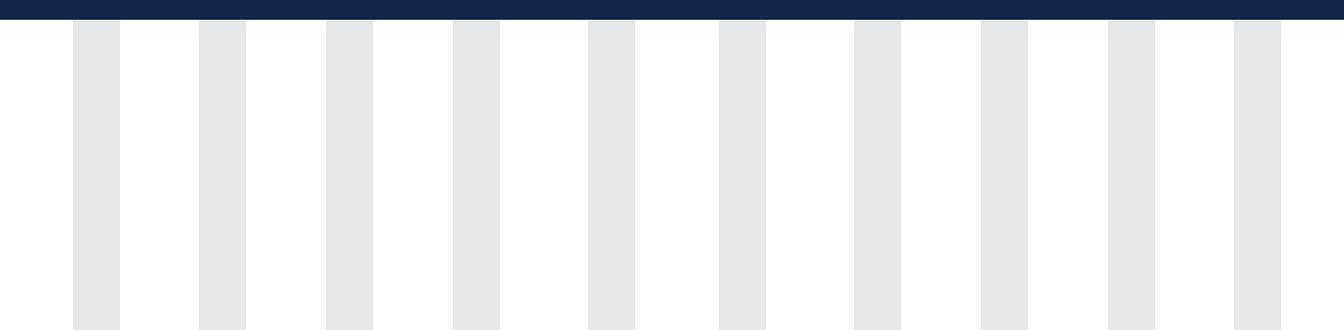


SALLY MCDONNELL
BARKSDALE
HONORS
COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI



Sally McDonnell Barksdale HONORS COLLEGE

honors.olemiss.edu

Mission

The mission of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College is to prepare citizen scholars who are fired by the life of the mind, committed to the public good and driven to find solutions.

Founded in 1997 through a gift from Jim and Sally Barksdale, the SMBHC attracts a diverse body of high-performing students to the University of Mississippi and provides them a vibrant center of academic excellence. The Honors College seeks academically versatile students who enjoy

intellectual novelty and critical thinking through reading, writing, discussion and experiential learning. Honors students hail from around the country and other parts of the world, and from any department at the university that confers an undergraduate degree. The Honors College encourages those students to identify and develop their interests while also seeking an understanding of the world around them.

Through the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, you actively participate in your college experience.



Most immediately, you will take small, seminar-style honors classes offered in many disciplines. Through honors freshman seminars, you will explore “self and society” and “ways of knowing/believing.” Each semester, you can select from a banquet of honors classes, most of which are designed to fulfill university general education requirements and/or required introductory courses. You will be taught by some of the university’s finest faculty, in a class whose size allows you to engage with the professor and your peers. Imagine classes of 15 to 20 rather than the more common (in lower-level coursework) 75 to 200, and you begin to see why honors courses appeal to students who want the rich experience, not just the information.

As you advance in your major, the Honors College capstone project and thesis support the goals you name for yourself, whatever those might be. Working independently with a professor

in your field, you may produce research accepted for publication in a refereed journal, present a senior voice recital or the lesson plans you will use while student teaching, or organize a portfolio to enhance that first professional job application. Through the capstone and thesis, you will have learned to ask the questions of your field and pursue its methodology in exploring them. You will be a stronger candidate for graduate or professional schools, and a more-refined citizen scholar.

Alternatively, your capstone may culminate in your honors practicum. Whereas the honors thesis entails a one-on-one experience between you and your thesis adviser, the honors practicum track embodies you and a group of your honors peers, engaged in a research question with one another and overseen by a practicum adviser. Many disciplines require a concerted team effort, and that is how you should think of the honors practicum.

Kaylee

CRAFTON

Hometown
Kennett, Missouri

Classification
SMBHC '21

Major
Journalism

“ One of the greatest things about the Honors College is the sense of community. As the SMBHC is composed of students from all over and in all areas of study, it creates a diverse and inclusive community that allows each student to feel welcome. Through Welcome Week, honors courses or early mornings spent studying in the HoCo kitchen, I have experienced the genuine camaraderie of the SMBHC. As a student at a university of over 23,000 students, it is easy to feel like just another number. Being a member of the Honors College has given me a voice, enabled me to grow both academically and personally, and allowed me to feel like a valued, integral part of this university.”

