

Honors Program

The Baruch College's Honors Program includes our local honors program, Macaulay Honors College at Baruch, and the National and Prestigious Fellowships Office. Hired in early September, Veronica Maldonado is serving as the new Director of the Honors Program. Veronica brings a wealth of experience in honors education, academic advisement, financial aid, scholarships, experiential learning, and student life. Prior to joining Baruch, Veronica served as the Assistant Dean for Student Services at Macaulay Honors College.

Academics – For Fall 2023, Honors is offering 51 honors courses, spread across 90 different sections. Honors offerings fall within a range of liberal arts and business disciplines and include both in-person and hybrid modalities. The Honors Program also encourages honors scholars to take specialized seminars on-site at the Macaulay campus. Honors has nominated students to participate in the CUNY Honors Business Hub, a new initiative by Macaulay Honors College to provide underrepresented business-major students with career preparation through skills and network building, mentoring and financial support. Seven Honors students and one Baruch faculty member were also selected to participate in the fully funded Deloitte MADE – (Making Accounting Diverse and Equitable) Leadership Summit in Texas at the end of October.

Advisors – Our program serves approximately 460 scholars, a majority of whom are Macaulay students. Advisors help students navigate their college experience, connect them to experiential learning opportunities, and help them explore their academic and professional interests. Currently, Academic Advisors utilize various platforms to advise students including Degreeworks, Navigate, Schedule Builder, and the Baruch Academic Planner. Advisors provide both in-person and online appointments (via Zoom), and take advantage of features in Navigate, such as text messaging, to maintain ongoing communication with their students.

Admissions – Our first-year students in the Class of 2027 represent 109 High Schools with a mean GPA of 97.13. Macaulay at Baruch was the first-choice campus for 1700 applicants. The Admissions Committee (faculty and staff) read 819 applications to make 200 offers. The Macaulay Honors program at Baruch is selective, with an acceptance rate of 11% for the Class of 2027. The Honors staff tabled at the Baruch Open House on September 30 and will be represented at the virtual Macaulay Open House on September 15. In collaboration with the Baruch Admissions Office, the Honors Office plans to host an Information Session in November for Prospective students. The program also recruits and trains Honors Program Ambassadors to staff admissions events and serve as a resource for incoming students and their families.

Faculty outreach and faculty development – The Honors program conducts ongoing outreach to faculty to expand the number of honors courses offered each semester. Additionally, Advisors frequently encourage students to work with faculty on honors theses, independent studies, and other projects, such as lab-work. In addition, honors will continue to support the annual Research and Creative Inquiry Expo by encouraging faculty to prepare students to submit projects. Honors is preparing to recruit faculty members throughout all three schools to serve as readers for Class of 2028.

Experiential learning and community building – Honors offers extensive programming for our scholars to encourage community building and academic success. The second annual Mentorship Day was held on August 23, an opportunity for student leaders to host sessions on adjusting to college life and connect with one another. We had the Coffee Chat with Honors on August 29 as a part of Baruch's Weeks of Welcome where anyone interested in learning more about joining the Honors Program, fellowships, or the Honors Student Council could stop by to ask members of the Honors Student Council and our staff while grabbing snacks and coffee. On August 31, we hosted an in-person orientation to welcome 18 new Provost Scholars into our program and an Information Session for the Macaulay Opportunities Fund to educate students about applying for funding to support studying abroad or unpaid internships or research experiences. On October 10, students and staff will visit Madison Square Park for a curatorial tour of the exhibit, *My Neighbor's Garden*, by Sheila Pepe. On November 16, we have a scheduled tour of the current exhibition at the Mishkin Gallery (*We didn't ask permission, we just did it...*) curated by Manuela Paz and Christopher Rivera of Embajada. The Honors Student Council (HSC) has the pulse on the student experience and regularly communicates with the Honors staff to elevate the needs and interests of the students. The Honors Student Council also hosts community building events open to all scholar groups, including a Game Day Social on September 7, a CPR workshop on November 9 and a Halloween event in October.

Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships - Over 60 candidates from Baruch applied for fellowships in the 22/23 academic year; three students received Fulbright U.S. Student Awards, one was awarded a Pickering Foreign Affairs Graduate Fellowship, one student was selected for the NYC Urban Fellows Program, and one student was awarded a Boren Fellowship, among others. The office offered 4 events in the Spring 2023 semester, including information sessions on funding study abroad, business fellowships, fellowships for graduate school, and workshops on specific opportunities such as the Fulbright program. Faculty interested in nominating students or assisting the Fellowships Office, should contact Valeria (Valerie) Hrimnak, Fellowships@baruch.cuny.edu.

Technology/Communication – The Honors Program communicates with students through “Honors Connect,” a weekly digital newsletter that provides students with important announcements, resources, and academic and experiential learning opportunities. The program is also currently working on developing a new website that we intend to launch by the end of the academic year. The program utilizes social media extensively, posting daily to LinkedIn, and has grown our following to over 1000 users on Instagram.