

Building Community Through Colloquia

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Utah Valley University

About Our University

Utah Valley University is the largest public university in the state of Utah, and one of a few in the nation offering a dual-mission model that combines the rigor and richness of a first-rate teaching university with the openness and vocational programs of a community college.

Enrollment: 40,936

Concurrent Enrollment: 12, 080

Students while working 15+ hours weekly: 81%

Non-traditional (25+ years old): 30%

Support at least one child: 17%

First-generation students: 37%



About our Honors Program +

Our Mission

The UVU Honors Program enhances the collegiate experience of highly motivated students through specialized academic and enrichment opportunities that cultivate personal, professional, and civic engagement.

Application Criteria

- seeking curiosity, creativity, passion, initiative, and flexible thinking
- two short admissions essays
- no minimum GPA or test score required to be admitted
- all majors seeking any baccalaureate or associate's degree

Reporting Line

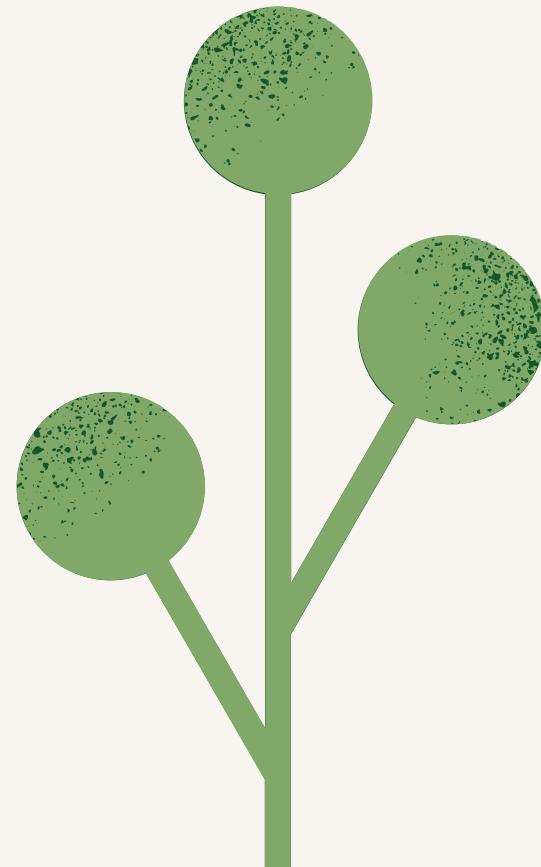
- Recent transfer from Provost to Associate Provost for Student Success
- Culture of Honors not being micromanaged



Building Community on a Commuter Campus

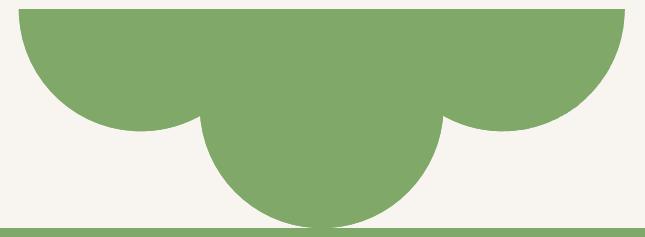
- ◆ Structure (the class)
- ◆ Incentive (points and cool events)
- ◆ Funding (students pay little to nothing)

What Builds Community?



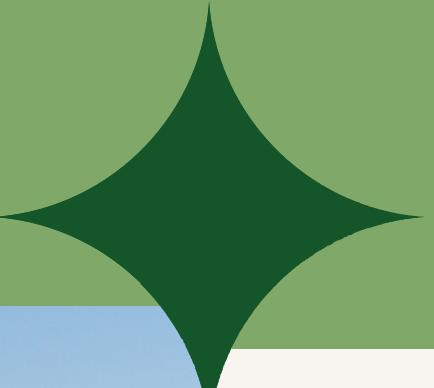
- ◆ Regular contact
- ◆ New experiences
- ◆ Sense of fun

UVU Honors Colloquium



HONR 100R Learning Outcomes

1. Foster an intellectually engaged community among UVU Honors Students
2. Introduce students to excellence in cultural expression in Utah and the Intermountain West
3. Develop student appreciation for a multiplicity of cultural expressions



HONR 100R Course Description

Honors Colloquium engages students in a series of intellectually and culturally enriching events both on and off campus.

