



THE UNIVERSITY of  
**MISSISSIPPI**

**Sally McDonnell Barksdale**  
Honors College



*Sally McDonnell Barksdale*

# HONORS COLLEGE

## MISSION

**T**he 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



*Caleb*

degree. The Honors College encourages those students to identify and develop their interests while also seeking an understanding of the world around us.

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 them designed to meet university general education requirements for any major or, often, targeted to fulfill the introductory courses required by many majors. 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 course work) 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

*continued* >>

## CALEB BOHANNON

Initially, I was not going to apply for the Honors College, but after speaking with Honors staff, I realized that the SMBHC was a great experience. When I was told, ‘being a big fish in a small pond shared by others just as motivated as you,’ it prompted me to apply. The smaller class sizes, the study spaces, and great quality of professors allow a diverse range of students to stand out and flourish here. If you are a hard-working student who wants to be challenged while also meeting other intelligent and equally-motivated people, this is the place you need to be. You will look back at your time as an Honors College student with pride.”

**Hometown**  
Clinton, Mississippi

**Classification**  
SMBHC '24

**Major**  
Public Policy  
Leadership

advisor, 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 advisor. Many disciplines required a concerted team effort, and that is how you should think of the honors practicum.

Your participation as a citizen scholar extends beyond the classroom or research facility. The Honors College also encourages our 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 team, or the Honors College Minority Engagement Council.

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.

## LANDRY SUTTON

**“If you are looking to have the ‘do-it-all’ college experience, you will find no better place than the Honors College. I say ‘do-it-all’ very intentionally, as this place truly will enable you to check every item off of your college bucket list; I also say ‘do-it-all’ knowing ‘it-all’ means something different to each and every perspective student. Do you want to explore a new part of the world while pursuing a college degree? The SMBHC can make it happen. Do you want to intern in the halls of Congress, or the headquarters of Fortune 500 corporations? We have the connections for you. Would you like to take on leadership roles in a Greek organization, student government, or maybe social justice campaigns here on campus (perhaps all at once)? Not only can I tell you it’s possible, but I have done it myself. The SMBHC prides itself on every type of diversity, but especially a diversity of personality, interests, and goals. Everything I had been looking for in a university experience was right here at the HoCo.**

# Curriculum

**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 101/102. In addition, the capstone/thesis component usually earns students another 6-9 honors hours, hours that often count toward the major also. 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 or not 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” designation for each honors course completed. And when you complete all the requirements (minimum of 30 honors hours, completion of capstone/thesis or



**Hometown**  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

**Classification**  
SMBHC '23

**Major**  
Political Science  
& Economics

*Landry*





**Hometown**  
Sulphur, Louisiana

**Classification**  
SMBHC '24

**Major**  
Integrated Marketing  
Communications

## OLIVIA REEVES

“There is more to being an Honors student than simply taking challenging courses or writing a thesis. When you join the SMBHC, you become a member of a campus community that always has your back. Making friends in my Honors classes has been so fun, as everyone is always down to get lunch after class, work on homework together, or compliment something you said during a discussion. The Honors faculty is always willing to talk or assist with anything you need – the dean even helped me fix a roof leak in my car once! The SMBHC is full of some of the most supportive, well-rounded, authentic people I’ve met on campus, and getting to know them has made me grow to into a better student and individual.

”

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. Also, the Honors College 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.



**Interim Dean Dr. Ethel Scurlock and students Jilkiah Bryant, Taylor Thompson, and Andy Flores attended the National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida.**

# Classes

## 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 come to them for help,” says 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.

**Honors graduates are recognized at the Honors Commissioning ceremony each year.**



# Faculty



**Hometown**  
Bowling Green, Kentucky

**Classification**  
SMBHC '23

**Major**  
Economics  
& General Studies

*Sydney*

# Benefits

## 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. 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 of attending 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 who may be eligible,



## SYDNEY WHEELER

**I've thrived in the small classroom atmosphere where discussion is the expectation, not the exception, and where everyone is comfortable enough to challenge ideas and ask questions. The limited class size of the Honors courses has allowed me to build personal connections with my peers and professors and hear lots of real feedback from professors in real time, not just on paper. Because Honors courses are centered around discussion, you're forced to engage with and critically evaluate course material instead of passively listening to someone else's evaluation, which has pushed me to explore topics outside of my comfort zone and ultimately broadened my choice of major and minors."**

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.

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 in 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.

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.



**The First-Generation Network was established in 2019.**



“

## KENNETH RETUMBAN

**Hometown**  
Ridgeland,  
Mississippi

**Classification**  
SMBHC '24

**Major**  
Pharmaceutical  
Sciences

I chose the University of Mississippi because not only did it offer me a strong department in the School of Pharmacy, but also the opportunity to collaborate with students from other disciplines through the Honors College. I've enjoyed the lively discussions in the Honors classes about events and concepts that relate to past and present keystone events. This experience enabled me to develop an appreciation for how important a global view is when trying to understand current events. You are encouraged to take a 360-degree perspective as you work through the required courses and those in your major. If you are looking to add depth to your field of study, this is the place for you.”



