The University of Mississippi Creed

The University of Mississippi is a community of learning dedicated to nurturing excellence in intellectual inquiry and personal character in an open and diverse environment. As a voluntary member of this community:

I believe in respect for the dignity of each person
I believe in fairness and civility
I believe in personal and professional integrity
I believe in academic honesty
I believe in academic freedom
I believe in good stewardship of our resources
I pledge to uphold these values and encourage others to follow my example.

Preface

This handbook is designed to answer many of the questions that you will have about the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. In addition, it outlines the expectations and requirements that the Honors College will hold of you, both in and out of the classroom. You should keep this handbook so that you can refer to it as needed. It is also a good idea to keep copies of forms you turn into the Honors College (e.g. scholar candidacy form, the exploratory research form, the honors thesis form, etc.).
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SMBHC Staff: How to Reach Us

Honors College Office
Room 302
662-915-7294
honors@olemiss.edu

Dr. Douglass Sullivan-González, Dean
Room 105
dsg@olemiss.edu

Dr. John Samonds, Associate Dean
Room 301
jsamonds@olemiss.edu

Dr. Debra Brown Young, Associate Dean
Room 307
dbyoung@olemiss.edu

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Dean
Room 202
jparsons@olemiss.edu

Bruce Levingston, Chancellor’s
Honors College Artist-in-Residence
Room 208
bruce@olemiss.edu

Mrs. Penny Leeton, Honors Coordinator
Room 105
pleeton@olemiss.edu
Mr. Fred Caraway, Accountant  
Room 203  
fycarawa@olemiss.edu

Ms. Mimi Rankin  
Coordinator of Recruitment and Admissions  
Room 209  
mrankin@olemiss.edu

Mr. Tim Dolan, Director  
Office of National Scholarship Advisement  
Room 302  
tadolan@olemiss.edu

Ms. Lauren Elizabeth Tolbert  
Secretary  
Room 302

Telecommunications Analyst II  
Room 201
Welcome

An artist by training, Samuel F. B. Morse explored the fascinating notion of electricity through lectures at Yale. In early 1830, Morse traveled to France and probed the French semaphore system for sending messages, a clumsy tower resembling a human with flags flapping in each hand. While returning from an art show in England on board a ship in November 1832, Morse conceived of a system of dots and dashes that would be perfected by his skilled friend, Alfred Vail. An electrical spark would engage an electromagnetic lever to move a pencil up and down, and thus transmit a series of dots and dashes. A communications revolution had begun.

A few lectures,
   A trip abroad,
   A ship,
   An artist,
   And a monumental breakthrough.

Welcome to the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College!

Imagine boarding a ship that will take you on a journey for the next four years of your life. You will be artist and scientist, tinkerer and adventurer, engineer and caregiver. You will engage distant lands through written texts and you will ponder ideas at the foot of great monuments or at the edge of foreign seas.

You have chosen to be different, not for the sake of difference, but because you care…or perhaps you cannot control your curiosity! You will work with many who have been thrown to the margin of society, you will engage the powerful and renowned, and you will sit at the table of ordinary Americans and contemplate the possibilities of our world.

You are a team member of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College.

Pursue excellence in all your work.
   Respond to the challenges our world has given us.
   Integrate insights and skills gathered from both the sciences and the arts
   and watch the world turn upside down!

Enjoy these four years.

Douglass Sullivan-González
Dean
Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College Courtesies
(Established by the Honors Senate, October 2001)

The Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College building exists as a home to honors students, faculty, and staff. It has been generously designed to accommodate both academic and social activities. Members of the SMBHC community have many privileges here, and members must cooperate to preserve these privileges.

We, the Honors Senate, encourage fellow students to take advantage of the SMBHC building facilities – and we ask that each of you respect the following courtesies.

- Respect your neighbor’s space.
- Keep the SMBHC building clean.
- No smoking in the SMBHC building or in its courtyard or deck. The university is now a smoke-free campus.
- Respect SMBHC recycling efforts. Put trash in proper containers.
- Be respectful of those studying in the lounge, computer lab, or study rooms. Keep noise at a minimum.
- Refrain from cell-phone use in the computer lab or study rooms. If you use a cell-phone, respect cell-phone etiquette. Limit cell-phone use to deck, courtyard, or private space.
- Keep lounge tidy. Return pillows to couches if you remove them. Fold and return newspapers to the coffee table.
- If you study in the lounge, be aware that it is a space for all honors students, and distractions, such as the television, may exist.
- Limit phone calls on the lounge phone to five minutes.
- Keep kitchen tidy. If you use the kitchen, wash used dishes and throw away trash. Always return borrowed items to their respective places.
- Eat your own food in the kitchen and do not assume that it is yours. If a food item’s expiration date has passed, take the initiative to dispose of the item.
- Keep lab and its equipment clean.
- Keep the front or back door of the lab shut at all times.
- Keep study rooms tidy. Erase boards after use when you leave a study room.
- Close windows and blinds and turn off lights when you leave a study room.
- Respect our fish and refrain from adding foreign objects (i.e. soap, fish, fish food, sailboats).
Making Things Work

Honors Advising—The SMBHC has two Associate Deans and one Assistant Dean who are available to work with you in many ways, which include but are not limited to:

- Helping you reconcile your field(s) of study and the honors curriculum.
- Resolving scheduling difficulties
- Discussing research opportunities/ideas
- Assisting in planning for other academic pursuits, such as study abroad or internships
- Brainstorming about the exploratory research project and thesis
- Discussing other issues that you are having difficulty addressing

At the SMBHC, you are more than just a number or a name; you are a student with passions and gifts, and ideas for using both. We want to know who you are so that when an opportunity comes up that is perfect for you, we already have you in mind. We do not take the place of your academic advisor(s) nor do we lift advising holds.

