

Overview of SMBHC Expectations for the First Year

My name is Rachel Coleman, and I am the Academic Counselor and Records Coordinator for the Honors College. Please allow me to extend my congratulations, and welcome you to the Honors College! This information is to get you up to speed on what you need to know as an incoming honors student.

Honors Requirements: Students are expected to end their first year with a 3.2 GPA, a minimum of 12 honors hours (including Hon 101 and 102), and a minimum of 10 hours of CAC reported for the fall and spring semesters.

- **3.2 GPA.** As previously stated, students are expected to end their first year with a cumulative GPA of 3.2 (this includes all transfer classes and classes taken here at the University of Mississippi). We understand that college is a transition, especially the first year. We check GPAs at the end of the school year (May), so if, by chance, at the end of fall semester you do not have the GPA you want/need, you have the Spring semester to bring it up.
- **Hon 101/102.** We are not a degree-based department, so our student body is very diverse in their majors. We only have 2 classes that you are **required** (even if you already have credit for Writ 101 and/or 102) to take as an Honors student: Hon 101 (in the fall) and Hon 102 (in the spring).
 - Hon 101 and 102 can count for your Freshman Composition requirements (Writ 101 and 102) if you do not already have AP, IB, or dual enrollment credit. If you do already have Writ 101 and/or 102 credit, you still have to take Hon 101 and 102; they will just count as credit towards another requirement, depending on your major. Usually a Humanities and/or Social Science.
- **Honors Hours.** Our students are expected to graduate with a total of 30 honors hours. You accrue honors hours by registering for Honors sections of classes, which you choose (Hon 101 & 102 being the exception). Every semester we publish a list of honors classes on our website (www.honors.olemiss.edu; Students/Courses) to help with planning. They are identified in the course registration/class portal (in myOleMiss) as “limited to students in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College” (or a similar message). For every honors section you register for, those class hours add to your Honors Hours tally.

To break that down into more manageable (and accountable) pieces, we expect our freshmen to end their first year with a minimum of 12 honors hours. This number includes Hon 101 and 102. They are three (3) credit hours each, so you will automatically have 6 honors hours accounted for; you just need to choose at least 6 more hours. How you split that up over the fall and spring semesters is entirely up to you. By the end of their second year, students are expected to finish with a minimum of 18 honors hours, and you have your junior and senior years to make up the balance.

Note: “Honors” does not have the same connotation as high school; it does not mean “harder”. An honors section is smaller than a regular section (typically about 15-18 students) comprised of your honors peers. You get to know your classmates and your instructor, and have the opportunity to really get into the information in a way a larger class may not.

- **CAC.** Last but not least is our CAC (Community Action Challenge). Service is a large part of the Honors College mission. Community Action is designed to go beyond mere community service; it is designed to get you thinking about you are interested in, what your

passions are, what problems you see in the community, and how you can lend your talents to make a difference. Students are expected to serve, and report, a minimum of 10 hours every [fall and spring] semester for the duration of your time here in the Honors College. Every class – freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior – is expected to report. If you are already engaging in some kind of philanthropic outreach with another organization, those hours count! You do not need to double-duty (unless you want to). CAC hours are due by the last day of class of the semester.

We expect students to report hours engaged during the Fall and Spring semesters; not so much during the summer or winter. There is no form that needs to be signed and turned in; you would log your hours in the myOleMiss portal, under the Student Tab/Tools and Resources. Look for 'Service Administration' in the dropdown menu.

CAC is a required aspect of the honors college, so if you have not reported CAC for 2 semesters, then it is assumed you no longer wish to continue with us.

Please contact rachel@olemiss.edu if you have any questions.