

Honors Scholar Student Handbook

2022-2023



THE UNIVERSITY *of*
MISSISSIPPI

Sally McDonnell Barksdale
Honors College

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:

Sophomore Year (if applicable)

- Maintain a minimum 3.50 GPA
- Community Action Challenge reported each semester
- Additional honors course(s) not related to capstone/thesis work, if possible

Junior Year:

- Maintain a minimum 3.50 GPA
- Submit Honors Capstone form by **November 1st**
- Community Action Challenge reported each semester
- Additional honors course(s) 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 15th**
- Honors course in addition to capstone/thesis credit, if necessary
- Written portion of capstone submitted to readers by **April 1st**
- Arrange defense date with thesis committee
- Defend Thesis by last day of classes
- Upload formatted PDF of thesis to [eGrove](#) by the end of Finals Week (mandatory)

HONORS SCHOLAR STUDENT HANDBOOK 2022-2023

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.

Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College strives for diversity, equity and inclusion in our academic spaces and within our community. We commit to fostering an environment in which diversity of thought, experiences and identities are welcome, and we recognize the dignity of each person. We recognize the historical context of exclusionary practices in the classroom and beyond at the University of Mississippi, and we commit to ensuring equitable opportunities during students' SMBHC tenure. Following best practices under the leadership of the [National Collegiate Honors Council](#), we honor our “responsibility to promote the inclusion and success of academically motivated learners from all communities, understanding that each of us holds varied, intersectional identities.”

We endeavor to cultivate citizen scholars, requiring deep personal reflection of our past, transparent reckoning with our present, tolerant consideration of different points of view, civility in discussions and disagreements, and elevation toward the best versions of ourselves. We ask our honors staff, faculty and students to hold us accountable, and know that we hold ourselves accountable through critical self-reflection and self-monitoring.

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.

HONORS SCHOLAR STUDENT HANDBOOK

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SMBHC Staff: How to Reach Us

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**Mr. Bruce Levingston, Chancellor's Honors College Artist in Residence and the Holder of the
Lester Glenn Fant Endowed Chair**

Meetings by appointment only

bruce@olemiss.edu

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 university is a smoke-free campus.
- Respect the SMBHC's recycling efforts; put trash in proper containers.
- If you study in the lounge or Great Room, be aware that they are for all honors students, and distractions, such as conversations, may exist.
- Be considerate of others in the study dungeon, and do not talk or hold group study sessions there.
- 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 classroom.
- Especially during Finals Week, please share classrooms with others; if studying alone, use the Dungeon's study carrels.
- Respect our fish!

REQUIREMENTS

Honors Hours—Honors Scholar, formerly Junior-Entry, students are not held to the same hours requirements as their four-year counterparts. Rather, Honors Scholars are expected to register for at least one (1) three-credit hour honors course, not related to their Capstone/thesis work. Honors course offerings are posted on the website each semester, prior to registration.

GPA—Admission to the Honors Scholars program requires at least a 3.50 overall GPA (including transfer hours). Honors Scholars are required to maintain a 3.50 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 (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 platform for community engagement – GivePulse. GivePulse is your direct connection between our campus and our broader community. It is a powerful vehicle to identify volunteer opportunities, supply drives, fundraisers, and other opportunities to engage. It also allows you to see your collective impact as well as how individual efforts make a difference in our world. Go to [GivePulse](#) and log in using your MyOleMiss credentials. Browse for opportunities that are appealing to you. 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? 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 through GivePulse or 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 community engagement platform (GivePulse) to keep a record of your work – what tasks you undertook or where you volunteered, what you accomplished and why it mattered.

CAC hours must be fulfilled during the fall and spring semesters, while the student is enrolled in classes. CAC hours should be logged by the last day of the fall and spring semesters. Students are exempt from CAC during a semester in which they are studying abroad or interning/co-oping, and they may exempt one semester during which they are writing the honors thesis or practicum. CAC is a per-semester requirement. Missing two consecutive semesters of CAC can result in dismissal from the SMBHC.

The Honors Capstone Years

The Capstone is the experience you will complete in your third and fourth years. You may choose the best way to fulfill your undergraduate career as an Honors Scholar. Students have three options, or tracks, to choose from as a means of satisfying the Capstone requirement: the thesis track, the practicum track, and the project track.

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.

The Honors Project Track - The Honors Project Track is an opportunity for students to bring together the threads of personal, intellectual, and creative interests and weave them into a final product that demonstrates “citizen” and “scholar” in one body of work. This is an opportunity to investigate and/or embrace unexplored or unexamined areas of passion, interest, and or experiences that might be unrelated to your major or minor. The Honors Project Track can vary in form, content, and execution, but unlike our two other tracks, the Honors Project Track offers a student the opportunity to envision, plan, and construct their own Honors experience and in doing so pushes at established parameters of academic scholarship of “citizen scholars”.