You can schedule an appointment with any of the staff through the online appointment calendar found on the SMBHC website: www.honors.olemiss.edu

Communication

Newsletter—The SMBHC newsletter goes out weekly by e-mail and contains very important information. There is often a note from the Dean, information about campus lectures, Community Action, class meetings, meals with visiting dignitaries, job opportunities, deadlines, and a section for recent student activities. Students are expected to read the newsletter and are thus responsible for any announcements contained therein.

Listservs—The SMBHC also broadcasts much information through listserves. Initially, your Ole Miss e-mail address will be the one we use. If you want the SMBHC to use a different e-mail address, be sure to forward your Ole Miss e-mail to that address. It is your responsibility to know what is posted through the listserv, so read your e-mails.

Social Media—Follow the SMBHC on Instagram and Twitter (@umphoco) and Facebook (Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College). Keep up with Dean Sullivan-González on Twitter (@dsgolemiss). Receive updates from the Office of National Scholarship Advisement on Twitter (@UM_ONSA).

Good Standing

Good standing is defined as meeting the minimum GPA requirement for your year, earning sufficient hours of honors credit, including exploratory research and thesis credit, reporting community action, and upholding and obeying the Honors Senate courtesies. Students not in good standing may lose privileges like priority registration, printing privileges, or access to the building.
**Year-by-Year Guide for Students**

The following is based on a student earning a bachelor’s degree in four years (8 semesters). Students planning a different track (3 years, 4½ years, etc.) should consult with the Honors College staff.

By the end of each year, students should have completed the following:

### First Year:
- Honors 101
- Honors 102
- At least 12 honors hours by end of year
- A minimum 3.20 GPA by end of year
- Community Action Challenge hours reported each semester

### Second Year:
- At least 18 honors hours by end of year
- Begin researching thesis opportunities in your major
- A minimum 3.40 GPA by end of year
- Community Action Challenge hours reported each semester
- Submit candidacy form online by April 1st

### Third Year:
- A minimum 3.50 GPA by end of year
- Submit Research and Thesis Plan form by November 15th and begin Exploratory Research
- Community Action Challenge hours reported each semester

### Fourth Year:
- 3.50 cumulative GPA
- Community Action Challenge hours reported each semester
- Notify SMBHC of Second Reader by early September
- Preliminary Research Product by end of classes in fall semester
- Final Draft to Thesis Advisor before Spring Break
- Thesis submitted to readers by April 1st
- Arrange defense date with thesis committee
- Defend Thesis by last day of classes
- Submit one final copy of thesis on 100% cotton bond paper, formatted according to thesis guidelines, and upload electronic copy to Thesis Repository by the end of Finals week
Requirements

Hours—The curriculum of the Honors College requires a minimum of 29 hours of honors credit. At least 12 hours must be earned by the end of the first year, with Hon 101 and 102 being 6 of those hours. It also is expected that most students will earn 1-6 hours of honors credit for their exploratory research project, and students will earn at least 3 hours for their Honors Thesis. Other hours come from taking honors sections of courses offered in various disciplines. Honors course offerings are posted on the website each semester during priority registration.

Honors 101/102—These two courses ordinarily will satisfy the six-hour Freshman Composition requirement. Alternatively, a student may apply all or part of the credits toward humanities or social science hours, especially if the student has AP English or other college composition credit. If used as humanities and social science credit, Honors 101 and 102 function differently in the various colleges and schools:

- Business, Accountancy and Pharmacy: 6 hours of humanities
- Engineering and Journalism: 3 hours of humanities and 3 hours of social science
- Education and Applied Sciences: 3 hours of humanities and 3 hours of electives
- Liberal Arts:
  - B.A.—3 hours of humanities and 3 hours of social science
  - B.S.—6 hours of the required 12 hours of social science

Some schools, like Engineering or Liberal Arts, might require two courses in sequence for the social science requirement. By counting Hon 101 or 102 toward these requirements, you are often released from having to take courses in sequence. If this is confusing or unclear, or if you have any questions about how to use honors courses, contact the Assistant Dean or one of the Associate Deans.

Scholar Candidacy—At the end of the second year (60 hours), honors students petition to become SMBHC Scholars. For the petition to be approved, a student must have at least 18 honors hours, be up-to-date on CAC, and have at least a 3.40 cumulative GPA. Exceptions to the 18-hour minimum will be made only when the student includes a feasible plan for how he/she will earn at least 29 honors hours by the time of graduation. You are encouraged to work out a plan with the Assistant Dean or one of the Associate Deans.

GPA—A student 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 first year, a 3.40 at the end of the second year, and a 3.50 by the end of the third year. During the fourth year, students should have at least a 3.50 cumulative GPA.

