ACADEMIC HONORS QUESTIONS

I have come out of retirement to consult with students about their schedules.  In doing this, I have encountered the dilemma of recommending to a bright student to keep working toward an Academic Honors Diploma (specifically pursue a third year of a foreign language and a year of a fine arts class) or change to a Core 40 Diploma and take a half day vocational program their senior year that would be very worthwhile.

I called and spoke to Purdue Admissions and they assured me that the diploma type is not a part of their admission process as they look at GPA, test scores and rigor.  They were fine with a change to Core 40 Diploma as long as the other aspects were up to standards.  Questions:

1.  Does anyone know which universities do seek Academic Honors Diplomas as part of their admissions process?

2.   What scholarships or university automatic academic awards reward Academic Honors Diplomas?   And for what amounts?

3.  Any other insights? I have been " out of the saddle" for two years and want to make sure I am understanding all angles of this decision.   Thanks!     Judy Delp

RESPONSES:

The state will award only 80% of financial aid for which a student qualifies if the student has only a Core 40. If the student earns an honors diploma, they can receive 100% of the fin aid they qualify for.

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If you don't share with all, please forward me the responses! We are having the same concerns. It appears as though the Academic Honors Diploma carries almost no weight. Some public universities offer small scholarships around it....IU has a $500 one. We are not sure about others at this point. We also have issues with the requirements as each local high school is doing something different :)

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Purdue might not want an academic honors, but the WL campus wants 4 years of math.

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No Indiana college requires AHD.  Several years ago, IU, midway thru the year and with no real announcement, said you needed AHD at that point but this was just as the year went and sort of goes along with their tightening their expectations as the year goes.  This was probably ten years ago and they have not done this since.

I believe that only ISU and Vincennes gives a scholarship for AHD.  ISU gives a one time $500 scholarship.  VU gives, for two year, I think a $1200 scholarship (not sure if it is for four years for their four year programs.  Ball State uses AHD as an initial qualifier for their President's Scholarship but it does not mean you will get the scholarship.  I suppose a few others might use it as an initial qualifier.

You are probably aware - if a student qualifies for state financial aid, they do get more by having AHD.

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Check out the financial bonus of having an honors diploma.  Last time I checked, $1500

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I know that both Purdue and IU are so competitive that we tell all students that they need the academic honors diploma to gain admission. It says that 2 years of a language is required plus the extra year of math.