- Lectures
- Theatrical and musical performances
- Daylong and overnight outdoor education trips
- Service activities
- Students must
 - attend the once-weekly class regularly
 - attend at least three optional activities they select
 - participate in a daylong group experience or service project they choose





Course Goals

Colloquium offers students

- chances to engage their passions
- try our new places, ideas, and experiences
- stretch their intellectual horizons

Fall 22 Sample Activities

Theme: Fear

- Lore Podcast
- Hitchcock Movie Night:Rear Window
- Scary Story Contest
- GROUP: Capitol Reef Field Station Weekend
- "The Science of the Fearsome Wolverine" with Rebecca Watters, Wolverine Foundation Director
- "Indigenous Specters and Shadows" with Dr. Mark Lentz, UVU Dept. of History and Kumen Louis, Asst. Director of Multicultural Center



UVU Honors Housing Colloquium

HONR 150R Learning Outcomes

1. Builds collegiate and adult life skills through cohort-based collaborative learning.
2. Develops reflective and communication abilities.
3. Strengthens engagement and community toward UVU's student life opportunities.



HONR 150R Course Description

Honors Housing Colloquium creates a series of events designed to connect housing students with each other, with Resident Leaders (RLs) and Student Resident Leaders (SRLs).

- Group Class Sessions
- Pod Sessions
- Pod Reach Outs
- Semester Celebration
- Students must:
 - Attend 1-2 group class sessions a month per semester
 - Attend 1 pod session per month per semester
 - Participate in pod reach outs as needed per semester
 - Attend the semester celebration event each semester
 - Attend at least two events led by a RL/Pod leader



Course Goals

Housing Colloquium provides students

- Immediate community within the university at large
- Supervised dormitory living experience with involvement guided by student
- Interpersonal communication with boundary setting skills



Fall 22 Sample Sessions and Activities



1. Group Class Sessions:

- a. Boundaries and How to Set Them with Psychologist Dr. Elyssa Zimmerman
- b. Help! How Do I Navigate Paying My Own Bills
- c. DIY Secret Santa

2. Pod Sessions:

- a. Valentines for Veterans
- b. Potluck Friendsgiving

3. Pod Reach Outs:

- a. Google form questionnaire



4. Semester Celebrations:

- a. Old Skool Field Day
- b. Bonfire Gourmet S'more's Bar

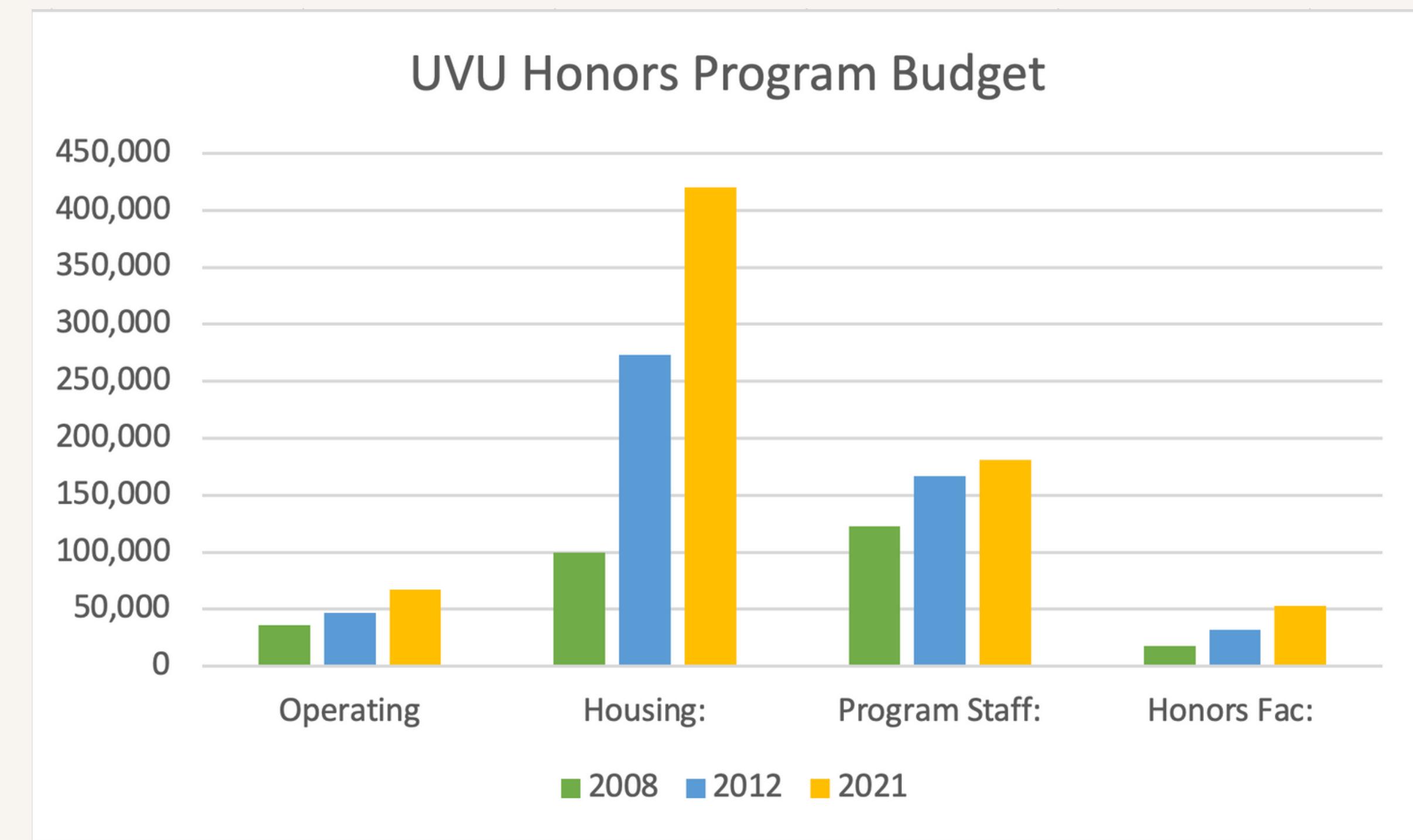
5. Choice Activities:

- a. Farmers Market Shopping
- b. Renter Friendly apartment upgrades
- c. Grocery Bingo



Our Budget History

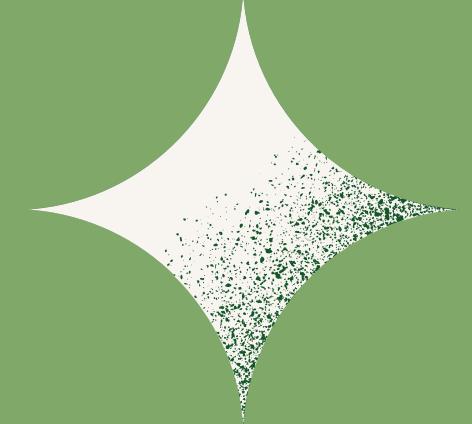
In 2008, we had 130 enrolled Honors students. In 2012, we were charged to grow the program. In 2021, our most recent assessment, we grew to 600+ with 451 enrolled in on-campus classes, with 150 on leave of absence.



Building an Honors Community

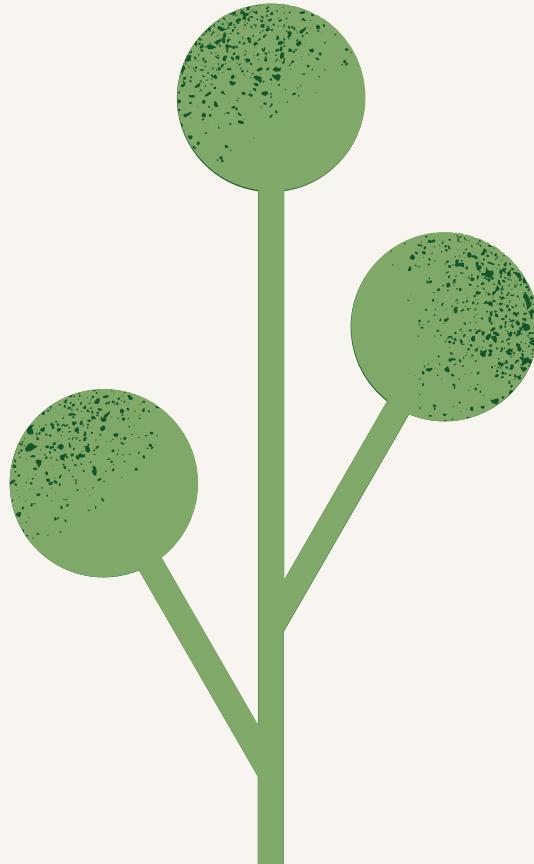
What structure might work for your campus?

- credit bearing classes?
- participation points?
- tied to scholarships?



How would you encourage students to participate?

- scholarships?
- leadership opportunities?
- social connection?
- appealing events?



Questions and Discussion