Your participation as a citizen scholar extends beyond the classroom or research facility. Through Freshman Ventures, honors students at Ole Miss have opportunities to plan trips throughout the United States, to talk with experts or everyday citizens, and the Honors College picks up the bill. The Honors College also encourages students to explore by providing honors fellowships to support study abroad or internship experiences (see Benefits). All honors students participate in the Community Action Challenge each semester, finding some way to apply their talents to addressing a community need. Like the capstone, your CAC efforts might well be tailored to

preparation for a career or pursuit of your individual community concerns, or linked to the shared community service efforts of groups to which you belong (e.g., Greek organizations or honor societies).

Your engagement with the world through the Honors College will not prevent you from participating in other activities on campus. In fact, our students are unusually active in opportunities such as student government, the Greek system, band, choral groups, faith-based societies, athletics and ROTC. Because of their energy and creativity, honors students often start new organizations, such as *Populi* (an undergraduate literary magazine), an undergraduate mock trial

OUR PURPOSE IS TO ENGAGE AND SUPPORT MOTIVATED STUDENTS BY CREATING CHALLENGING COURSES FOR THEM, PROVIDING THEM WITH A COMMUNITY WHERE CREATIVE AND INTELLECTUAL IDEAS CAN GROW.

Madeleine

MCCRACKEN

Hometown
Austin, Texas

Classification
SMBHC '21

Major
Classics

“ College is a time of self-discovery, and the classes I have taken through the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College have taught me more about myself than any other aspect of these years. My favorite class I have taken at the university was Honors 101, in which my professor challenged the class not only to read the assigned books, but to analyze them and find truths which we then discussed in class. In these discussions, we all presented and defended our own views in a friendly environment, debating each other as fellow seekers of truth rather than as competitors trying to assert the dominance of our own beliefs. In this environment, I learned to challenge my own views to better understand my place in society as a citizen scholar.”

team or the Honors College Minority Engagement Club.

The Honors College asks you to envision your future with courage and imagination. For our part, we make a commitment to create challenging courses for you, provide

you with a community where your creative and intellectual ideas can grow, and set high standards while giving you plenty of room to maneuver. One promise: The Honors College will not underestimate what you can do.

Curriculum

Our students tell us that honors courses “aren’t harder; they’re just different.” Being a student in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College means more in-depth study, more discussion in class, more critical thinking — and more chances to apply theories in real-world situations.

The curriculum of the Honors College requires at least 30 hours of honors credit, including the 6 hours of HON 101 and 102. In addition, the capstone/thesis component usually earns students

another 6-9 honors hours, hours that often count toward the major. Most of our students take more honors courses than we require because they seek the enhanced focus and support of fine professors and motivated classmates, and the opportunities to explore topics only the Honors College will put before them.

Your major is not a deciding factor in whether you can participate in the Honors College; our curricular design and requirements accommodate all undergraduate majors on campus. Your transcript will show a special “Hon”





John Michael

WALKER

Hometown

Olive Branch, Mississippi

Classification

SMBHC '21

Major

Music

“ Throughout my years at Ole Miss, the Honors College has consistently been a source of support. If I need a quick hug between classes or a quiet space to study, I can find that support. If I want to curate a pop-up art exhibit, I can find — and have found — that support. I know that the Honors College exists to support me as a student in my academic and artistic endeavors, and it has shaped my perspective on the importance of community and mentorship in education. Even after I graduate from the Honors College, I’m confident that I can take these learned values and apply them wherever I go.”

designation for each honors course completed. And when you complete all the requirements (minimum of 30 honors hours, completion of capstone/thesis or capstone/practicum, 3.50 GPA and full satisfaction of CAC), you will graduate

as a Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College Scholar. That special distinction on your transcript forever marks the successful completion of a robust, out-of-the-ordinary undergraduate career.

Special Classes

The Honors College believes in learning that goes beyond the campus and limits of Oxford, at a level not usually provided to undergraduates. Experiential learning courses ask questions of history and of science, often by tackling a concept we still do not quite understand, at on-site locations or going to a spot — such as the Texas State Fair or the FIFA World Cup — whose richness lends itself to an exploration of human experience in a specific moment. In addition, students can explore a health issue from all facets (biochemistry, sociology, demography, prevention and treatment) as early as the summer after their freshman year. The Honors College also partners with the UM School of Law so honors third- and fourth-year students can take Introduction to American Law and Reasoning, which is a gateway to taking select law school classes for undergraduate hours.

