

Tarleton State University

Presidential Honors Program

Would you like to be part of a select group of students chosen on the basis of demonstrated excellence in academics as well as leadership, service, and a capacity for intellectual inquiry? Do you have a strong desire to further your education, not only toward the end of job security or professional advancement but with the goals of developing your mind, increasing your knowledge, and benefiting society?

If you are an academically talented student with a commitment to excellence, the Presidential Honors Program at Tarleton State University offers a unique opportunity. You'll be part of an Honors community that combines the advantages of a small liberal arts college with the diversity of a comprehensive state university. You'll enter a program made up of students with an average SAT score between 1250 and 1300 (Critical Reading and Math sections only) and an average high school class rank in the top ten percent. You'll receive an annual scholarship of \$7,000, renewable for four years of undergraduate work.



A member of The Texas A&M University System since 1917

Tarleton State University, an Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer and Educator, is committed to excellence through diversity.

T Tarleton State University

Presidential Honors Program
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Stephenville, TX 76402
Phone: (254) 968-1926



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In return for these benefits you'll be expected to maintain a high level of excellence.

Presidential Honors Scholars must maintain at least a 3.4 cumulative Tarleton GPA. They must complete a minimum of 15 hours of solid academic courses every semester. Presidential Honors Scholars enroll in Honors sections of core courses offered by the Honors Degree Program, a one-hour Freshman Honors Seminar, two special three-hour Honors Seminars in the spring semester of the freshman and sophomore years, and an independent research project during their senior year.

"The Presidential Honors Program has meant more to me than simply an academic program. It has been a means of forming relationships with other students who will become lifelong friends. We all face similar struggles in our time here, and this brings us together in a way that no other group has. The program also provides an opportunity to know the professors of the university better than most students do. They become someone who wants to help you through college instead of only someone who determines your grade."
Kristi (Slaughter) Boyd (1997-2001) is a performance assurance consultant for TAC/Tour Andover Controls in Carrollton, Texas.



Admission Criteria

Beginning freshmen are considered based on class rank (generally top 10 percent); ACT/SAT (generally a minimum ACT of 27 and SAT of 1190*); participation in high school Honors, AP, or Gifted & Talented classes; quality of essays; extracurricular activities; service to school and community; letters of recommendation; and an interview with the director (finalists only). On a space available basis, returning students and transfer students with up to a maximum of one year of college credit may also be considered.

*SAT total consists of Critical Reading and Math sections only for the three-part test.

Admission

You'll participate in a challenging

Honors curriculum, including:

- Interdisciplinary Honors seminars
- Honors sections of core courses taught by distinguished faculty, limited to a maximum of 25 students, and featuring innovative approaches to teaching with an emphasis on discussion, critical thinking, and active student involvement
- Honors colloquia
- An independent senior Honors research project in your discipline



"Especially for the best and brightest, there will always be opportunities to build your technical skill set—remember, I'm an IT consultant who majored in English and minored in philosophy—but the years you spend as an undergraduate are possibly your last opportunity to formally study philosophy, history, and literature. So I am very happy to return to Tarleton to find that the Presidential Honors Program has blossomed into a directed liberal arts experience; I hope that this trend continues, and I trust that future students will be as grateful as I am when they look back on their experiences."
Nobel Acuff (1990–1992) runs a consulting company that provides leading-edge technology to clients all over the United States. He recently completed his MBA at the University of California's Marshall School of Business. Noble graduated summa cum laude in English with a minor in philosophy.

In addition to your scholarship, you'll receive a number of special benefits:

- A trip to a conference during your junior or senior year
- Opportunities for summer study abroad
- Interaction with Presidential Honors Visiting Scholars
- Trips to cultural events at Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth and museum tours of the Kimbell and Amon Carter Art Museums in Fort Worth
- Early registration each semester
- Housing in the Honors Wing of Centennial Hall
- Invitation to special Texan Scholars Orientation

Honors Seminars

In the Spring of 1985, three professors in history, English, and art team-taught the first Honors Seminar, "Symbol in Popular Culture." Since then, top faculty from across the campus and distinguished visiting faculty have offered seminars on a variety of challenging topics, such as:

- "Issues in Public Health Policy"
- "Political Leadership"
- "The Development of Scientific Thought"
- "Philosophy, Sophistry, and Democracy"
- "The Horror Genre in Literature, Film, and Television"
- "A Philosophy of Art (or the 'Why' of Music)"
- "Equality: Gender and the Law"
- "The Portrayal of Science in Science Fiction"
- "The Concept of a Liberal Education"
- "History of Mathematics: Selected Topics"
- "Music and Society"
- "Media Literacy"
- "Environmental Conundrums"
- "The American West: Myth & Reality"



Accomplishments of Former Students

Presidential Honors Scholars are free to pursue any major course of study offered at Tarleton, and graduates of the program enter a wide variety of professions. Many of our graduates go on to do postgraduate work at first-rate professional schools and graduate schools.