Academic Dismissal/Re-admittance Policy—Academic dismissals will be made after the spring semester. Students dismissed from the Honors College because of a low GPA may request re-admission if they bring their GPA up to the minimum for their year. For example, a first year with lower than a 3.20 may pull his/her GPA up through summer school courses and re-enter the Honors College. To re-enter in a later year, a student needs to have the minimum GPA for that year. In other words, a first year dismissed for not having a 3.20 would need to have at least a 3.40 as a second year to be readmitted.
The Honor Code—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 ____________”

Signature: ______________

In addition to this pledge, the Honors Council created a five-member Academic Integrity Committee in August 2012 to assess all formal Academic Discipline cases against SMB Honors students. The Honors Council appoints two faculty members who have taught Honors courses, the SMBHC Student Senate appoints two Honors students in good standing, and the Dean appoints an Associate Dean to the committee. This Committee, chaired by the SMBHC Associate Dean, will examine the evidence available in the Academic Cases(s) and make recommendation(s) to the Dean for any action(s) concerning the good standing of the Honors student in question. Recommendations can include (1) No Action, if the offense appears to be minor; (2) Probation, possibly for a first offense; or (3) Dismissal from the Honors College, usually for a second offense or for an offense of a serious nature.

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

Attendance Policy—The following attendance policy was approved by the Honors Council in the spring of 1999:

Honors courses are small classes, usually taught in seminar style with no more than fifteen students. They are reading-, writing- and discussion-intensive. Student participation is therefore essential. In addition, the university commits extensive resources, especially in terms of faculty time, to these small classes. For these reasons, the Honors College has an attendance policy for all honors courses, both required and departmental. Students are entitled to two absences in Tuesday/Thursday classes and to three absences in Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes. Consequences of additional absences will be determined by the individual faculty member, but additional absences will lower your grade.
THE EXPLORATORY RESEARCH PROJECT AND HONORS THESIS

Two requirements that students must meet in order to graduate from the Honors College are the exploratory research project and honors thesis. These requirements exist in order to encourage students either to develop their own scholarly interests or to become more involved with the research pursuits of University faculty. The independent work done, particularly with the thesis, will set you apart from other university students. This distinction will benefit you as you apply for graduate/professional school or enter your chosen career.

The most common experience for these two requirements is to do independent research with a faculty mentor in the third year, and then write the results of that research as your thesis in the fourth (or fifth) year. Students in the sciences may begin research earlier than their third year, so that research can progress over a number of terms.

The Exploratory Research Project

Examples of research experiences include, but are not limited to, enrollment in an independent-study research course (which in the sciences would be lab-based); a paid or unpaid internship; participation in a clinical research project in areas such as pharmacy, communicative disorders, and psychology; independent research in a state or national archive; participation in an artistic project. Although studying abroad for at least a semester can fulfill the exploratory research project requirement, be aware that you will still need to do the research for your honors thesis, and that you may find those resources more accessible in the host country.

You can fulfill the exploratory research requirement at various times during your college career. For example, you may have an internship the summer after your first year. Conversely, the required course sequence in your major may not allow independent research until the fourth year. While most students will complete the research before beginning their fourth year, if circumstances (such as required course sequencing in your major) prevent you from adhering to this deadline, you should discuss it with the Honors College administration and your research advisor. With the multiple options available, you can earn from zero to six hours of academic credit for this project.

It is helpful to start thinking about what type of research you would like to conduct before the beginning of the third year. When you have an idea in mind, identify faculty members who have similar interests or ongoing research projects in similar areas. Departmental websites have links to faculty pages where you can learn about their research interests. Make an appointment to discuss your research ideas with them.

You may find that you have to rethink your idea several times before you find one that is interesting, reasonable, and within the limits of available time and resources. You should also be sure to ask the faculty member about his/her availability to serve as your mentor. This is an especially important task because faculty members serving as research advisors generally also serve as thesis advisors. This translates into a 1-2 year commitment on the part of the faculty member. You want to make sure that you are working with someone who is willing and able to provide the time and guidance that you will need in completing the research and thesis. If you are having difficulty finding a research advisor, talk to your academic advisor, department chair, school dean, or the Honors College staff.

Before beginning the exploratory research project, you should discuss with your advisor what you expect to accomplish. This is especially important if you are planning to earn academic credit for the work that you are doing. Both you and your advisor need to be clear about the expected results of the research, the duration of the research, and how the research may translate into an honors thesis.
You should also discuss grading criteria. For students in the sciences who may be conducting experimental research, discuss the possibilities of things not working out the way they should (lab results that disprove the hypothesis) and alternatives if that happens. While the research is intended to be independent work, students are still expected to meet with their advisors to discuss their progress. **It is up to you and your advisor to determine how frequently you should meet.**

*Be sure to fill out the Exploratory Research and Thesis Plan Form form and get the appropriate signatures. Having this form completed before you begin research is the safest way to ensure that the project will fulfill the requirement. **The deadline for submission is November 15 of your third year** (assuming an 8-semester track).

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**The Honors Thesis**

As mentioned above, the honors thesis will usually be based on the research done in the exploratory research project. This thesis will be an extensive piece of writing, and you may spend both semesters of the final year completing this requirement. Therefore, you can earn from three to six hours of academic credit for the thesis. The length of the thesis will vary from 30 to 100 pages depending on the student’s major. A student in the sciences, having spent much time in the laboratory, will write a thesis of about 30 pages; a student in the humanities will write one of about 60 to 100 pages.

