



**Honors Scholars  
Student Handbook  
2020-2021**

## **YEAR-BY-YEAR GUIDE**

The following is based on a student earning a bachelor's degree in four years (8 semesters). Students planning a different track (3 years, 4 ½ years, etc.) should consult with the Honors College staff. Note: At some point, you must take at least one 3-hour honors course, but which semester you take it is up to you. You may take as many honors courses as you like. By the end of each year, students should have completed the following:

### ***Second Year (if applicable)***

- Maintain a minimum 3.50 GPA**
- Community Action Challenge reported each semester that you are an honors student**
- Take honors courses not related to capstone work, if possible**

### ***Third Year:***

- Maintain a minimum 3.50 GPA**
- Submit Honors Capstone form by November 1<sup>st</sup>**
- Community Action Challenge reported by the last day of each semester (10 hours a semester)**
- Additional honors courses not related to capstone and thesis, if possible**

### ***Senior Year:***

- 3.50 cumulative GPA**
- Community Action Challenge reported for at least one semester**
- Notify SMBHC of Second Reader by September 15**
- Honors course in addition to capstone/thesis credit, if necessary**
- Thesis submitted to readers by April 1<sup>st</sup>**
- Arrange defense date with thesis committee**
- Defend Thesis by last day of classes**
- Submit final copies of thesis on 100% cotton bond paper, formatted according to thesis guidelines (optional), and upload PDF of thesis, formatted according to thesis guidelines, to eGrove by the end of Finals Week (mandatory).**

**THE SALLY MCDONNELL BARKSDALE HONORS COLLEGE  
STUDENT HANDBOOK**

*Table of Contents*

**PREFACE...1**

**SMBHC STAFF: HOW TO REACH US...1**

**HONORS COLLEGE COURTESIES...2**

**REQUIREMENTS...3**

Honors Hours

GPA

Academic Dismissal/Re-admittance Policy

Community Action Challenge

The Honors Capstone Years

The Honors Thesis Track

The Honors Practicum Track

**MAKING THINGS WORK...6**

Managing Your Honors Hours/Coursework

Honors Academic Counseling

Communication

Good Standing

**POLICIES...8**

The Honor Code

The University Creed

Attendance Policy

**BENEFITS...9**

SMBHC Convocations

Early Registration

Honors-Only Coursework

Honors Fellowships

Research Funds

Conference Funds

Barksdale Award

Website and Newsletter

Office of National Scholarship Advisement

Dedicated Staff

The Honors College Building

Other Affiliated Programs

**STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS...13**

The Honors Senate

The Honors College Minority Engagement Council

SMBHC First Generation Student Network

*Populi Magazine*

*Appendices (page 14)—Accelerated Law Program Guide, Society and Health Minor, Capstone Form, Honors Fellowship Form, Application for Research Funds, Conference Travel Funds Form*

## **PREFACE**

### **The Mission of the SMBHC**

**The Honors College prepares citizen scholars who are fired by the life of the mind, committed to the public good, and driven to find solutions.**

This handbook provides the essential tools to accomplish your mission. Remember, you own this experience. We share the goal, but you will determine how you get there. Use the resources included in this handbook to cultivate deep conversations with peers and professors.

**Due to Covid-19, the expectations and opportunities for this year are subject to change. For example, the CAC requirement is waived for Fall 2020. Please remember to check your email and our social media accounts for updates throughout the year.**

## **SMBHC Staff: How to Reach Us**

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\*Dr. Thomas is the first and main contact for all Honors Scholars students and all capstone-related questions.

## **Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College Courtesies**

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.

Please respect the following courtesies:

- Respect your neighbor's space.
- Keep the SMBHC building clean.
- The SMBHC is a smoke- and vape-free building.
- Respect the SMBHC's recycling efforts; put trash in proper containers.
- If you study in the lounge, be aware that it is a space for all honors students, and distractions, such as conversations, may exist.
- Keep the kitchen tidy. If you use the kitchen, wash used dishes and throw away trash. Always return borrowed items.
- Keep the computer lab and its equipment clean.
- Be conscientious when printing; don't waste paper.
- Keep study rooms tidy. Erase boards when you leave a study room.
- Especially during Finals Week, please share classrooms with others; if studying alone, use the dungeon's study carrels.
- Respect our fish!