Graduates of the Presidential Honors Program have entered Ph.D. programs in physics and space physics at Rice, mathematics at North Carolina State University, organic chemistry at Indiana State University, psychology at the University of Georgia, English at the University of North Texas, Nanoscience and Microsystems at the University of New Mexico, and Sociology at Baylor University; and they've entered Master's programs in engineering at Stanford University and Oklahoma State University, business at the University of

Southern California Marshall School of Business, English at the University of Alaska Anchorage, physical chemistry and geology at the University of Texas at Austin, business at Northeastern University in Boston, and biology at Texas A&M University.

Graduates have entered law school at the University of Texas at Austin, Baylor, and Texas Tech; pharmacy school at the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Houston; veterinary school at Texas A&M; medical school at Texas A&M, the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas Tech, and the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; and dental school at the University of Texas at San Antonio and the University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston.



"Although I was a member of multiple organizations at TSU, the Presidential Honors Program was without a doubt the most valuable part of my college experience, in many ways. The program provided not only a challenging academic setting, but multiple opportunities for growth and stimulation beyond the classroom setting. The opportunities ranged from scholarly, to cultural, and even to social. Being surrounded by others with inquisitive minds and a desire for excellence was invaluable. Furthermore, the relationships that I was able to cultivate as a member of PHP, with both faculty and fellow students, have continued to enrich my life beyond my years as a student at Tarleton, and will probably continue to do so for the rest of my life."
Jessica Farrar (2004-08) received a Masters in sociology from Baylor University.

You'll have an opportunity to connect your academic experiences with a commitment to community and public service through:

- Honors seminar service projects
- The Presidential Honors Society, a student organization that sponsors events both on the campus and in the local community
- Student-faculty collaborative research projects

Endowments

Endowment funds for Presidential Honors Scholarships total around \$2.78 million. For information on funding a Presidential Honors Scholarship or making a contribution to the Presidential Honors Enrichment Society, contact the Honors Programs at (254) 968-1926 or the Office of Development at (254) 968-9769.

About Us

Located one hour from Fort Worth in Stephenville, Texas, Tarleton serves as the educational and cultural flagship of the Cross Timbers Region. With a population of 17,000, Stephenville is known as one of the country's most desirable places to live and is included in Norman Crampton's *The 100 Best Small Towns in America* published by Prentice-Hall. Upgraded campus facilities and affordable tuition combined with Stephenville's economical cost of living make Tarleton one of the best university values in Texas. The student body includes representatives from 48 states and 32 countries.

The facilities are a unique blend of historical beauty and 21st-century technology. We have one of the nation's finest Student Development Centers; an impressive fine arts complex featuring an auditorium with acoustics widely recognized to be among the best in the state; technologically advanced library and classrooms; a new \$30 million state-of-the-art science building housing a planetarium; a new observatory at Tarleton's

Hunewell Ranch, which houses a fully robotic, 32-inch diameter, research-grade telescope; a new 70,000-square-foot sports recreation center, complete with weight rooms and a climbing wall; and a new 23.4 million dollar, 53,000-square-foot nursing building.

Tarleton hosts performers like the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and Fort Worth Chamber Orchestra; the Huntington Brass Quintet; Yakov Kasman, silver medalist in the Tenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition; the internationally acclaimed Irish dance group Common Ground; the Grammy Award-winning Count Basie Orchestra; and headliners like Tracy Lawrence, Miranda Lambert, and Kenny Chesney. At Tarleton you'll have an opportunity to enjoy an on-campus film, debate, or play. Or listen to a guest lecture by such nationally acclaimed speakers as television producer and journalist Linda Ellerbee and Zev Kedem, a Schindler's list Holocaust survivor.

Quick Facts about Tarleton

Cost: \$12,000–\$14,500 per year (tuition, fees, room, and board for 15 hours per semester for 2010-2011)
Enrollment: Fall 2010, 11,393
Student/Faculty Ratio: 18 to 1
Degree Programs: 2 Associate, 66 Bachelor, 22 Master, and a Cooperative Doctorate in Educational Administration
Athletics: NCAA Division 2, Lone Star Conference
School Colors: Purple and White

"I went into the manager's office and asked her why I was hired when I applied last June to a position that I had very little experience in. She looked at me a little funny and then said that it was my education that got me the interview and especially the fact that I graduated with honors in the Presidential Honors Program. So my education and especially my participation in the Honors program got me in the door, and the grooming and training that I received in that same Honors program got me the job. I realized that all the Honors classes I had taken, especially those done in a seminar or roundtable discussion format, had really helped me."
Kristina Guess (2000–2004) is a sales administrator with Litex Industries. She graduated summa cum laude in political science with minors in philosophy and history.

More Information

For additional information or application forms contact:
Dr. Craig Clifford, Director
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Phone: (254) 968-1926
E-mail: honors@tarleton.edu
Or visit our Web site at <http://www.tarleton.edu/honors>.
To download a scholarship application form visit the Web site of the Office of Scholarships at <http://www.tarleton.edu/scholarships>.

