The Mercer Honors Program began as an initiative of the Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning in 2005. The first Honors courses were offered in Spring 2007.

Vision Statement: The MCCC Honors Program is an enriched college experience for highly motivated, intellectually curious, academically exceptional students. Honors students engage in qualitatively (and sometimes quantitatively) more challenging academic work than students in the standard curriculum.

Following the guidelines of the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC):
“... when designing an Honors course, it is important to remember that Honors courses are not meant to have more work for the sake of more work or harder work for the sake of harder work.” (NCHC 2013)

Rather, the Mercer Honors Program is guided by NCHC recommendations to recognize and serve the specialized needs and demands of high-achieving students by
- motivating students to realize their full potentials by asking them to achieve high standards in challenging courses and by offering them the study skills, learning strategies, and supportive community required to meet those challenges.
- helping students acquire the skills and confidence they need to excel in all of their courses, both at Mercer and in four-year colleges and universities.
- building the confidence, critical thinking, independent initiative, and collaborative working practices students need to excel in their career paths.
- creating a sense of community for high-achieving students—an intellectual “home” at the college.
- identifying Honors students on their transcripts to show baccalaureate institutions and prospective employers that they are exceptional students with special achievements.

Major Findings from the Mercer Honors Program Academic Program Review of 2011 (with updated information where available)

1. Retention, graduation and transfer rates for Mercer Honors Program students significantly exceed those of the College overall.
   a. 551 students have taken an Honors Course at Mercer since the program began in Spring 2007.
   b. The overall transfer rate for students who have taken an Honors class at Mercer runs at 94% (!)

2. Students who have taken Honors courses have transferred well, with many attending top colleges and receiving major scholarships.
   a. Our students include two Coca-Cola Scholarship winners, over a dozen full-ride awards, a Merit Scholarship from the Research & Development Council of New Jersey, multiple national and regional journalism award winners, and one winner of the highly prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship.
   b. Follow-on colleges include significant in-state transfers (29 to TCNJ) as well as other top competitive colleges including: Bryn Mawr, Columbia, Vanderbilt, Hampshire College, Pratt Institute, American University, Mount Holyoke, Pace, Georgetown, Smith College, George Washington University, Middlebury, The New School, UC Berkeley, Villanova, and Stanford.

3. Student engagement – a validated proxy for student learning outcomes as measured by the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) – is significantly higher in Honors courses than the average at the College.