## **REQUIREMENTS**

**Honors Hours**—There is no set minimum number of hours for Honors Scholars (HS) students. HS students must complete the Honors Capstone Experience, by completing either the Honors Thesis or Honors Practicum. The capstone experience usually leads to earning anywhere from 0-9 hours. In addition to this credit, you must take one other 3-hour honors course, and you are welcome to take as many as fit your schedule. Over 70 honors courses are offered each semester, so the options are many.

**GPA**—Admission to the Honors Scholars program requires at least a 3.50 overall GPA (including transfer hours). The 3.50 threshold is required to remain in the program.

**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 of 3.50.

**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 Administration Directory to keep a record of your work. 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: how did the experience shape your sense of community or of yourself and what you have to offer? Note: Remember that my.olemiss.edu works better with some browsers than others; if you do not get a confirmation, then the hours were not 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. 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 numerous opportunities at <https://www.unitedwayoxfordms.org/>. 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 and record at least 10 hours of Community Action per semester.

Keep CAC at the core of your honors experience. Talk with the honors staff about your hopes and 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 Capstone Years

You may choose the best way to fulfill your undergraduate career as a Honors Scholars student. Graduate as an Honors Scholar in your major by pursuing and completing the Honors Thesis Track or the Honors Practicum Track. Should you select the HTT or HPT, the “Capstone” is the experience you have during your third and fourth years.

**The Honors Thesis Track**—Your Capstone culminates in your Honors thesis. Regardless of the nature of the Capstone work, the thesis is an academic product, written according to the academic standards of your major. As such, the thesis always involves research. The amount of research, how much is required, and when it is conducted will vary by field and by the individual Capstone efforts. Even when the Capstone experience has followed a nontraditional path (e.g., an internship, a series of lesson plans, a collection of artwork), the thesis requires a lesser but still appropriate degree of traditional academic research. Some of this research may occur while you are wrestling with the work itself, in the effort to perform that work at the highest and most current level. Some of it might occur during the thesis-writing semester(s) as you become an active participant in the professional discourse about your topic. The honors theses housed in the on-line Repository will provide examples of the range of approaches available to you for your thesis. Use the past theses to see the scope and shape of work done in your discipline and to whet your appetite.

The Honors thesis is ultimately a demonstration of the “scholar” in “citizen scholar”:

- the work often begins in the third year with preliminary research or exploration under the guidance of your thesis advisor;
- the thesis (obviously, like the Capstone) must be in your major, unless approved by the Dean of the Honors College;
- if your major requires a thesis (as does International Studies), the SMBHC accepts that thesis as satisfying our honors thesis requirement;
- in some majors (English and History, for example) your individual thesis can fulfill the capstone/research experience required of the major;
- you should plan on enrolling in an appropriate course for your thesis-writing; you will earn honors credit for this coursework, probably three to six hours depending on the field;
- the length of the thesis will vary from 30 to 100 pages depending on your major. A student in the sciences, having spent much time in the laboratory, may write a thesis of about 30 pages; a student in the humanities may write one of about 60 to 100 pages;
- if the core of your Capstone experience was a creation of some outcome appropriate to your field (e.g., a collection of short stories, a recital, a semester’s lesson plans), your thesis provides the academic discourse that grounds that work in your understanding of the challenges and potentials of the field at this time;
- 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 thesis advisor), and another professor designated by the Honors College Dean; a final copy of the thesis should be provided to the committee members 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 defense;
- the thesis must be defended no later than the last day of classes in the semester the student expects to participate in the Honors Commissioning ceremony. It is usually written during the

student's last semester on campus, but may be written whenever the Capstone is complete and the student is ready to write the thesis.