Faculty

Professors who teach honors courses are master teachers and on the cutting edge of research in their fields, but they would not be part of the honors program if they did not genuinely care about students and like working with them. “The professors are all open to anything, and they always encourage us to



Brian Foster, sociology and Southern studies professor and SMBHC alumnus, presents at the Honors Spring Convocation.

come to them for help,” said one honors student. That kind of extra attention from faculty is an everyday occurrence in the Honors College, from individual meetings with professors, to simply getting advice about adjusting to college life, to the occasional cooking class in the honors kitchen.

Benefits

Along with being involved in the life of the university, the greatest benefits of the Honors College are the friendships that are formed among students and the community among the faculty and students. This community does not arise just in the classroom. Honors students can choose to live on honors floors in the residence halls or in clusters in Residential College South. All honors students enjoy 24-hour access to the Honors College building.

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 in the Honors College. 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; several lounge areas; a fully equipped kitchen; and wireless internet accessibility even on the courtyard and deck.

Spend a few minutes talking with students, and it’s easy to see how much this space means to them. The Honors College has been described as a “refuge,” an “escape” and even a “home.”





Honors students also receive priority registration, giving even an honors freshman an earlier registration window than most seniors. Entering honors freshmen also have the opportunity to attend an honors-only orientation session prior to the first regular session.

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 getting advice on career options, the Honors College administration is here to help students succeed. The college also has an information technology manager who is ready to help students with their computer problems.

One important part of the college is the Office of National Scholarship Advisement. The office's staff works with any student

Trip JOHNSON

Hometown
Dyersburg, Tennessee

Classification
SMBHC '20

Major
Chemistry and Biology

“ When I think of the Honors College, the first word that comes to mind is dynamic. Being in the Honors College has allowed me to interact and learn with the most diverse and lively group of people I have ever encountered. We all have different ideas, beliefs and opinions, but the Honors College provides a platform for students to properly share these ideas in an academic setting. I am thankful for my time in the Honors College because it has given me the opportunity to make lasting connections. I have created countless friendships during late nights studying in the Honors College, and I have established connections with people from multiple parts of the country during trips sponsored by the Honors College. The Honors College has invested so much into me, and I cannot imagine my time at Ole Miss without it.”

THE HONORS COLLEGE PREPARES CITIZEN SCHOLARS WHO ARE FIRED BY THE LIFE OF THE MIND, COMMITTED TO THE PUBLIC GOOD, DRIVEN TO FIND SOLUTIONS.

who may be eligible, 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 such as the Rhodes, Marshall, Gates Cambridge, Truman, Goldwater and Fulbright scholarships.

In addition, the Honors College funds trips organized and implemented by students themselves. Armed with good questions, goodwill and a bit of grit, you might find yourself with four of your first-year classmates traveling to Los Angeles or to a small fishing town in Maine, to interview common (and some fairly uncommon) Americans, probing who we are, together and divided.

Studying abroad is an important emphasis of the program. The Honors College offers fellowships to its students, for either a semester or year abroad. With the help of these fellowships, honors students have studied in places as varied as Namibia, China, Chile and France. Students can choose from programs with which the university is a partner, including the select International Education of Students (IES), or Ole Miss' direct exchange arrangements with schools in the U.K., Japan, Germany, the Netherlands, Chile and Uruguay. Students are required to pay tuition and residence and meal rates, plus travel expenses; however, financial aid and scholarships transfer to certain universities and — with the honors fellowship — place the study abroad experience within students' financial reach.



New honors students wait in line for dinner during Honors Welcome Week.



