty who teach at more than one college.

6. Outcomes: As in prior years, Honors success rates were higher both across the colleges in 2020-21 (+12%) and at each college (City: +19%, Mesa: +8%, Miramar: +11%). Compared to 2019-20, success rates in Honors courses increased 1% (City: +2%, Mesa: -1%, Miramar: +2%).

Success rates in Honors Courses increased 6% in 2020-21 compared to 2019-20 (City: +11%, Mesa: +5%, Miramar: +5%). Success rates in Honors Contracts remained relatively stable.

Success rates in Honors Contracts remained significantly higher than in Honors Courses in 2020-21, with 90% of Honors Contracts passing compared to 75% of Honors Courses.

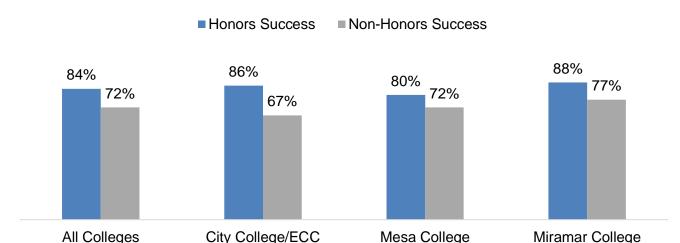


Figure 3. 2020-21 Completion and Success Rates, by College, All Honors and Non-Honors Enrollments

Table 8. 2020-21 Honors Completion and Success Rates, by College, All Honors Enrollments

	Enrollment		Comp	letion	Success		GPA	
	2019-20	2020-21	2019-20	2020-21	2019-20	2020-21	2019-20	2020-21
City College/ECC	1,216	664	95%	96%	84%	86%	3.14	3.08
Mesa College	1,172	672	88%	91%	81%	80%	2.96	2.93
Miramar College	610	335	93%	94%	86%	88%	3.16	3.3
All Colleges	2,998	1,671	92%	93%	83%	84%	3.07	3.07

Table 9. 2020-21 Honors Completion and Success Rates, by College, Honors Courses Enrollments

	Enrollment		Comp	letion	Success		GPA	
	2019-20	2020-21	2019-20	2020-21	2019-20	2020-21	2019-20	2020-21
City College/ECC	146	111	84%	89%	64%	75%	2.31	2.71
Mesa College	663	464	81%	87%	69%	74%	2.40	2.62
Miramar College	145	99	79%	85%	74%	79%	2.62	2.92
All Colleges	954	674	81%	87%	69%	75%	2.42	2.68

Table 10. Honors Completion and Success Rates, by College, Honors Contracts Enrollments

	Enrollment		Comp	Completion Suc		cess	GPA	
	2019-20	2020-21	2019-20	2020-21	2019-20	2020-21	2019-20	2020-21
City College/ECC	1,070	553	97%	97%	86%	88%	3.26	3.15
Mesa College	509	208	98%	98%	96%	95%	3.69	3.63
Miramar College	465	236	97%	97%	89%	92%	3.33	3.46
All Colleges	2,044	997	97%	97%	90%	90%	3.38	3.32

Table 11. Completion and Success Rates, by College, non-Honors Enrollments

	Enrollment		Completion		Success			GPA		
	2019-20	2020-21	2019-20	2020-21	2019-20	2020-2	21	2019-20	2020-21	
City College/ECC	65,560	55,477	82%	86%	67%	69	%	2.25	2.37	
Mesa College	104,519	95,038	84%	88%	72%	74	%	2.43	2.54	
Miramar College	62,201	55,705	88%	90%	77%	77	%	2.66	2.70	
All Colleges	232,280	206,220	84%	88%	72%	73	%	2.44	2.54	

7. Outcomes by Ethnicity and Gender: Asian and Filipino students have the highest success rates in honors courses (91%); African American students have the lowest (76%).

Nearly all groups had higher success rates in Honors courses than in non-Honors courses, with Latinx (+15%), Filipino (+14%), African American (+12%), and Multi-ethnicity (+12%) students showing the largest differences.

While Asian and White student success rates in Honors courses remained stable across the transition to online instruction in response to COVID-19, it should be noted that the success rates decreased 7% for African American Honors students, while there was a only 1% decrease for non-Honors African American students.

Success rates for Filipino students in Honors classes increased 7% from 2019-20 to 2020-21. Female student success rates were 11% higher in honors classes, and male student success rates were 9% higher.

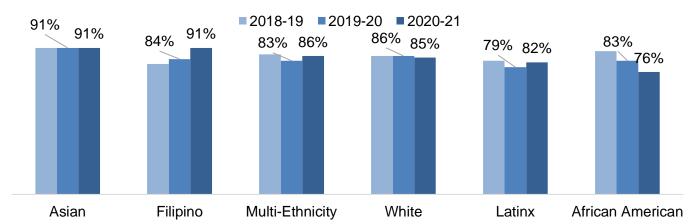


Figure 4. Honors Success Rates by Ethnicity, 2018-19 to 2020-21

Table 12.2020-21 Difference in Success Rates between Honors and Non-Honors, by Ethnicity and Gender

		Enrollments	Completion	Success	GPA
	African American	134	7%	12%	0.59
	Asian	169	4%	7%	0.35
	Filipino	65	4%	14%	0.79
	Latinx	683	7%	15%	0.62
Ethnicity	Multi-Ethnicity	128	8%	12%	0.67
	Native American	5	15%	8%	0.96
	Pacific Islander	12	14%	-1%	0.14
	Unknown	42	7%	9%	0.71
	White	433	3%	5%	0.40
Gender	Female	1,047	6%	11%	0.56
	Male	618	4%	9%	0.44
	Non-Binary	3	18%	4%	-0.09
	Unreported	3	10%	23%	1.21
Total		1,671	5%	11%	0.53

# **Appendix: Contents**

Table 13. Headcount by Ethnicity and College, All Honors Students

	Ethnicity	2019	-20	2020-21		
	Ethnicity	Count	%	Count	%	
O'th On the see /500	African American	88	11%	49	11%	
	Asian	33	4%	23	5%	
	Filipino	16	2%	7	2%	
	Latinx	497	62%	232	52%	
	Multi-Ethnicity	32	4%	22	5%	
City College/ECC	Native American	4	1%	3	1%	
	Pacific Islander	5	1%	2	0%	
	Unknown	15	2%	10	2%	
	White	108	14%	95	21%	
	Total	798	100%	443	100%	
	African American	66	7%	34	6%	
	Asian	119	13%	70	13%	
	Filipino	36	4%	24	4%	
	Latinx	372	39%	211	39%	
Mana Callaga	Multi-Ethnicity	60	6%	50	9%	
Mesa College	Native American	0	0%	1	0%	
	Pacific Islander	1	0%	2	0%	
	Unknown	20	2%	10	2%	
	White	270	29%	144	26%	
	Total	944	100%	546	100%	
Miramar College	African American	14	3%	13	5%	
	Asian	87	18%	45	17%	
	Filipino	47	10%	20	7%	
	Latinx	109	23%	65	24%	
	Multi-Ethnicity	45	9%	20	7%	
	Native American	2	0%	1	0%	
	Pacific Islander	3	1%	3	1%	
	Unknown	7	1%	7	3%	
	White	164	34%	93	35%	
	Total	478	100%	267	100%	