**The Honors Practicum Track**—Your capstone may culminate in your Honors practicum. Whereas the Honors thesis entails a one-on-one experience between you and your thesis advisor, the Honors practicum track embodies you and a group of your honors peers, engaging in a research question with one another and overseen by a practicum advisor. Many disciplines (such as chemical engineering, civil engineering, the Center for Manufacturing Excellence) require a concerted team effort, and that is how you should think of the Honors practicum. In other cases, you may engage with a research question raised by a professor or developed by you and your honors peers.

The Honors practicum is ultimately a demonstration of the “scholar” in “citizen scholars”:

- the practicum should be in your major, unless you have joined an inter-disciplinary team led by an advisor from another major;
- if your major requires a group senior design project (as do most engineering majors), the SMBHC accepts that experience in written form to satisfy our honors practicum requirement;
- you should plan on enrolling in an appropriate course or courses for your practicum; you will earn honors credit for this coursework, probably three to six hours depending on the field;
- the length of the written component of the practicum will vary depending on your major and the portion of your assignment. A student in the sciences, having spent much time in the laboratory, may write up their practicum experience in about 30 pages; a student in the social sciences may write one from 50 to 75 pages;
- the student(s) must defend the practicum before a committee of three people; the advisor, another faculty member from the department producing the practicum (chosen by the student and the advisor), and another professor designated by the Honors College Dean; a final copy of the written portion of the practicum should be provided to the committee members 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 practicum defense\*;
- the practicum must be defended no later than the last day of classes in the semester the student expects to graduate. It is usually written during the student's last semester on campus, but may be written whenever the Capstone is complete and the student is ready to write;

\*the practicum team may present at some public forum venue in lieu of defending the practicum before a committee of three people. This option is at the discretion of each individual practicum advisor and his or her department.

Your Capstone years will be shaped by you. Once you are an Honors Scholars student, the SMBHC supports you as you use our resources and challenges to become the Citizen Scholar you want to be, even if you do not yet know who that person is. Our expectations and support for your efforts will help you figure that out. Here's how the SMBHC helps:

- Through our **Honors Fellowships**, we will support transformative study abroad experiences. Go to some place you expect will change and challenge you, and be prepared to be a different person when you return. Our fellowships also are available for unpaid internships or extended research

experiences. Beyond the classroom, away from campus, out in the world – get out there and look around. We can help pay for it.

- Take an **honors experiential learning course**. It will not give you answers, but it will put you in wonderful company while you learn to ask the questions. And it will take you mentally (sometimes physically) into unstable territory.
- Risk the discomfort of deep conversations – We give you professors and staff who will listen and query and share their own discomfiting insights. The connection to professors from your honors coursework is not the common experience for undergraduates. Make the most of it. Take an **Honors Conversations** course with a faculty member or community leader who will ask you to think about what you previously never considered.
- We call it **Community Action Challenge** for a reason. CAC challenges you to move beyond your own comfort and urges you to respond to a challenge in the community. During your Capstone years, why not give it a shape that looks like you, not like one of 800 other students? For two years, you have been generous in your service. If you also have basically been doing whatever work was put before you by an organization or friend, consider stepping back. What community issue really gets under your skin? What skills or talents do you have that might make a difference in changing that situation? Go after it. The SMBHC continues to welcome the extraordinary efforts of all honors students who serve the community; we eagerly await the outlier, the one who finds his or her own avenue for transforming a community.
- Suppose your Capstone requires an interview with a non-profit in California or Bolivia, or some minor equipment your research supervisor cannot supply. Ask us for **research funds**. We have funds to support you as you pursue your Capstone work. Do you find that you have forged some coherence or maybe even managed a step forward in what we know about a situation? Risk talking about it in public. We have **conference funds** to help pay for you to present your work at conferences in your field.

These SMBHC resources are available to honors students at earlier stages of their studies, but they characterize the individuality and flexibility we believe mark the last half of your undergraduate career, and they are meant to support the courage and creativity that Citizen Scholars will call on as they shape themselves, their fields, and their world.