Professors are used to working with graduate students who often set longer deadlines. As an undergraduate, you need to finish in a finite amount of time. To this end, **you must defend your thesis by the last day of classes in the spring** (not finals week) in order to participate in the Honors College commissioning ceremony. In addition, you must give a final draft to your committee members by April 1 for May graduates. The final draft is due by November 1 for December graduates. Occasionally, students complete the thesis requirements in the summer after graduation, but only with prior approval of the thesis adviser and the Honors College. Students who finish in the summer are not eligible to participate in the commissioning ceremony.

The senior thesis involves other requirements beyond the writing of an extensive paper. All of the requirements are listed below:

- The thesis must be in your major, unless approved by the Dean of the Honors College;

- The student must defend the thesis before a committee of three people; the thesis advisor, another faculty member from the student’s major department (chosen by the student and the mentor), and another professor designated by the Honor’s Dean; a final copy of the thesis should be provided to the defense committee at least two weeks prior to the date for which the defense is scheduled and no later than April 1 to provide them time to read and respond to it before the thesis;

- The student must fulfill a preceptorship (see bottom of page 9 or below);

We anticipate the defense being open to the public, especially to other Honors students. After getting the permission of the faculty mentor, the student is responsible for scheduling with the committee the date and time of the defense. The Honors College can assist with a location.

Writing the honors thesis can be a very rewarding and enjoyable task. **However, it is not a task that you can wait until the last minute to begin and expect favorable results.** Thus, you should begin thinking about and preparing for the writing of your thesis early. Discuss with your research advisor the
best way to translate your research into a thesis. You should be particularly clear about what your advisor expects as far as grading criteria, rough drafts, and deadlines. It is your responsibility to meet with your advisor frequently to exchange ideas and review your progress. The following are deadlines for a two-semester sequence of thesis writing (with dates referring to a four-year student graduating in May):

1) **Submit a Completed Exploratory Research and Thesis Plan form** (due by November 15 of the third year)

   Complete the Exploratory Research and Thesis Plan form and submit it to the secretary in the Honors College, Room 302. Also, ensure that you are registered for the appropriate course (it may be a course in your major department, a related department, or Hon 401). If you are using Hon 401 or 402, the Honors College will register you after the form is submitted. If you are using a course in your major, the department office may need to register you. For a list of appropriate departmental courses, visit www.honors.olemiss.edu/current-student-resources.

2) **Choose a SECOND READER** (due by the third week of September)

   The second reader should be a tenured or tenure-track professor in your major department, unless you are working on an interdisciplinary thesis. **Consult with your advisor and get his/her approval in choosing the second reader.** After the second reader agrees to work with you, e-mail the Secretary in the Honors College so we can update our records.

3) **Develop a THESIS PROSPECTUS** (due the third week of September)

   The thesis prospectus needs to be a polished text that a) clearly states the topic of the thesis; b) explains what sources or methodologies you will use to address your research question; c) reviews the existing literature on your topic; d) suggests what your conclusions or preliminary hypothesis might be; and e) provides a bibliography of relevant sources.

   The length of the prospectus should be 8-10 double-spaced pages + bibliography. It will be read and critiqued both by the thesis advisor and the second reader.

4) **Submit a PRELIMINARY RESEARCH PRODUCT** (due the last day of classes in Fall semester)

   The preliminary research product will commonly be at least one complete chapter/section of the thesis in an advanced draft. If your project is heavily quantitative or requires extensive primary research – a database, well-designed tables or graphs, or transcribed interviews – then a write-up of results may count as the preliminary research product. In lab sciences, you may have elements like the introduction, literature review, and/or methods sections completed while you continue experiments.

   The following deadlines apply for the second semester of thesis work (with dates referring to the Spring semester).

1) **FIRST FULL DRAFT of the THESIS** to Thesis Advisor (due the Friday before Spring Break).

   All the pieces of the thesis (except possibly the scholarly apparatus: title page, list of abbreviations, bibliography) should be submitted in this first full draft. It is understood that a
particular chapter, or the introduction or conclusion, may not be very polished at this stage. Still, all the pieces need to be there to allow the advisor an assessment of the necessary revisions.

2) **REVISED FINAL DRAFT** to all three READERS (due April 1)

For the readers this draft serves as basis for comments and suggestions for final revision. This needs to be a complete and polished draft in order to enable the readers to give useful and productive comments.

3) **THESIS DEFENSE** (by last day of classes in Spring semester)

The thesis defense is a scholarly conversation between the thesis writer and the three readers. Usually the thesis writer will give a brief oral presentation (15 minutes) on the main findings of the thesis to open up discussion. The readers will then ask questions of clarification or questions that concern the broader interpretations in the thesis for about 35-45 minutes. Guests may attend the thesis defense.

**Grades** – If you are receiving course credit for the research or thesis, you will be earning a grade. Therefore, you should have a clear understanding from your professor about the grading criteria. Be aware that if you decide to quit the thesis after the deadline to drop courses, you likely will receive an F for your thesis course. If you ever feel concerned about completing the thesis, meet with your academic counselor in the Honors College, ideally, before things have reached a crisis.
COMMUNITY ACTION CHALLENGE

The Community Action Challenge (CAC): become an agent of change in your community. Each semester, make a difference. More meaningful than the notion of “service hours,” the Community Action Challenge asks you, as a citizen scholar, to outline the scope of your concerns and dreams, explore what it takes to have a lasting impact, and transform your community and yourself.

