

Faculty Showcase '05: Partners in Learning

Sponsored by Academic Technology at Simmons College



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Arts and Sciences

Goal

- Increase student engagement and the overall perceived value of a one credit required seminar.

A PTRC
Partnership
Project

This project
received PTRC
funding



Honors 390

Overview

Over the past few years, Mary Jane Treacy has struggled to offer a senior seminar that is meaningful for students from every department and program available at Simmons. One concern that all students share is the stress of transitioning from life as an undergraduate college student to that of an independent adult.

Working with an Instructional Designer from the PTRC, Mary Jane decided that she would leverage technology to try to increase student participation and engagement in the context of online discussions as she pushed them to reflect on—and articulate—their thoughts about this transition.

Aside from a few face-to-face gatherings, this year Honors 390 “meets” primarily online. Each week, students are asked to read and reflect on a variety of related topics in the discussion area.



“...this is just the point when you need to take time to reflect on what you have accomplished over the past three years and to consider where you are going, both as an individual and as a professional. Honors 390 is going to ask you to do this.”

-Honors 390 Course Introduction

Honors 390 in 2004-2005

Honors 390 in 2004-2005 has been designed as the final step in a four-year Career Exploration Program for all Honors students.

- First-year students will have one workshop on how to get the most from their summer jobs;
- Sophomores will examine their own learning and communication styles, consider possible career directions that seem best suited to those styles, and learn to navigate the Career Resource Library;
- Juniors will have workshops on when and how to apply to graduate school and conduct informational interviews with people who work or study in their areas of interest; and
- Seniors will work on two fronts simultaneously: reflection on their intellectual histories and practical preparation for the tasks ahead.