## **MAKING THINGS WORK**

Try seeing the SMBHC requirements as the bare bones of your Honors experience. The minimum number of hours required, the Community Action Challenge, the required GPA – highly significant, but skeletal when it comes to defining “honors” at Ole Miss. The important question: How are **you** going to flesh out that skeleton? You will have plenty of options for making sure the requirements are covered in ways that enrich the experiences common to everyone. Beyond that, we will give you options (and structure) for uncommon experiences that you can tailor to your own hopes and dreams.

## **Managing Your Honors Hours/Coursework**

During the last two years, you should plan to use our honors resources to enrich the path you're designing for yourself. You'll probably earn 6-9 hours when you undertake your capstone project and write your thesis. For other hours, use an honors class to fulfill any remaining general education requirements, or indulge in up to two of our one-hour Conversations classes with dedicated faculty and engaging peers; see what "special topics" coursework is available to honors students only—like law school classes or learning how to write and analyze surveys or engaging the issues of the day. Or, you can also take a graduate-level course in your major or minor, and earn honors credit doing so when it is not required for your degree by selecting 500-level coursework to satisfy "general electives" in your major.

Your honors education is your choice and your responsibility. However, you have many resources at your disposal, including members of the SMBHC staff able to guide you through academic counseling.

## **Honors Academic Counseling**

Dr. Thomas will be your main contact for all honors academic counseling, but we also have two additional associate deans as well as an academic counselor that can help, as well. We are available to work with you in many ways, including but not limited to:

- Helping you reconcile your field(s) of study and the honors curriculum
- Discussing research ideas and opportunities, whether related or unrelated to your thesis or practicum
- Offering guidance on other issues in which you are having difficulty

At the SMBHC, you are more than 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 arises 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 on the SMBHC website.

## **Communication**

You cannot take charge of your honors experience unless you know the options and opportunities available to you. The saddest words we hear from students: "I wish I had known that earlier" or "I didn't know I could have done that!" Pay attention to the deep well of opportunities and resources surrounding you.

**Newsletter**—The SMBHC newsletter is published weekly by e-mail and contains important information, including a note from the Dean, CAC opportunities, class meetings, meals with visiting dignitaries, job opportunities, critical deadlines, and news on recent student activities. You are responsible for reading the newsletter each week.

**List serves**—The SMBHC also broadcasts much information through list serves. Your UM e-mail address will be the one we use, so be sure to route your UM e-mail address to the account you frequent most.

**Social Media**—Follow the SMBHC on Instagram (@umhoco) and Facebook (Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College). Keep up with DSG on Twitter (@dsgolemiss).

### **Good Standing**

“Good standing” is defined as meeting the minimum GPA requirement for your year, earning sufficient hours of honors credit to ensure timely completion of at least the minimum, and maintaining your record of efforts toward the Community Action Challenge. “Good standing” is expected at those transition points when we hope you will call on the resources of the SMBHC to add to the riches or opportunities of your undergraduate experience, including priority registration, access to the building and free printing, and applying for honors fellowships or other funding. Except in cases related to academic discipline (see Honor Code below), there is no probationary status for honors students. You are either in good standing, or you are not a member of the SMBHC. If you find yourself in the latter group, then contact the Academic Counselor or one of the Associate Deans about making a feasible plan to rejoin.

### **POLICIES**

**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 Honors 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.*

## **BENEFITS**

Membership in the SMBHC brings a wide range of benefits. Some of these benefits support shared academic efforts in an honors environment, e.g., free printing and early registration. In other words, we will make sure you have the amenities to support your intention to succeed academically. Other benefits—such as access to “honors only” coursework or funding—are designed to encourage and support the additional risk-taking and intellectual ambition that prepare citizen scholars for leadership in a complex world. All honors students in good standing have access to all shared benefits and to the opportunity to step forward for additional honors enhancements to their professional and personal growth.

**SMBHC Convocations**—Outside the classroom, honors students are expected 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 an acclaimed author (Kiese Laymon) or a world-renowned ballerina (Alessandra Ferri). Whether our speaker or performer is familiar from the news or from a classroom discussion, we invite guests to take us through perspectives that richly deserve our shared time and attention and always challenge our preconceptions.

