



## The Honors Roadmap

Making the most of your college experience is made easier by the development of a “roadmap” that includes careful consideration of your personal beliefs, the goals that those beliefs lead you to reach for, and a specific plan for achieving those goals. If you have (and consult) such a roadmap, it becomes easier to make decisions about how to spend your time, to be clear with others about your goals, and to minimize stress associated with the post-college unknown. A good roadmap gives you a means of prioritizing your experiences, allowing you to stand out in your academic and social pursuits as someone who has the confidence of her/his convictions and ability to excel.

Your roadmap is not a static document, of course. Rather, we expect that the roadmap will change as your values and goals are influenced by your experiences at RC and beyond. In Honors 112 you’ll update your roadmap, and you’ll be encouraged in Honors 113 and 114 to continue similar meaningful reflection about your path. The Honors roadmap assignment is a way to chronicle a foundation and look to the future. It is the beginning of an exploration, not the sum total of your life and your future. We want you to be able to look back at this document – next term, next year, and next decade – and learn from where you’ve been plus consider new directions based on the twists and turns your life takes in the interim.

### Parts of the Roadmap:

Your paper should represent strong personal reflection, and consist of three clearly labelled parts:

#### I. My Values

What have you inherited from your family, friends, community, experiences that has influenced your life? Which guiding principles and ideas help you to conceptualize who you are and the person you see yourself becoming? Considering this question, then, in 2 pages or so, provide a list of the values that you deem most important to your life. Annotate each with a paragraph or two of reflection about how you’ve come to hold that value dear (it’s best to tie these reflections to specific experiences), and the sorts of actions that the value leads you to seek out/strive for.

#### II. My Goals

In another 2 or so pages, list your goals. Ideally, a goals list should include short- and long-term goals with varying degrees of difficulty (e.g. a high freshman-year gpa, become a highly respected travel writer, be more involved on campus). Include academic and career-minded goals, of course, but also include personal/social goals, as you are far more than the sum total of your coursework. Annotate each goal with a paragraph or so explaining the goal and how it connects to your values. Your annotations can (and often should) also include discussion of struggles/doubts that are on your mind as you consider your goals. Be thoughtful here. In the process, you may find that linkages are unclear, leading you to improved understanding of your own values (or reassessment of your goals).

### III. My Strategic Plan

Create a list of action steps required to move you respectably toward each of your goals. Include steps with varying degrees of difficulty, but, unlike some of your goals, the action items in your strategic plan should be highly specific. For instance, for the aforementioned “high freshman-year gpa” goal a strategic plan item might be “go to subject tutoring for help with biology once a week.” For “become a highly respected travel writer,” part of the strategic plan might be “have a discussion with a faculty member about specific steps necessary to become a highly respected travel writer,” while another part might be “find and begin lessons in Kiswahili.” For “be more involved on campus,” perhaps “invite five people to help me start an RC basket-weaving club,” or, “speak with Honors President about opportunities for planning and helping out with Honors events.” Your strategic plan need not be fully carried out over the next few weeks, but rather should consist of a mixture of tasks to be completed over the next few weeks, as well as over the next few months and years. A good strategic plan motivates you to do more than you might ordinarily do as you get caught up in the ebb and flow of daily life.

You should save your roadmap (and all subsequent versions) to your e-Portfolio “Roadmap” page. We’ll begin Hnrs 112, 113 and 114 by reviewing your Roadmap.