The Honors Project Track requires students to take ownership and understand that their project bases are not individual, isolated, and isolating, but social activities, and that they and their work are part of a much larger conversation and discursive field. It is up to the student to choose the topic and/or theme of their project and seek out the appropriate faculty advisor. On this track each student has to produce a proposal in consultation with Associate Dean for Capstone Experience - the initial parlay as a "scholar" which outlines and punctuates the drive for solutions - so there if a fully flushed out idea before approaching a short-listed group of faculty to be your potential advisor.

Honors Projects can emerge from any lived experiences - as citizens -that a student may have undertaken inclusive of the following spheres: study abroad, internship, co-op, community service, veterinarian/health-based shadowing, student leadership, practice teaching, and entrepreneurship. This list is by no means exhaustive and will be flushed out during the proposal process. It should be clearly noted that the Honors Project is not regurgitation of autoethnographic work already done. This body of work must be broader, deeper, and more complex to meet the SMBHC capstone requirement. Though every Honors Project must detail the experiences that a student has amassed, it must also corral around central questions that those experiences have led the student’s curiosity to investigate through some research methodology. It is envisioned that every Honors Project will at the very least incorporate a respectable list of secondary sources that support the answers to the central questions investigated. The end product being a thesis - a work produced by a SMBHC citizen scholar.

Your Capstone years will be shaped by you. Once you are an Honors Scholar, 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.

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

The SMBHC has three Associate Deans who 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.

Listserves—The SMBHC also broadcasts much information through listserves. 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 and Twitter (@umhoco) and Facebook (Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College). Keep up with the Office of National Scholarship Advisement (@UM_ONSA).

Good Standing

“Good standing” is defined as meeting the minimum GPA requirement for your enrollment status. This, for Honors Scholars, means maintaining a 3.50 minimum GPA, reporting 10 CAC hours every semester, and registering for one 3-credit hour honors class as you schedule allows. “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 a three-time Pulitzer Prize winner (Tom Friedman) or an attorney general (Eric Holder). Whether our speaker is familiar from the news or from a classroom discussion, we invite speakers to take us through perspectives that richly deserve our shared time and attention and always challenge our preconceptions.

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 registration windows open near the end of the registration week, honors students are allowed to register near the beginning. 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 1st of the academic year prior to the term in which you plan to study. You must be in good standing with the Honors College to receive a fellowship.

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

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 for conferences at which you will be presenting, not merely attending.

UMMC Clinical Shadowing Program—The SMBHC and UMMC have partnered to allow a limited number of honors students to observe physicians in a clinical environment. Each honors

student selected will be able to participate in one or two 2-week rotations during the summer or one 2-week rotation in January. You will participate in this experience with rising M3s (third year medical students) from UMMC. You will also have the opportunity and expectation of helping at the Jackson Free Clinic on Saturday mornings, gaining further experience. For more information, please visit this [link](#). To be considered for this experience, you must

- Be a rising junior or senior in the SMBHC,
- Have at least a 3.50 GPA,
- Be in good standing with the SMBHC for your year (honors hours, CAC, capstone project, if applicable),
- Show evidence of pursuing a career in medicine (through coursework or extracurricular activities such as Community Action),
- And exhibit professionalism indicative of a medical student.

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.

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

Office of National Scholarship Advisement (ONSA)—ONSA supports and advises students applying for a select number of competitive national and international merit-based fellowships and scholarships. The Fulbright, Marshall, Mitchell, and Rhodes Scholarships are examples of those that fund graduate research, study, or study abroad. Awards such as the Boren, Pickering, Rangel, or Payne Fellowships fund graduate opportunities for those interested in foreign service or national security. The Truman and Udall support graduate study for those interested in public service. Transfer students are strongly encouraged to apply. Finally, several of the scholarships are STEM-focused awards such as the Churchill, Goldwater, and DAAD Rise. 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 or internship and career opportunities, but a chance to further your mind, commit to bettering our world, and actively engage in a scholarship community. Check the [Awards Handbook](#) to learn more about each of our scholarships and fellowships. Visit the [ONSA website](#) for information about how to get started with applying and to learn about upcoming events such as workshops and information sessions. You can also [book an appointment](#) to discuss the application process for scholarships and fellowships that may fit you with Dr. Ibrahim, Director of ONSA, or Dr. Woods, Assistant Director of ONSA. If you have any questions, e-mail us at onsa@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 in-house network administrator 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 24-hour access to the building, many students see the Honors College as a place to socialize and as their “home away from home.”

While honors students are welcome in the building at any time (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**—Currently, students have access to computer stations in the Honors College Computer Lab, and enjoy unlimited printing in the lab, and via wireless printers. 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.

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 (the Assistant Student Director may also be a senator). First year students elect senators in September; the other classes elect senators in April for the upcoming year. There are currently two Honors Scholar specific senate seats. If you have any questions, you can reach the current Student Director by email at hocosenate@go.olemiss.edu. You can also follow the senate on Instagram [@umhcosenate](https://www.instagram.com/umhcosenate). 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 2021-2022 Executive Board, please visit: <https://www.honors.olemiss.edu/students/honors-college-minority-engagement-council/>

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 scholarships. 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 SMBHC First-Gen Student Network director Andy Flores at jaflores@go.olemiss.edu.