Each semester, as you meet the Community Action Challenge, you will use the University’s Service Directory to keep a log of your work. To report your hours, log into your MyOleMiss account and click on the Student tab. Under Tools and Resources, you’ll find Service Administration. Use that Directory to tell us and the University where and how you have been an agent of change in your community. Although not required to do so, you are very strongly encouraged also to record the impact of your experiences as an agent of change. Those voluntary reports will be kept in your SMBHC files, and the details and insights will prove very helpful to advisors whom you might later ask to write letters of recommendation. Note: Remember that my.olemiss.edu works best with some browsers than others; if you don’t get a confirmation, then the hours weren’t recorded, and you should switch browsers.

Many SMBHC students are deeply involved in the philanthropies of campus organizations, or choose to continue a long-standing habit of volunteering with local organizations. Others find their own, often highly individual, avenues for using their gifts to meet community needs. (You will find a list of some of those highly individual responses on the web at http://www.honors.olemiss.edu/community-action/sample-cac-responses.) In many cases, experiential or service-learning courses, or even internships, clearly meet the Challenge. Students wishing to volunteer time to a local service organization to fulfill the Community Action component will find a list of some of those organizations online at the Honors College website (http://www.honors.olemiss.edu/community-action/cac-opportunities). Opportunities are also announced in the SMBHC weekly newsletter, but it is your responsibility to name your community, identify a need of concern to you, and find a way to bring your particular gifts to meet that need. The SMBHC expects students to complete 10 hours of community action per semester.

Keep CAC at the core of your honors experience. Talk with the honors staff about your hopes for your communities and how you might make a difference now and later. And remember to use the University’s Service Directory to keep a record of your work – what tasks you undertook or where you volunteered, what you accomplished, and why it mattered.
The Honors College Building

As students in the SMBHC, you have the privilege of using the Honors College building. The Honors College provides students with a computer lab, living room, kitchen, study rooms, and classrooms. With twenty-four hour access to the building, many students see the Honors College as a place to socialize and as their “home away from home.”

While honors students are welcome in the building at any time, their behavior should conform to the “Honors College Courtesies” established by the Honors Senate and printed in this handbook. For example, if you use the kitchen, you should clean up after yourself. All we ask is that students be considerate of their fellow students and of the faculty and staff who work in the building. Remember: your use of the building is a privilege; abuse of that privilege can result in your access being restricted or in the loss of that privilege for all students.

The Computer Lab—The SMBHC Computer Lab and the third floor study room (Rooms 100 and 315) provide Honors College students access to computer stations and printers. Currently, students enjoy free printing in the lab and study room. This privilege should be limited to academic work (papers and research). Massive amounts of printing, or printing not related to academics could lead to restrictions on your access to the lab. The lab and study room are open 24 hours a day, although the lab may be closed occasionally for upgrades. When using the SMBHC computers for the first time, all students are issued a username (the student’s webID) and a temporary password (“first”). The system will require the student to change this password right away. Wireless printing and remote access to one’s personal files are also possible when using VPN, which is enabled for all new users by default.

The Kitchen—Honors students are welcome to use the kitchen, whether to warm up their lunches or to cook dinner, or for any other culinary pursuit. You are responsible for cleaning up after yourselves and returning any item you might borrow. Put those items that fit into the dishwasher. Wash the other items by hand and place them in the drainer. When dishes are dry, put them where they belong.

Study Rooms—Currently, the SMBHC has two study rooms: room 3 in the basement and room 315 on the third floor. With the exception of Room 311, classrooms, when not in use, are also available for study.
**Student Organizations**

**The Honors Senate**—The Honors College Student Senate serves as a representative body of honors students. It acts as an intermediary between students and the administration, and advises the Honors Council, representative faculty who determine Honors College policies and procedures. The Senate also organizes educational, social, and fundraising activities.

**The Senate consists of sixteen senators, four from each class, a Student Director, and an Assistant Student Director (the Assistant Student Director and Director may also be senators). Freshmen elect senators in September; the other classes elect senators in April for the upcoming year.**

**Student Director:**
Michael Holman    English    mgholman@go.olemiss.edu

**Assistant Student Director:**
Mary Moses Hitt    Biochemistry, Classics    mhitt@go.olemiss.edu

**Senior Senators:**
Sara Kiparizoska    Biochemistry    skipariz@go.olemiss.edu
Lizzy Wicks    International Studies; French    eewicks1@go.olemiss.edu
Logan Wilson    Biochemistry    lawilso4@go.olemiss.edu
John Yi    Biology    jnyi@go.olemiss.edu

**Junior Senators:**
James-Roland Markos    Biology    jmarkos@go.olemiss.edu
Courtney Simmons    Psychology, Art    cdsimmon@go.olemiss.edu
Blake Sowers    Biochemistry    basowers@go.olemiss.edu
Yujing Zhang    Pharmacy    yzhang1@go.olemiss.edu

**Sophomore Senators:**
Kate Childers    English    kechilde@go.olemiss.edu
Seth Dickinson    Public Policy Leadership    asdickin@go.olemiss.edu
Alexis Smith    International Studies    asmith8@go.olemiss.edu
Savannah Smith    Public Policy Leadership    sgsmith1@go.olemiss.edu

**Mock Trial**—The UM Undergraduate Mock Trial Team is another organization started and run primarily by Honors College students. Mock Trial meetings and practices are often held in the Honors College. Students interested in joining this organization should contact Dr. John Bruce (jbruce@olemiss.edu).