**Early Registration**—Honors students are allowed to register early, because they must fit honors sections of courses 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.

**Honors-Only Coursework**—You will have opportunities to take classes created specifically for the Honors experience at UM:

**HON 350 Introduction to American Law and Reasoning**—a course intended to provide a broad introduction to American law and legal reasoning and give Honors students a taste of law school before they make that commitment. Offered through the SMBHC/UM School of Law Partnership

**HON 360, Honors Internship**—available when there is no internship in an honors student’s major, or when the student is pursuing an interdisciplinary experience beyond the parameters of departmental internships.

HON 391, 392 **Honors Conversations**—1-credit courses in which discussion is fueled by selected texts and conversations with people across the globe, for second-years and higher, who seek challenge in their analysis of current debates and conversations to feed their intellectual curiosity.

HON 399, **Special Topics in Honors**—seminars whose topics will vary according to each professor's interests and design.

HON 420, **Honors Experiential Learning**—a series of Honors classes that tackle a problem with multiple and difficult solutions. Professors journey with our students into issues such as “water security,” “the power of art and the Republic,” or “the ethics of owning the past” and explore the real tensions as we create a sustaining community in a diverse political body. Our students learn to seek solutions through field and theoretical experience with the challenges that make solutions difficult to determine.

HON 550, 551 **Honors Advanced Studies in Law**—various courses being taught that semester in the UM School of Law, selected by Law School faculty to be offered to undergraduate honors students who have completed HON 350. Offered through the SMBHC/UM School of Law Partnership

**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, and you must have a current FAFSA on file in Financial Aid (unless you are not a U.S. citizen).

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

Students interested in studying abroad should contact the Study Abroad Office in Martindale or online at [studyabroad.olemiss.edu](http://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.)

**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 Capstone and 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.

**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. *The Barksdale Award is suspended this year due to Covid-19.*

**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: [www.honors.olemiss.edu](http://www.honors.olemiss.edu)

**Office of National Scholarship Advisement (ONSA)**— The Office of National Scholarship Advisement supports and advises students applying for a select number of competitive national and international merit-based fellowships and scholarships. These include Fulbright, Marshall, Mitchell, Rhodes and Truman as well as STEM focused awards like the Churchill and Goldwater. These fellowships and scholarships offer life changing opportunities where academic excellence, leadership and active communal engagement are valued and nurtured. This is not just a gateway to graduate school funding, but an opportunity to further your mind, commit to bettering our world and actively engage in a scholarship community. Check the [ONSA website](#) for information about opportunities, information sessions and the university nomination process. You can also schedule a one-on-one appointment to discuss the process and whether you are a good fit with Dr. Ibrahim (Interim Director of ONSA) through our [online scheduler](#) or via email [vibrahim@olemiss.edu](mailto:vibrahim@olemiss.edu).

**Dedicated Staff**—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.

**The Honors College Building**—SMBHC students have the privilege of using the Honors College building. The Honors College provides students with a lounge, 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.” *Due to Covid-19, the building will close every evening at midnight and reopen every morning at 7:30am.*

While honors students are welcome in the building at any time (except home football Saturdays), 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 28, 100 and 315) provide Honors College students access to computer stations and printers. Currently, students enjoy free printing in the lab and study room. Printing 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. The system will require the student to change this password when they first log in.
- **The Kitchen**—Honors students are welcome to use the kitchen, whether to warm up a lunch 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.

**Other Affiliated Programs**—Honors students often participate in campus-wide programs of study that the SMBHC helped create or is pleased to support. Although these are not “honors” programs per se, the SMBHC is pleased to affiliate with these interdisciplinary efforts, and SMBHC staff are available to help you participate fully, including assisting you and your program mentors in understanding how the program offerings can be incorporated into SMBHC requirements. Because these are campus-wide opportunities, affiliation is no guarantee that coursework will be available via honors sections or courses; however, affiliated programs usually provide some options for completing the Capstone/thesis requirement. Your SMBHC advisors will be happy to help you figure out how to overlap the requirements of an affiliated program and of the SMBHC. More information is available in the *Appendices*.