Mock Trial – The UM Undergraduate Mock Trial Team is another organization started and run primarily by Honors College students. Mock Trail meetings and practices are often held in the Honors College. Students interested in joining this organization should contact Ms. Lynn Woo (lcwoo@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. Students interested in participating in *Populi* can visit their website at www.populimagazine.honors.olemiss.edu. *Populi* is completely student-led, so there are times when the publication is inactive.

Honors College Student Ambassadors - Honors Ambassadors are current Honors students serve as hosts and hostesses of the SMBHC. Additionally, they help recruit, inform, and engage future SMBHC students. Applications will be held at the beginning of the Fall semester. Students who have questions should contact Kayla VonBurg-King at kpvonbur@olemiss.edu .

APPENDICES

HONORS FORMS

All Honors Forms can be found both in the handbook, and at the following link:

<https://www.honors.olemiss.edu/students/forms/>

CAPSTONE FORM EXPLANATION

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 advisor, 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. Some students will earn only 6 hours or even only 3; others will earn 6 for the Capstone work and 3 for writing the thesis (or vice versa). **THIS WILL VARY.** Talk with your Thesis Advisor (or Practicum Advisor).

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 or practicum (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, or if you choose the Practicum Track, you will enroll in a relevant course.
- 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; these are the usual options.
- 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 you choose the Practicum Track, then you will work with your cohort of honors peers and Practicum Advisor regarding hours earned.
- Be aware that some pathways, such as the Accountancy alternate route, will bring you only six honors hours in total. Be sure you accommodate that number when you make your plans for reaching the 30-hour minimum to graduate from the SMBHC.
- 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 thesis/practicum advisor 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 thesis/practicum advisor. 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 thesis/practicum advisor about options.

- The SMBHC does not assign your Capstone and Thesis/Practicum coursework. The course numbers you use should be discussed with your thesis/practicum advisor. Project track is the exception as the courses are prescribed.

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 thesis/practicum advisor especially. This form records their commitment to your Capstone and your timeline, and can also be found online.

NOTE: Your plan might change as you on it (timeline, topic, advisor, etc.). Please let the SMBHC know! Submit your completed form to HoCoCapstone@olemiss.edu

**SALLY MCDONNELL BARKSDALE HONORS COLLEGE
CAPSTONE FORM**

Name _____ Student ID _____

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)

Chosen Track: Honors Thesis Track ____ Honors Practicum Track ____ Honors Project Track ____
(Practicum or Project, skip to page 2)

Reminder: Honors Thesis Track – up to 9 credits (typically from 3 courses; 2 research courses + 1 Thesis course OR 1 research course + 2 Thesis courses); Honors Practicum Track – up to 6 credits (typically from 2 courses); Honors Project Track – up to 6 credits (from HON 301/2 & HON 401/2)

HONORS RESEARCH: If you are earning course credit for work leading to the thesis, 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).** List thesis credit on the next page.

| | | |
|--------|--------------|----------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Course | Credit hours | Semester |

| | | |
|--------|--------------|----------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Course | Credit hours | Semester |

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.)

FORM CONTINUES ON OPPOSITE SIDE.

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 if applicable).

| | | |
|--------|--------------|----------|
| Course | Credit hours | Semester |
|--------|--------------|----------|

| | | |
|--------|--------------|----------|
| Course | Credit hours | Semester |
|--------|--------------|----------|

HONORS PRACTICUM TRACK ONLY: Please provide the names of your SMBHC group members.-

Return this form to the HoCoCapstone@olemiss.edu once completed. Completed forms include your signature and those of your Thesis Advisor and your Department Chair. We urge you to be sure your Chair notes whether your Capstone work will count toward your major.

| | |
|---------------------|------|
| Student's signature | Date |
|---------------------|------|

By committing to serve as Faculty Advisor of a student's Honors Thesis (Thesis Advisor), you agree to:

1. Guide student in data collection and assist the student in structuring the writing of the document
2. Assist the student to secure any necessary special approvals needed for the work
3. Communicate and meet with the student on a regular basis
4. Assist the student in securing a second reader at the appropriate time (and/or co-advisor where applicable)
5. Direct the student through the production of a high-quality final thesis document
6. Remember and respect that the student is an undergraduate producing an undergraduate thesis not a Master's thesis*

*The goal is to engage honors students in a direct and participatory learning experience. The Honors Thesis is a baccalaureate-level thesis, not merely an extended term paper. The Honors Thesis is similar in process to a Master's Thesis but at a level appropriate to undergraduates.

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Thesis Advisor | Date |
|----------------|------|

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| Thesis Advisor's signature | Date |
|----------------------------|------|

| | |
|---|------|
| Department Chair or School Dean (if applicable) signature | Date |
|---|------|

Courses approved for credit towards major? Yes _____ No _____

SALLY MCDONNELL BARKSDALE HONORS COLLEGE HONORS FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION BUDGET FORM

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 332.**

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

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)