

From: [Fort, Eric H.](#)
To: [Asdemir, Ozer](#); [Craft-Fairchild, Catherine](#); [Williard, David C.](#); [Distelzweig, Peter M.](#); [Lederle, Rita E.](#); [Popescu, Codrina](#); [Frank, Jan L.](#)
Cc: [Schultz, Cameron M.](#); [Langer, Irelandrose F.](#); [Berglund, Erica S.](#)
Subject: Aquinas Scholars Faculty Board: Fall 2021 Meetings
Start: Thursday, November 18, 2021 1:20:00 PM
End: Thursday, November 18, 2021 2:00:00 PM
Location: <https://stthomas.zoom.us/j/91900865805?pwd=Kyt2VDE5cFJxS0hjT0MrQjMxRjUxZz09&from=addon>
Attachments: [ASHP2025_Whitepaper_F2021.pdf](#)

Hi Everyone,

Sorry for the late notice on the agenda. With campus COVID numbers on the rise and Minnesota even worse, we will be meeting fully virtual tomorrow.

Agenda:

1. Review Website Updates to Date
2. Address any questions on Whitepaper (attached)
3. Discuss the Mission Statement
 - a. Does it capture what we do?
 - b. Does it leave room for innovation?
 - c. Is anything missing?

We will be focusing on the mission statement tomorrow. If you have any comments you'd like to pre-send, I'll be assembling some before the meeting. If not, we will just continue with the discussion. If you need to see the program whitepaper for this fall, please find it attached.

Aquinas Scholars Mission Statement:

The Aquinas Scholars Honors Program is the undergraduate honors program of the University of St. Thomas. The program is designed to enrich the educational experience of the school's most academically motivated students by creating a community of scholars dedicated to academic excellence and the ideals of a liberal arts education.

Eric

Eric Fort, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Chair - Department of Chemistry
Director - Aquinas Scholars Honors Program

ehfort@stthomas.edu <<mailto:ehfort@stthomas.edu>>
p (651) 962-5588
f (651) 962-5201
University of St. Thomas | [stthomas.edu](https://www.stthomas.edu/) <<https://www.stthomas.edu/>>
Chemistry Department | [stthomas.edu/chemistry](https://www.stthomas.edu/chemistry) <<https://www.stthomas.edu/chemistry>>
Aquinas Scholars Program | [stthomas.edu/aquinasscholars](https://www.stthomas.edu/aquinasscholars) <<https://www.stthomas.edu/aquinasscholars>>

Eric Fort (he/him) is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

JOIN Zoom MEETING:
<https://stthomas.zoom.us/j/91900865805?pwd=Kyt2VDE5cFJxS0hjT0MrQjMxRjUxZz09&from=addon>

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JOIN BY ENTERING THIS MEETING ID: 919 0086 5805
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<<https://www.stthomas.edu/e>>

Aquinas Scholars Honors Program

2025 Vision

-Eric H. Fort, Chemistry Department, Director
Fall 2021

"The Aquinas Scholars Honors Program is the undergraduate honors program of the University of St. Thomas and aims to enrich the educational experience of the school's most academically motivated students by creating a community of scholars committed to academic excellence, achievement, and the ideals of a liberal arts education."

Honors Program Structure:

- Established in 1980: College of Arts and Sciences
- Moved to Academic Affairs in 2007: Students from 76 Majors
- Honors Director: Appointed by AVP for Student Achievement
- Feedback and Assessment: Faculty Advisory Board and Student Board
- Primary Funding: Academic Affairs as Student Support Unit
- Curricular requirements: 4 courses and 3 interdisciplinary seminars
- Participation requirements: attend 5 events throughout each semester
- Curricular Integration: Integrations in the Humanities credit for some seminars

Aquinas Honors Program
~6% of student body (368)
28 ACT*/ 1300 SAT*/ 3.8 GPA
2-12% SOC participation

National Honors Programs
5-6% of student body
26 ACT/ 1200 SAT/ 3.5 GPA
22% SOC participation

*Currently evaluating test-optional pathways.

Program Highlights:

- Close-knit Community of Scholars
- Small Classes (<20)
- Honors Lounge
- Living and Learning Community
- Seminars at no additional tuition
- Mentorship Events

Recent Initiatives:

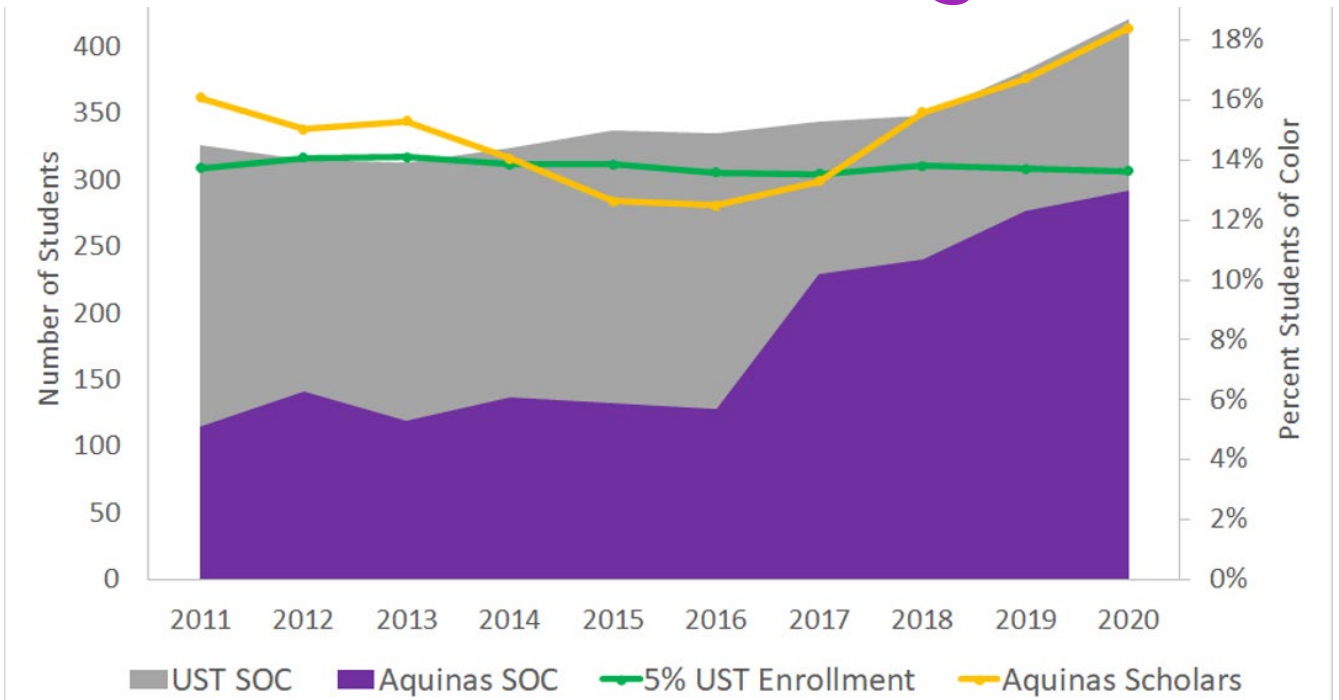
- Grew from 4-6 percent of student body representation in 3 years
- Pioneered second-year Living Learning Community in partnership with Res. Life
- Foster student engagement through cohort model and points system
- Peer to peer outreach for prospective students
- Established an honors pathway for Dougherty Family College students
- Added an Honors Engineering Course
- (New Fall 2021) Established Priority Registration by Class Standing

Aquinas Scholars
Honors Program



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St. Thomas

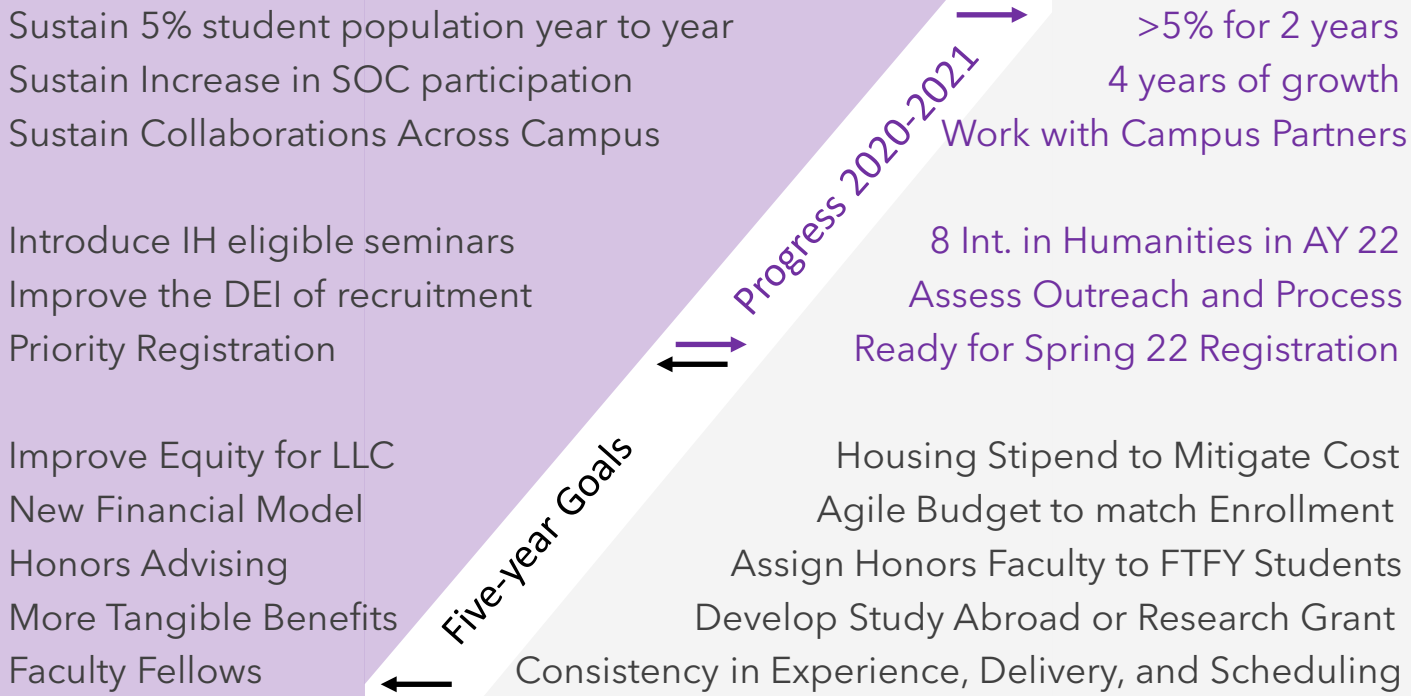
Self-Assessment: Growing Pains



Summary of Data:

- Upward Enrollment Trends
- FTFY enrollment impacting diversity
- SOC enrollment remains below UST
- Budget not maintaining pace with enrollment growth

Goals: Sustain/Improve/Innovate



Needs: Support and Recognition

- Administration needs to approve registration and financial models.
- Deliberate marketing
- Value the work we are doing