**Populi Magazine** – Populi Magazine is both an SMBHC online student publication and a series of biweekly meetings designed to give students an opportunity to facilitate interdisciplinary discussions and interactions outside the classroom. Each publication issue comprises four-to-five essays addressing a certain question or topic, and students meet in various places around Oxford to discuss the question or topic in person. Students interested in participating in Populi can visit their website at www.populimagazine.honors.olemiss.edu or follow them on Twitter (@PopuliMagazine).
Benefits

Honors Housing—Minor Hall is a living-learning community for most honors freshmen so that you can be part of a social and intellectual community. Through collaboration and conversation, students of the Honors Living-Learning Community will develop lasting relationships and enjoy a wide range of social and community action activities with their Honors peers. Within this environment, students can develop a community of intellectual discussion, especially as they will be studying works in common in the different sections of Hon 101/102. The Residential College is also a popular choice for honors students, and those students who want to continue living on campus after freshman year can apply to live in honors clusters in the South Residential College.

SMBHC Convocations—Outside the classroom, honors students are required to attend the Fall and Spring SMBHC Honors Convocations. Each year we are called together to spend two evenings with a nationally or internationally recognized citizen scholar, such as a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize (Elie Wiesel) or a three-time Pulitzer Prize winner (Tom Friedman) or an attorney general (Eric Holder). Whether our speaker is familiar from the news or from a classroom discussion, we invite speakers to take us through perspectives that richly deserve our shared time and attention and always challenge our preconceptions.

Your Own Place—The Honors College is a four-story building located near the heart of the campus, just a few minutes' walk from major academic buildings and the Student Union. Many of the honors classes meet there. Along with classrooms and administrative offices, the building also houses: a computer lab open only to honors students, study rooms for individual or group study, a lounge with a fireplace and plasma television, a fully-equipped kitchen and a wireless Internet connection accessible even from the courtyard and deck. The SMBHC is currently undergoing an expansion and renovation that will provide more classrooms and study space for honors students.

Early Registration—Honors students are allowed to register early, because they have required classes that must fit into their schedules and are also usually involved in extracurricular activities. While most freshmen and sophomores usually register near the end of the pre-registration period, honors students are allowed to register near the beginning of the period. To take advantage of this opportunity, you should schedule an appointment with your major advisor early (if possible, before the formal advising session begins) in order to have your Advising Hold lifted. Students having difficulty with their schedule should contact the Honors College office as soon as possible. Students who complete 100% of their teaching evaluations before the day final grades are made available will receive a 1-day bump in their next registration window.

Experiential Learning—Juniors have the opportunity to organize a Junior Quest Trip. The Junior Quest Trip allows students to travel together to another city and research topics of their choice, in order to further either their thesis research or their futures.

Honors Fellowships—Whether through a year spent studying abroad or a semester as a research assistant in a national laboratory, as an undergraduate you have a chance to immerse yourself in life-changing experiences well beyond the boundaries of the University. We encourage you to take advantage of opportunities for study or research off-campus, and, to that end, the SMBHC offers fellowships to help cover the extra costs. To be considered for these stipends, you must submit a complete Honors College Student Fellowship Application.
In awarding fellowships, we give priority to students who select programs that will push them intellectually and personally, e.g., studying abroad in a non-English-speaking country for a full year; participating in highly competitive research programs under the mentorship of established scientists; or completing an internship that requires hands-on involvement in the day-to-day effort to make a difference in the world. Students also sometimes propose their own rigorous design for experiential learning. We may award full or partial stipends, depending on the duration and nature of the proposed activity. For full consideration, submit your application by April 1st of the academic year prior to the term in which you plan to study. You must be in good standing with the Honors College and have at least a 3.50 GPA to receive a fellowship. For your application to be considered, you must have a current FAFSA on file with the University’s Financial Aid Office.

Students interested in studying abroad should contact the Study Abroad Office in Martindale or online at studyabroad.olemiss.edu to explore all the study abroad options available to you. (Note: for third-year travel abroad, students should begin the application process in the fall of their second year.)

Internships—Internships are a great way to develop practical experience in a career field. Some opportunities provide a stipend, others are unpaid, a few require participants to pay costs. In addition to providing excellent experience in a student’s chosen field, for SMBHC students these internships may also count toward the fulfillment of the exploratory research requirement. For a list of some national and international internships for current undergraduate students, check the SMBHC website (http://www.honors.olemiss.edu/current-student-resources/internships).

Barksdale Award—If you had $5,000 to put toward a dream, what would you do? Where would you go? How would you expect to be different when you came back? Each year the SMBHC hopes to make two $5,000 awards to support creative, courageous projects proposed by highly talented students who are willing to take some risks with their time and efforts and who propose ambitious, independent programs of study, research, or humanitarian effort. Check out the criteria for eligibility and the guidelines on the SMBHC website via “Barksdale Award.”