Swetha MANIVANNAN

“ Being an Indian American from out of state, I was tentative as to whether I would fit in and if I really did make the right choice, but little did I know that by choosing to be a koi fish at our beloved SMBHC, I had made one of the best choices in my life. I owe a lot to my freshman year foundational Honors 101 and 102 classes and professor, who happens to be the Senior Barksdale Fellow. She has helped me discover and cultivate passions that I did not even fully realize I possessed. I even had the chance to teach her 102 classes about Hinduism and take students on a field trip to the Hindu Temple in Memphis. I also owe a lot to our associate dean and the HoCo staff as they have let me start our new Honors College Minority Engagement Club along with other students, which has been so amazing in helping bring together and empower minority students. Nowhere else can you find such a wise, witty and charismatic group of faculty and staff who always have their doors open and personally want to see you succeed in your endeavors. The HoCo is a place where I can truly and unconditionally be me, and I have been surrounded by so much love from some of the brightest peers who even voted for me as ‘Night Owl’ at the HoCo Formal. What can I say? I love the HoCo so much I’ve even slept there!”

Hometown
Collierville, Tennessee

Classification
SMBHC '21

Major
International Studies
and Spanish

Honors College fellowships can also support students who have received unpaid internships. These fellowships can help offset the living expenses of working in places such as Washington, D.C., New York City or Madrid. The SMBHC also has funding to help you travel to a conference to present your capstone work and research funds to help you buy supplies or travel for your capstone research.

The Honors College wants students to dream big. The Barksdale Award (an award of \$5,000) supports citizen scholars who, willing to take a risk, propose ambitious, independent programs of study, research or humanitarian effort. So, dream big. Use the Barksdale Award (and the other honors resources) to make us jealous of your chance to make your vision a reality.

Eligibility and Application

Application to the Honors College is accomplished through the university's Special Programs and Scholarship Application. The Honors College application includes a résumé, two essays and letters of recommendation. Your transcript submitted for university admission will also become part of your application. Most portions of the application can be used for other special programs at the university such as the Croft Institute for International Studies, Lott Leadership Institute and Chinese Language Flagship Program.

Your application to the Honors College will be reviewed holistically. Your standardized test scores are only a portion of what the admissions committee considers. The Honors College encourages applications from students who have shown academic ambition, who have sought ways to understand themselves and their world, and who have taken leadership in meeting community needs.

Bethany

THOMAS

Hometown

Olive Branch, Mississippi

Classification

SMBHC '21

Major

Pharmaceutical Sciences

“ I believe that you are who you surround yourself with, and that is why the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College will always have my heart. My peers are some of the most extraordinary people on this campus. Not only do they exceed in the classroom, but they are truly making Oxford and Lafayette County a better place. Being in such a close space with them in the Honors College has fostered many difficult conversations, wiped many frustrating tears and encouraged lifelong friendships. My honors peers make me better; they make me want to be extraordinary like them, and that is what I love most about the SMBHC.”

Requirements

At the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, we expect students to be active in plotting their own educational strategies and to let the SMBHC enrich their options and their experiences. As noted earlier, the curriculum of the Honors College requires at least 30 hours of honors credit, including the required Honors 101 and 102 sequence and the 6-9 hours usually earned in capstone/thesis or capstone/practicum work. A student must achieve at least a 3.20 cumulative grade-point average as a freshman, a 3.40 as a sophomore and a 3.50 as a junior and senior to graduate from the Honors College.

The Community Action Challenge, or CAC, is integral to the Honors College mission. Students are expected to commit at least 10 hours of their time each semester to making a difference in their

communities. Students have freedom in choosing the focus and the avenue of their work either by pursuing a path of their own or working through student organizations with which they are affiliated.

Each year at the fall and spring honors convocations, we are called together to spend two evenings with a nationally or internationally recognized citizen scholar, such as a Pulitzer Prize-winning author (Doris Kearns Goodwin) or world-renowned dancers (Alessandra Ferri and Herman Cornejo) or an attorney general (Eric Holder). Whether our guests are familiar from the news or from a classroom discussion, we invite these guests to take us through perspectives that richly deserve our shared time and attention and always challenge our preconceptions. All honors students are expected to attend convocations.



