MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

STRATEGIC PLAN (Approved by Provost Dec. 2019)

Mission: The mission of the University Honors Program is to help academically gifted students achieve their fullest intellectual potential, preparing them to enter a world acutely in need of their talents. The program offers motivated, intellectually curious students a unique educational experience that integrates curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular learning in both interdisciplinary study and the students' major discipline, engaging them in a rigorous and dynamic course of study that complements and enhances their non-honors learning.

Vision: The University Honors Program will serve as a model of inclusive academic excellence. It will reflect the diversity of the undergraduate student population at large and will grow in size to meet the retention needs of the University. The UHP will promote equity and success inside the classroom that will be measured by Honors-specific course goals and differentiated student outcomes that reflect the development of students' intellectual maturity and confidence. All honors students will be engaged with relevant support services and co-curricular and extra-curricular activities so that they may flourish during and beyond their college experience.

GOALS

G 1: Admissions and Recruitment
The honors program will participate fully in honors recruitment with admissions. It will actively recruit a population that reflects the diversity of our overall undergraduate population.

G 2: Curricular and Co-Curricular
The honors curriculum will meet the needs and abilities of her students by providing a locus of visible and highly reputed standards and models of excellence for students and faculty. The Program will serve as a laboratory within which faculty feel welcome to experiment with new subjects, approaches, and pedagogies. Faculty will become leaders in these areas, so that efforts can become institutionalized across the campus.

G 3: Student Support (Academic and Career Advising, Learning Services, and Registrar)
Honors students will receive one-to-one academic advising from specially trained faculty and staff prior to the registration period; one-to-one job placement advising at multiple intervals in their education; clear pathways for seeking counseling and support (e.g. mental health problems, difficult family responsibilities, and economic challenges); and mentoring from their peers.

G 4: Student Affairs, Residence Life, and Athletics
The program will offer a significant residential component that will meet the academic and social needs of honors students. The honors student-athlete experience will be encouraged and enhanced.

G 5: Governance (Administrative Structure and Advisory Boards)
The administrative structure of the honors program will be an equal collegiate unit within a multi-collegiate university structure, and the operational and staff budget will be comparable to those other collegiate units of equivalent size. Honors students and honors alumni students will advise in the governance and direction of the program.

G 6: Resources (Institutional Support and Facilities)
The program will be fully institutionalized (like comparable units on campus) so that it can build a lasting tradition of excellence.

The program will be located in suitable and prominent quarters on campus that provide both access for the students and a focal point for honors activity.