- **Accelerated Law Program**—Entering students studying for the B.A. or B.S. within the College of Liberal Arts, the B.G.S. in General Studies, or B.E. in 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.
- **Society and Health Minor**—The minor in society and health focuses on the socioeconomic, cultural, and psychological factors associated with human health at multiple levels of society, coupled with their implications for ethical health care practice and policy. Students will develop an interdisciplinary social science and humanities-based approach to understanding health and an appreciation for the value of inter-professional, team-based problem-solving to improve health care and health outcomes.

## **STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

**The Honors Senate** – The Honors 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. Please visit <https://www.honors.olemiss.edu/students/honors-senate/> for more information.

**The Honors College Minority Engagement Council**—HoCoMEC fosters an environment that promotes interconnectivity, cultivates greatness in academia, and generates a respectful community that opens dialogue for minority students within the SMBHC. HoCoMEC was established in 2018 and held its first elections in Fall 2018. For a list of the 2020-2021 Executive Board, please visit: <https://www.honors.olemiss.edu/students/honors-college-minority-engagement-council/>. You may also stay engaged by following [HoCoMEC on Instagram](#).

**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](mailto:jbruce@olemiss.edu)).

**Populi Magazine** – *Populi* Magazine is both an SMBHC online student publication and a series of monthly meetings designed to give students an opportunity to facilitate interdisciplinary discussion 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](#) or follow them on Twitter (@PopuliMagazine). *Populi* does not stay consistently active from year to year and must have interested students to keep the publishing going.

**SMBHC First Generation Student Network**—If you identify as a first generation college student (for example, you are the first person in your immediate family to attend University), you are invited to be a part of the SMBHC first generation student network! Throughout the semester, we will host events and share resources catered to the first-gen experience, ranging from events such as getting to know other first-gen students on campus and learning from first-gen alumni to learning how to apply for national scholarship. Event and resource announcements are sent by email, and included in the weekly SMBHC newsletter. To sign up for the email list serve or if you have any questions, you can email Professor Williams ([amwill17@olemiss.edu](mailto:amwill17@olemiss.edu)) or you can contact SMBHC student Ainsley Ash ([apash@olemiss.edu](mailto:apash@olemiss.edu)).

## **APPENDICES**

## Accelerated Law Program

Entering students studying for the B.A. or B.S. within the College of Liberal Arts, the B.G.S. in General Studies, or B.E. in 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, either (B.A., B.S., B.G.S.) 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, **OR** (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, a minimum 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 undergraduate (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.

## **Society and Health Minor**

The minor in society and health focuses on the socioeconomic, cultural, and psychological factors associated with human health at multiple levels of society, coupled with their implications for ethical health care practice and policy. Students will develop an interdisciplinary social science and humanities-based approach to understanding health and an appreciation for the value of interprofessional, team-based problem-solving to improve health care and health outcomes.

The minor in society and health is interdisciplinary and consists of 18 credit hours, including Math 115 or Psy 202; one of the two following courses – Soc 370/Hon 315 or SOHE 329; and 12 credit hours from a list of advanced social science and humanities courses that can be found at <http://sohe.olemiss.edu/courses/>. Elementary Statistics (MATH 115 or PSY 202) should be completed during the first year due to the shift in competencies for medical school admission, the importance of statistics for health literacy, and the need for those skills in the advanced social science courses. It is also recommended that students take General Psychology (PSY 201) and Introductory Sociology (SOC 101) to complete the general education social science requirements. The two advanced, foundational experiences are Society and Population Health (SOC 370/HON 315) and Medical Humanities (SOHE 329). Students must take at least one of these two courses. In Society and Population Health students learn about health disparities in Mississippi and the value of interdisciplinary and interprofessional teams in tackling these issues, and they make field visits to visit medical/nursing schools and public health programs. Medical Humanities is a combined readings and field experience course in a hospital setting to study the ethical, social, and cultural issues in medicine.