# Jilkiyah

“

## JILKIAH BRYANT

**Hometown**  
Macon,  
Mississippi

**Classification**  
SMBHC '23  
**Major**  
Public Health  
& Health  
Sciences

Because of the overwhelming support I received from faculty, staff, and current students, I selected the Honors College. The Honors College showed me that my voice, my thoughts, and my experiences mattered, and that my presence at the institution was critical to not only my success, but the University's continued success as well. There was no other program that could match the love and support that the SMBHC had to offer me as a student and future leader when I was applying to numerous institutions and honors programs. I came to the Honors College with no idea who I was, and I remain in the Honors College because with every class I take, every face I meet, and every chance I take helps me to uncover new aspects of myself and who I would like to be.”

## 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. 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.

## 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.

[VISIT HONORS.OLEMISS.EDU](https://www.olemiss.edu/honors)

# Apply!

## Scholarships

**W**e 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

**A**lthough 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 university-wide 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](http://finaid.olemiss.edu)) and the department or school in which you intend to major to learn about other scholarship opportunities.

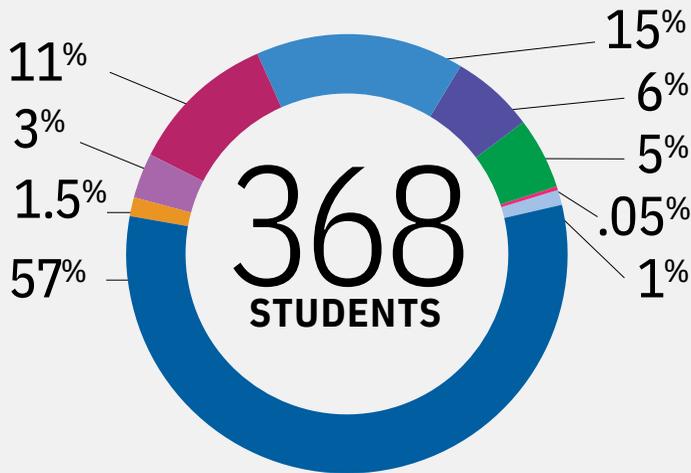


←← **SCAN TO GET IN TOUCH  
WITH AN HONORS STUDENT.**

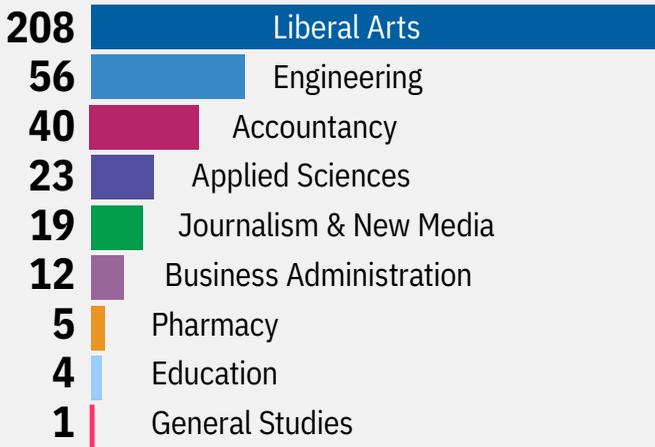
Scholarships

# Class of 2021

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS



# OF STUDENTS



# 96%\*

of graduating seniors were employed or enrolled in graduate school by May 2021

### THREE MOST POPULAR POST-GRADUATE PROGRAMS

**LAW: 34**

**MEDICAL: 29**

**ACCOUNTANCY: 22**

## ADD'L GRAD PROGRAMS

### Medical School

29/43 applicants  
14/29 enrolled at UMMC

### Dental School

11/13 applicants  
5/11 enrolled at UMMC

### Occupational Therapy

2/2 applicants  
100% acceptance rate

### Veterinary School

1/1 applicants  
100% acceptance rate

### Law School

34 students (9 at UM)

### Accountancy

22 students (21 at UM)

### Speech-Language Pathology

6 students (2 at UM)

## NOTABLE EMPLOYERS

- FedEx, Toyota Motor, PwC, CSpire, Mississippi Today
- AmeriCorps
- Teaching abroad fellowships in Spain & France

## NOTABLE GRADUATE SCHOOLS

- California Institute of Technology, Washington University in St. Louis, Harvard University, University of Chicago, University of Southern California
- Peking University

\*Those who responded to survey (72.8% response rate)

THE SALLY MCDONNELL BARKSDALE

**HONORS  
COLLEGE**

**prepares citizen scholars**

*who are fired by the life of the mind,*

**COMMITTED**

to the public good,

and driven to find

**SOLUTIONS.**

60 Sorority Circle  
P.O. Box 1848  
University, MS 38677  
**honors.olemiss.edu**

 @UMHOCO