Research Funds—Students undertaking independent research may request funds to assist in conducting their research. Commonly, students use these funds either to purchase supplies or minor equipment, or for travel to do research. Students most often need this support when they are completing their Exploratory Research/Honors Thesis requirements, so you should be wary of requesting research funds earlier. Please note: funds may be used to purchase minor equipment, but University and federal regulations require that all equipment be purchased for and retained by the University, not the student.

Conference Funds—Many honors students have their thesis work selected to present at conferences. The Honors College is eager to support students who are presenting on a regional, national, or international stage. When you know that you need to travel to a conference, submit the SMBHC conference travel form to apply for assistance. Note: The SMBHC can only support conference travel when you are presenting at, not only attending, a conference.

Opportunity: Website and Newsletter—As previously mentioned in the Making Things Work section of this handbook, there are weekly newsletters and an extensive website available to you. Take advantage of your resources. The weekly newsletter will provide you with CAC ideas, student activities, important deadlines and announcements about opportunities. The website offers detailed information about items listed in this handbook and is also your gateway to scheduling an appointment with the SMBHC staff. Read your e-mails and newsletters and utilize the SMBHC website.
Office of National Scholarship Advisement (ONSA)—The ONSA works with any student on campus, but with the office housed in the Honors College, honors students naturally have more exposure to the workshops and to individual meetings that can help them learn about opportunities in their areas and what it takes to become competitive for major scholarships like the Rhodes, Marshall, Gates Cambridge, Truman, Goldwater, and Fulbright scholarships, among others. For more information about the ONSA, follow the link from the SMBHC homepage. Also, for updates and information on other unique opportunities, follow the office on Twitter @UM_ONSA and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ONSA.UM).

A Dedicated Staff to Help You—Assistance from the Honors College staff adds to the personal side of a public education. Whether it's dealing with a course scheduling problem or consulting with one of the deans about a career option, the Honors College staff is here to help students succeed. The Honors College also has an information technology manager who is ready to help students with their computer problems.
Accelerated Law Program

Entering students studying for the B.A. or B.S. within the College of Liberal Arts, the B. General Studies, or B. Engineering degrees have the opportunity to participate in an Accelerated Law Program offered by the UM School of Law. Students participating in the ALP (sometimes known as a 3+3 program) will earn their bachelor’s degree and their JD in six years rather than the usual seven.

Participating students will

- take the LSAT no later than December of the third year.
- apply to the UM School of Law by February 1 of that year.
- earn at least a 156 on the LSAT and demonstrate the qualities of character required for admission to the School of Law.

To be eligible, students must

- be in the process of earning a bachelor’s degree.
- have at least a 3.5 GPA. (The School of Law may institute a higher GPA for admission; applicants should check a year in advance.)
- by the end of spring of their junior year,
  - (B.A., B.S., B.GS) have completed all course requirements for their major, (and minor if one is required) and the core curriculum. The first-year law school courses satisfy the remaining “general electives” toward the completion of undergraduate hours.
  - (B.E.) have completed all B.E. required courses, excluding the 33 hours required for an “emphasis,” which will be completed through the first-year law school courses.
- for SMBHC students, 26 of the hours in undergraduate courses must be honors hours.

For students who meet these requirements and are accepted into the School of Law,

- The bachelor’s degree will be awarded at the end of the first year of law school.
- The honors research/thesis requirement will be satisfied through the Law School’s required writing course. Honors/law students will present their final work from that course as a thesis.
- Commissioning as an Honors Scholar will coincide with the awarding of the J.D.

Caveats: Note that this arrangement is only with the UM School of Law. Obviously, if you decide against Law School or are not admitted, you will have to complete your undergrad (and honors) work in order to receive your bachelor’s. In addition, students on this accelerated track will probably not be able to take the courses that comprise the School of Law/SMBHC Partnership (the HON 350 gateway course, followed by the opportunity to take law school courses as undergraduate electives).

If you are interested in the ALP,

- Follow your requirements for the major and core curriculum precisely. You cannot select courses that would only fulfill general electives!
- Don’t sign up for any course for which you think you will have AP credit. If you’ll have AP credit for one or two semesters of Freshman English, figure out how you will apply HON 101 (and HON 102) to core curriculum requirements.
- Select honors classes or sections to fulfill many requirements, especially core curriculum requirements, so that you’ll have at least 26 by end of your third year.
Name ____________________________________________

Local Mailing Address ____________________________ Street __________ City __________ State __________ Zip __________

Local Phone ____________________________ Email ____________________________ Student ID ____________________________

Major(s) ____________________________________________

Minor(s), if any ____________________________

Anticipated Graduation Date ____________________________

EXPLORATORY RESEARCH
How will you fulfill your Exploratory Research?

☐ Course(s) for Directed Readings, Independent Study, or Lab Research
☐ Study Abroad
☐ Internship
☐ Other

Describe what focus your research might take

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

If Directed Readings or Lab Research, tell us which courses you will use and in what terms you will earn it (use Hon 301/302 only when a course in your major is not available).