In choosing the 12 hours of advanced social science and humanities courses, students must take courses from at least two different departments. The same course may not satisfy requirements for both a major and this minor. Students who complete relevant internships, special topics, study abroad, or directed study courses must consult with the director prior to enrollment in the course for approval. Students must receive a grade of C or higher on all courses to be applied to the minor.

### **Application to the Society and Health Minor**

Admission to the Minor in Society and Health is based on submission and approval of an application. Students must officially apply to the minor after having completed either Society and Population Health (SOC 370/HON 315) or Medical Humanities (SOHE 329) with a grade of C or higher. The application process will consider a student's performance in the initial required course, overall GPA, and essay on academic and professional goals related to society and health. Including a resume is optional but recommended.

For more information about the Minor in Society and Health, contact Lynn Woo, research associate for the Center for Population Studies, by e-mail at [lcwoo@olemiss.edu](mailto:lcwoo@olemiss.edu) or telephone at 662-915-7288.

## CAPSTONE FORM

Use this form to figure out and communicate the timeline and curricular infrastructure for your Honors Capstone. When you've got this form completed, you will know what you're doing each semester, and so will your thesis/practicum director, and so will the Honors College. **Submit this form to the SMBHC no later than November 1 of your third year (or, at least 3.5 semesters before you plan to graduate).** The SMBHC will award a **maximum of 9 honors hours** to coursework in the Capstone. How many honors hours you earn is determined by your strategy. Strategize with your thesis/practicum advisor or Dr. Thomas.

### COMPLETING THE FORM / YOUR CAPSTONE CURRICULAR INFRASTRUCTURE:

- You are not required to earn academic credit for the work you undertake that will culminate in your thesis (e.g., lab research, senior art show, directed readings in literature), but most students choose to do so, and it is the way you can earn honors credit for your Capstone work before the thesis. This form tells the SMBHC to award those honors hours for coursework you plan to take for that Capstone project.
- You are expected to be enrolled in a thesis-writing course for the semester in which you plan to defend the thesis. On the form, note the course(s) and timeline for the thesis writing.
- For your Capstone coursework, most students will use the independent study/special topics/directed readings courses in their major field. Please consult the Honors website to see "Commonly Used Courses" in your major. You have to have a course to earn credit.
- Some majors will expect at least six hours (two semesters) on the Capstone work leading to the thesis; others will expect only one semester's work. Ditto for the thesis: some majors routinely use two semesters for this work (and only one for the work leading up to it). In other words, credit hours will vary. This is fine. Honors credit will be awarded to a maximum of 9 credit hrs.
- If your department does not have an independent study/special topics type course, consider using HON 301 (and HON 302 if necessary) for the work leading up to the thesis and HON 401 (and 402) for the thesis writing. We prefer that you use departmental courses or course numbers if those are available.
- If your Capstone is the production of an event or artifact (e.g., a voice recital, a portfolio, a business plan, a series of lesson plans, a policy), your thesis will still be an academic work. It will focus on the research and choices leading up to the event/artifact. The thesis, in other words, will demonstrate the scholar's ability to put that work into its significant academic context.
- If your major has a required Capstone, those are the numbers you will use. Check with your director to be sure that coursework includes the writing of a thesis. If it does not, you must plan to include a thesis-writing semester in your Honors Capstone.
- When you are enrolled in coursework for the Capstone, you are earning a grade. Talk about grading expectations with your director. If you do not complete the work for the semester, expect a low grade. If you cannot complete the work for a semester, talk with your Director about options.

**In all cases, work with your Capstone mentor(s) to design your Capstone and its curricular structure. Those mentors are essential to your success with the Capstone and vital to your growth as a professional. Work with them closely. Stay in frequent contact with your director especially. This form records their commitment to your Capstone and your timeline.**

**SALLY MCDONNELL BARKSDALE HONORS COLLEGE  
CAPSTONE FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street
City
State
Zip

Local Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Major(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Minor(s), if any \_\_\_\_\_

Expected date of graduation \_\_\_\_\_

HONORS CAPSTONE: Please give a brief description of the work you plan to undertake for your honors Capstone, understanding that the Capstone is an extended experience in your field, culminating in your Honors thesis. (E.g., I will conduct research in Dr. X’s chemistry lab, I plan to develop a portfolio of news stories about Delta restaurants, I will explore “manners” in the works of Dickens, I will create a series of lesson plans to teach fractions, I will do the ISS Capstone, I will follow the Accountancy alternate route).