Scholarships

We understand that scholarship opportunities and financial assistance are among your top concerns. Your application for admission to the Honors College is also your application for our highly competitive honors scholarships. **Fewer than 5 percent of our entering freshmen receive an Honors College scholarship.** You must apply by the regular-decision deadline (**Jan. 5**) to be considered. These scholarships are available only to students enrolled in the Honors College:

- McDonnell-Barksdale Honors Scholarships, annual awards valued at \$32,000 (\$8,000 per year) and limited to Mississippi residents
- Doris Raymond Scholarships, annual awards valued at \$32,000 (\$8,000 per year) and open to all applicants
- Harold Parker Memorial Scholarships, annual awards valued at \$32,000 (\$8,000 per year) and open to all applicants
- Everett Williams Honors Scholarships, annual awards valued at \$32,000 (\$8,000 per year) and open to all applicants
- Annexstad Family Foundation Leaders for Tomorrow Scholarships, annual awards valued at \$25,000 (\$6,250 per year) and open to applicants with financial need

Other University Scholarships

Although the SMBHC itself awards only a few scholarships, most honors students qualify for one of the university's many academic excellence scholarships. Applicants to the Honors College are often the strongest contenders for universitywide

and departmental scholarship awards, as well as for other forms of financial aid available at the University of Mississippi. Please visit the university's financial aid website (finaid.olemiss.edu) and the department or school in which you intend to major to learn about other scholarship opportunities.

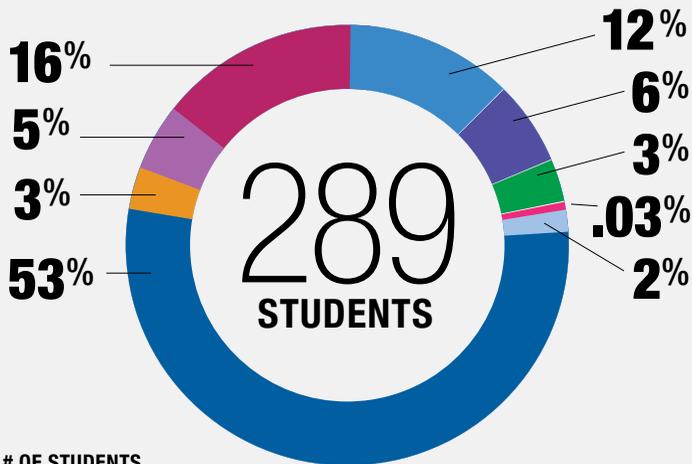


Honors graduates are recognized at the Honors College commissioning ceremony each year.

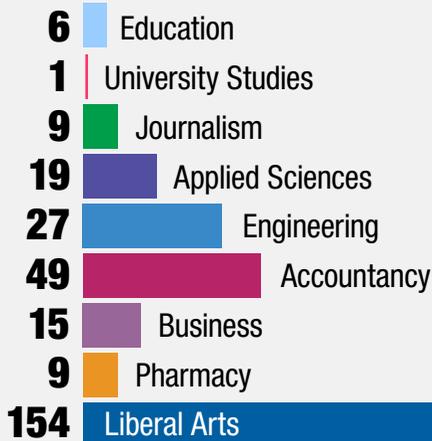
Class of 2019

FAST FACTS

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS



OF STUDENTS



90%*

of graduating seniors were employed or enrolled in graduate school by May 2019

THREE MOST POPULAR GRADUATE PROGRAMS

ACCOUNTANCY: 31

MEDICAL: 26

LAW: 18

ADD'L GRAD PROGRAMS

Medical school

26/38 applicants
2 waitlisted
14/26 enrolled at UMMC

Dental school

7/7 applicants
100% acceptance rate

OT school

1/1 applicants
100% acceptance rate

PT school

2/2 applicants
100% acceptance rate

Accountancy

31 students (27 at UM)

Law school

18 students (6 at UM)

Arabic capstone

5 students

Chemistry (Ph.D.)

4 students (2 at UM)



NOTABLE EMPLOYERS

- Amazon, ExxonMobil, FedEx, The Baltimore Sun, KPMG (Los Angeles, NYC), Walt Disney World
- Peace Corps, Mississippi Teacher Corps, Teach for America
- Teaching abroad fellowships in Spain, Japan, Austria, China and Thailand



NOTABLE GRAD SCHOOLS

- University of Chicago, UC Berkeley, Duke, Tulane, William & Mary, Johns Hopkins
- University of Oxford (3 students including Rhodes Scholar!)

*Those who responded to survey (83.3% response rate)



THE UNIVERSITY of
MISSISSIPPI

Sally McDonnell Barksdale
Honors College

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honors.olemiss.edu

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