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COMPLETE INFORMATION ON OTHER SIDE BEFORE SUBMITTING THIS FORM

Form Due Junior Year by November 15 for Spring Graduates, April 1 for Fall Graduates
Submit Form to Room 302 in the SMBHC
SENIOR THESIS
How do you anticipate your Exploratory Research contributing to your thesis? If the outcome of your Exploratory Research is not directly related to your thesis (a study abroad experience, for example), what is your plan for doing your thesis research?

Please list below what course credit you will earn for your thesis and in what terms you will earn it (use Hon 401/402 only when a course in your major is not available). **NOTE:** most students will earn no more than 9 hours of credit for Exploratory Research and the Senior Thesis.

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Are you working with human subjects, including surveys or interviews?

☐ No
☐ Yes (work with your advisor to get IRB approval [http://www.research.olemiss.edu/irb])

_________________________________________  ________________
Student’s Signature                      Date

_________________________________________  ________________
Professor or Supervisor’s Name (Printed)                                  Date

_________________________________________  ________________
Professor or Supervisor’s Signature                                  Date

_________________________________________  ________________
Department Chair’s Signature                                      Date

________ approved for departmental major/minor credit

________ approved as elective credit

_________________________________________  ________________
Signature of Honors Dean                              Date

(revised August 2013)

Form Due Junior Year by November 15 for Spring Graduates, April 1 for Fall Graduates
Submit Form to Room 302 in the SMBHC
SALLY MCDONNELL BARKSDALE HONORS COLLEGE
APPLICATION FOR RESEARCH FUNDS
For Exploratory Research Projects and Theses

Name ________________________________________________________________

Local Address __________________________________________________________
Street                           City                           State                           ZIP
Local Phone _____________________ E-mail __________________________ Student ID _______________________

Description of Project:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Explanation of Needed Funds (Please attach a budget sheet of total Funds):
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Total Amount asked from Honors College ________________________________

Supervisor's Signature __________________________________________ Date ______________

Honors Dean's Signature ___________________________________ Date ______________

Please turn in this form to Room 302. Thank you.
Name ________________________________

Local Address ____________________________________________

Street                                                  City                                      State                     ZIP

Local Phone ___________ E-mail ___________________________ Student ID ________________

Major(s) ________________________________________________

Minor(s), if any __________________________________________

Expected date of graduation _____________________________

Number of honors hours completed or in progress __________

Are you in good standing as an honors student (GPA, Honors hours, CAC)? ______

For what activity and location do you seek a Fellowship?

For what term(s) and year is this proposed activity (e.g., Fall, Spring, First Summer, Second Summer, Full Summer)?

Will you be registered for UM credit for this experience?

For your application to be considered, please attach a brief description (500-700 words) that tells us how your proposed experience will enhance your growth as a citizen scholar. How will this activity support your academic, professional or personal goals? How competitive is acceptance for this activity? If you will earn academic credit, how much credit and at what level? Will the courses count toward your major? If you wish to study abroad, how often have you been abroad before and for what purposes? Will courses be taught in the language of the host country? If the project is of your own design and implementation, provide full details of your plans, expectations, and proposed outcomes. If the activity is satisfying the Exploratory Research Project requirement, please note that for the committee.

In addition to this application form and the description, please submit the following:

❖ a current unofficial transcript;
❖ a brochure or other material (printout from website) describing the program (if available);
❖ a budget showing projected costs and available funding (a form is attached on the back).
❖ Lastly, (while not submitted to the SMBHC), you must have a current FAFSA on file with the University’s Financial Aid office.

Priority Consideration Deadline: April 1

Submit completed application to SMBHC, Room 302.
PLEASE ITEMIZE COSTS AND AVAILABLE FUNDING FROM ALL SOURCES

Budget for Activity (total expected costs*)  

University Financial Aid (if any)  

Parents’ Contribution  

Personal Contribution  

*Please show a break-down of the total expected costs. Sample categories are listed; add any others that might apply.

Transportation to/from location of activity:  

Tuition and fees:  

Book and supplies:  

Living Expenses  
(lodging, food, daily transportation):  

other (specify):  

other (specify):  

other (specify):  

other (specify):  

BUDGET FOR ACTIVITY  
(total of the expected costs)  
SALLY MCDONNELL BARKSDALE HONORS COLLEGE

APPLICATION FOR CONFERENCE TRAVEL FUNDS

Name______________________________________________________________

Local Address______________________________________________________
Street    City    State    Zip

Local Phone_________________________ E-mail_________________________ Student ID______________

Conference Name/Location____________________________________________

Dates of Conference_________________________ I will be presenting a □ paper  □ poster

Title of Presentation_________________________________________________

UM Faculty or Students with whom you will present (if any)__________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

Please list other sources of funds (department, Student Life, Office of Research, Provost’s Office, Vice Chancellor for University Relations, etc.)________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

(See back for Budget Sheet)

Total Amount requested from Honors College ____________________________

Supervisor’s Signature________________________________________ Date__________________________

Honors Dean’s Signature________________________________________ Date__________________________

Please turn in this form to room 302. Thank you.
Please show a break-down of the total expected costs. Sample categories are listed; add any others that might apply.

Conference Registration Fee

Air fare (if applicable)

Lodging

Meals

Miscellaneous (please list)

BUDGET FOR ACTIVITY
(Total of expected costs)

Please turn in this form to room 302. Thank you.
Please help us keep our records up to date. If your contact information changes, fill out this form and turn it in to Room 302. Thank you.