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Will you earn academic credit for your Capstone work leading up to the thesis? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**If yes**, please list below the coursework and timeline you will follow for your work on the Capstone prior to the thesis. List one or two courses, depending on what you and your supervisor determine is appropriate to your field and project. **Use a departmental number if available. If not, use HON 301 (and 302).**

Course	Credit hours	Semester
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Course	Credit hours	Semester
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**FORM CONTINUES ON OPPOSITE SIDE.**

Will your Capstone Project require research using human subjects? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
(If it does, work closely with your faculty supervisor to ensure all regulations are followed.)

**HONORS THESIS: Below, give us your timetable and coursework for the thesis. List either one or two courses, depending on what you and your supervisor determine is appropriate to your field. Use a departmental number if available. If not, use HON 401 (and 402).**

_____	_____	_____
Course	Credit hours	Semester
_____	_____	_____
Course	Credit hours	Semester

Return this form to your Honors Advisor (one of the Associate Deans; last name A-L, submit it to Dr. Samonds; last name M-Z, submit it to Dr. Young). Completed forms include your signature and those of your Capstone Director and your Department Chair. We urge you to be sure your Chair notes whether your Capstone work will count toward your major.

_____	_____
Student	Date

_____	_____
Director	Date

_____	_____
Director's printed signature	Date

_____	_____
Department Chair	Date

Courses approved for credit toward major? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

SMBHC Approval of Capstone Plan:

_____	_____
Dean of SMBHC	Date

**NOTE: Your Plan might change as you work on it. Please let the SMBHC know!**



**SALLY MCDONNELL BARKSDALE HONORS COLLEGE  
HONORS FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street City State Zip

Local Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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 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? \_\_\_\_\_

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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 Capstone requirement, please note that for the committee.

In addition to this application form and 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);
- and (while not submitted to the SMBHC), you **must** have a current FAFSA on file with the University's Financial Aid office.

**FORM CONTINUES ON OPPOSITE SIDE.**

**SALLY MCDONNELL BARKSDALE HONORS COLLEGE  
HONORS FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION BUDGET FORM**

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**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 other that might apply.

Transportation to/from location of activity	
Tuition and fees	
Books and supplies	
Living expenses (lodging, food, daily transportation)	
Other (specify)	
Other (specify)	
Other (specify)	
Other (specify)	

**BUDGET FOR ACTIVITY (total of the expected costs)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Priority Consideration Deadline: April 1**

Submit completed application to SMBHC Room 333.

**SALLY MCDONNELL BARKSDALE HONORS COLLEGE  
APPLICATION FOR RESEARCH FUNDS  
FOR CAPSTONE EXPERIENCES AND THESES**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City

State

Zip

Local Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Project:

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Explanation of Needed Funds (please attach a budget sheet of total funds):

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**Total Amount asked from Honors College** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Honors Dean's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Submit completed form and budget sheet to SMBHC Room 333.

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**SALLY MCDONNELL BARKSDALE HONORS COLLEGE  
APPLICATION FOR CONFERENCE TRAVEL FUNDS**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City

State

Zip

Local Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Conference Name/Location \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Conference \_\_\_\_\_

I will be presenting \_\_\_\_\_ 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.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount requested from Honors College \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Honors Dean's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Complete Budget Sheet on opposite page.*  
**Submit completed application to SMBHC Room 333.**

**SALLY MCDONNELL BARKSDALE HONORS COLLEGE  
APPLICATION FOR CONFERENCE TRAVEL FUNDS BUDGET SHEET**

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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	
Other*	
Other	
Other	

\*please specify

**BUDGET FOR ACTIVITY** \_\_\_\_\_

(Total of expected costs)