SALLY MCDONNELL BARKSDALE HONORS COLLEGE

Admission Policies

Four-Year Program: Undergraduates from all majors and schools may participate in the program. Admission is competitive, based on a combination of considerations: grade-point average; involvement in school and community; writing ability; commitment to public service; and recommendations of teachers and counselor. Students must apply to the SMBHC through the university's Competitive Academic Programs Application after being admitted to the university. Those who apply by our Early-Action Deadline of November 1 will receive their decision by December 20th. The Regular Decision Deadline is January 10, with decisions being released by the first week of March.

Honors Scholars Program: Students who did not enter the college as first-semester freshmen—either current UM students or transfers—are invited to join the SMBHC through the Honors Scholars Program. Through the Honors Scholars Program, students will become involved in research in their majors, take honors courses, and contribute to the larger society through community action. To be admitted into the Honors Scholars program, a student must have a minimum 3.50 undergraduate GPA in at least 45 earned hours and submit an Honors Scholar application. Honors Scholars students must complete an Honors Capstone culminating in a thesis. A capstone can be completed through an Honors Practicum, an Honors Project, or an Honors Thesis. Honors Scholars must also take at least one 3-hour honors course in addition to any capstone and thesis credit and complete the community action challenge for each semester in which they are a member of the Honors College. A student who fulfills the Honors Scholars Program will graduate as an Honors Scholar in his or her major.

Academic Regulations

Program Completion Requirements

Students entering the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College as first-semester freshmen are admitted to a four-year program designed to enrich and embolden the coursework of their undergraduate degrees. The program accommodates every undergraduate major on campus. The SMBHC curriculum offers courses that apply to the general education requirements for all Schools and the College of Liberal Arts, as well as special courses available only to Honors students seeking extraordinary classroom or field experiences.

To graduate as SMBHC Scholars, students must complete an approved Capstone project (either the Honors Thesis, the Honors Practicum, or the Honors Project), earn at least 30 hours in Honors coursework (including HONR 1010/1020), and attain at least a 3.50 cumulative GPA. Toward the end of their sophomore years, all students must declare their strategies for going forward with the SMBHC: pursuing either an Honors Thesis, an Honors Practicum, or an Honors Project; or completing their time with the Honors College at the end of the sophomore year. Students who do not declare an intention, or who show no or little progress in earning sufficient honors hours or pursuing an Honors Capstone will be assumed to have ended their Honors careers and will be released from the SMBHC.

Students must have a minimum of a 3.50 grade-point average in order to graduate as a Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors Scholar. In the service of accomplishing this goal, honors students must attain a minimum GPA of 3.20 at the end of the freshman year, a 3.40 at the end of the sophomore year, and a 3.50 by the end of the junior year. During the senior year, students should have at least a 3.50 cumulative GPA.

Honors students are required to participate in the Community Action Challenge each semester. The college accepts a wide variety of experiences from churches, clubs, and campus organizations as fulfilling this requirement.

Although not a requirement, studying abroad and other field experiences are an important emphasis of the program. When students do study abroad for at least a semester, they are excused from the community action requirement for each semester abroad.

The SMBHC provides a second entry point for students who did not enter the SMBHC as first-semester freshmen but who apply when they have earned at least 45 hours in college credits, either at the University of Mississippi or elsewhere. Students in the Honors Scholars program are commissioned at graduation as Honors Scholars in their majors if they have taken at least one 3-credit Honors course, completed the Honors Capstone, reported community action each semester during their time as an honors student, and hold at least a 3.50 cumulative GPA.

General Education Core Curriculum

In addition to satisfying specific degree requirements of both an undergraduate program of study and the Honors College, a student must also satisfy the general education/core curriculum requirements of the undergraduate program being pursued. Honors 101 and 102 can be used to satisfy the 6-hour freshman composition requirement that is common to all degree programs. Alternatively, a student may apply the credits toward humanities or social science hours, especially if the student has AP, IB or dual-enrollment credit for composition. As humanities and social science credit, Honors 1010 and 1020 function differently in the various colleges and schools. In the College of Liberal Arts, Honors 1010-1020 can satisfy 3 hours of humanities and 3 hours of social science. In the schools of Business, Accountancy, and Pharmacy, Honors 1010-1020 can satisfy 6 hours of humanities. In the Schools of Engineering and in the Multi-Disciplinary Studies major, Honors 1010-1020 can satisfy 3 hours of humanities and 3 hours of social science. In the schools of Education, Applied Sciences, and Journalism, Honors 1010-1020 can satisfy 3 hours of humanities and 3 hours of electives.

Advising

Two academic counselors at the SMBHC work with honors students during their time in the Honors College. One academic counselor is available to help reconcile freshman students' field(s) of study and the honors curriculum, discuss research opportunities, internships and study abroad, or help with other issues that they are having difficulty addressing. The SMBHC academic counselor does not take the place of their academic advisers in their majors, nor is the academic counselor able to lift advising holds. After students' sophomore year, the second academic counselor will work with them as they complete their honors capstone and undergraduate studies.

Honor Code Policy

The Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College employs an Honor Code centered on honesty, sincerity, and justice. The purpose of this Honor

Code is to strengthen the sense of community in which the Honors College takes great pride. Its strength depends on the personal honor and integrity of each Honors College member. Honors students are required to write the following statement on any assignment submitted for grading in Honors classes, thereby reinforcing the atmosphere of trust within the Honors College community: “On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given, received, nor witnessed any unauthorized help on this _____”

In addition to this pledge, the Honors College has instituted the following policy that is in effect in all honors classes:

Academic integrity is essential to all the values upon which the university is founded. Honors students must therefore embody academic honesty in all aspects of their work. A student with a documented case of plagiarism or academic cheating in an honors course reported to the University’s Academic Discipline committee will face the possibility of dismissal from the Honors College or being placed on probation based on the recommendation of the Honors College’s Academic Integrity Committee.

The University Creed—All students should uphold the University Creed and the regulations in the University’s M-Book.