

Student Handbook

2024-2025



THE UNIVERSITY of
MISSISSIPPI

Sally McDonnell Barksdale
Honors College

SMBHC STUDENT HANDBOOK 2023-2024*

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.

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. By the end of each year, students should have completed the following:

First Year:

- Honors 101 in Fall
- Honors 102 in Spring
- At least 12 of the 30 honors hours by end of year
- A minimum 3.20 cumulative GPA by end of year
- Community Action Challenge reported by the last day of each semester (10 hours a semester)

Second Year:

- At least 18 of the 30 honors hours by end of year
- Begin exploring capstone opportunities in your major
- A minimum 3.40 cumulative GPA by end of year
- Community Action Challenge reported by the last day of each semester (10 hours a semester)
- Submit Sophomore petition by **April 1st**

OR

- Choose to end your honors experience at the end of the second year as an Honors Associate, which requires 18 honors hours, CAC reported all four semesters, and at least a 3.25 GPA

Third Year:

- A minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA by end of year
- Submit Honors Capstone form by **November 1st**
- Community Action Challenge reported by the last day of each semester (10 hours a semester)
- Additional honors courses as necessary to graduate with at least 30 honors hours

Fourth Year:

- At least 30 honors hours by end of year
- A minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA
- Community Action Challenge reported for at least one semester (10 hours)
- Notify SMBHC of Second Reader by **September 15th**
- 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

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

Table of Contents

SMBHC TEAM: HOW TO REACH US.....5

COURTESIES.....7

REQUIREMENTS.....8

CAPSTONE.....10

MAKING THINGS WORK.....13

POLICIES.....14

BENEFITS.....16

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS.....20

STUDENT FORMS.....21

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Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College Courtesies

The SMBHC 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; be respectful of honors staff; respect the koi.
- Share space; one student should not "claim" an entire classroom for themselves. Especially during Finals Week, please share classrooms with others; if studying alone, use the dungeon's study carrels.
- Turn off technology in classrooms before you leave or if not in use.
- Keep the SMBHC building clean; keep study rooms tidy; erase boards when you leave a room.
- The university is a smoke-free campus.
- Respect the SMBHC's recycling efforts; put trash in proper containers.
- When studying 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.

REQUIREMENTS

Honors Hours—The curriculum of the Honors College requires a minimum of 30 hours of honors credit. At least 12 hours must be earned by the end of the first year, with Hon 101 and 102 being six of those hours. The other hours will come mainly from honors sections of courses you take to meet general education requirements. In the third and fourth years, most students will earn 1-9 hours of honors credit for their Honors Capstone. Other hours may come from taking honors experiential learning courses, honors conversations, and special topics courses. Honors course offerings are posted on the website each semester during priority registration.

Honors 101/102—These two courses will satisfy the six-hour Freshman Composition requirement. However, if you have earned some or all of those credits through AP, IB, or dual-enrollment, then you may use Hon 101/102 for other requirements. Honors 101 and 102 function differently in the various colleges and schools:

Business/Accountancy/Pharmacy:	6 credit hours of humanities
Engineering/Liberal Arts:	3 credit hours of humanities and 3 credit hours of social science
Education/Applied Sciences/ Journalism:	3 credit hours of humanities and 3 credit hours of elective credit
General Studies:	3 credit hours of humanities and 3 credit hours of social science OR 6 hours to either social sciences or humanities

If you have any questions about how to use honors courses, contact the Academic Counselor.

GPA—A student must have a minimum 3.50 grade point average in order to graduate as a Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors Scholar. In the service of accomplishing this goal, Honors students must attain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.20 at the end of the first year, a 3.40 at the end of the second year, and a 3.50 by the end of the third year. During the fourth year, students should have at least a 3.50 cumulative GPA. Note: The Honors College reviews the cumulative GPA, which includes transfer credit.

Academic Dismissal/Readmittance 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 for their year. For example, a freshman with lower than a 3.20 may pull their GPA up through summer school courses and re-enter the Honors College. To re-enter in a later year, a student needs to have the minimum GPA for that year. In other words, a freshman dismissed for not having a 3.20 would need to have at least a 3.40 as a sophomore to be readmitted.

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 [UM GivePulse](#) and log in using your MyOleMiss credentials. Browse for opportunities that are appealing to you. Students will provide a short summary of the impact in the Review, Reflect, and Feedback portion of the impact in UM GivePulse in order to record the impact of your experiences as an agent of change. Make sure to tag the SMBHC. 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 UM GivePulse. 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 (UM 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.

CAPSTONE

Overview of the Capstone

Every student who graduates from the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College completes a Capstone. A Capstone is a research, creative, pre-professional, or community-transforming project that is carried out over multiple semesters. During the Capstone experience, every student works independently or in a group to research, create, design, or work in their community. For most students, the Capstone is the experience that most directly prepares them for life after college. Whether they start in their career, go to graduate school or medical school, or anything else, working on the Capstone gives students the experience, knowledge, skills, and confidence that prepares them for whatever comes next.

Most students do a Capstone in their major so that they are prepared for the work to be done during the Capstone and so that the work on their Capstone can help meet the requirements of their major. The Honors Capstone usually requires more of a student than a capstone, senior seminar, or senior design project required by a major. If a student has more than one major, they only have to do one Capstone.

The Three Capstone Tracks

The Thesis Track

All capstones involve some research, but the thesis track prioritizes original research or creative activity. The nature of the research, how much is required, and when it is concluded will vary by field. The work often begins in the third year with preliminary research or exploration under the guidance of your thesis advisor, but it can begin sooner in some cases. Thesis-track work is carried out by a single individual under the direct supervision of an advisor or in a lab where the student takes ownership of a role in a larger project.

The length of the written portion of a thesis-track capstone will vary from 30 to 100 pages, depending on your major. A student in the humanities may write a thesis of about 60 to 100 pages. A student in the social sciences may write a thesis of about 30 to 60 pages. A student in the sciences, having spent much time in the laboratory, may write a thesis of about 30 pages. A student in the arts may write a thesis of about 20 to 40 pages that reflects on their work, including their motivations, techniques, context, and their place in the history of the medium; in these cases the thesis provides the academic discourse that grounds that work in your understanding of the challenges and potentials of the field at this time. Note that these are common lengths; you should work with your advisor on meeting disciplinary standards. Students on the thesis track can receive up to nine credit hours toward their thirty honors hours.

The Practicum Track

While the thesis track entails a one-on-one experience between you and your thesis advisor, the practicum track emphasizes either (1) collaborative work or (2) significant pre-professional activity. These come in two kinds.

1. Many disciplines (such as chemical engineering, civil engineering, the Center for Manufacturing Excellence) require a concerted team effort and modeling a professional environment requires

working as part of a team. These are *disciplinary practicums*.

2. You may engage with an interdisciplinary research question raised by a professor or developed by you and your honors peers. The Honors College also offers capstone-launching courses that can be turned into capstones. These are both *interdisciplinary practicums*.

The practicum must be in your major, unless you have joined an interdisciplinary team led by an advisor from another major or you are working in CME. If your major requires a group senior design project (as do most majors in the School of Engineering), the SMBHC accepts that experience, with the expectation that you carry out additional written work to satisfy the honors practicum requirement. There must be a public defense, although it is common for practicum defenses to be done as a group. In Accountancy, the professional presentation in the fall counts as the defense. Students on the practicum track can receive up to six credit hours towards their thirty honors hours. (Accounting students can also count their internship class toward their honors hours because it is an optional 500-level course in their major.) You should enroll in courses appropriate for your practicum to receive credit for your work. Students on the thesis track can receive up to seven credit hours toward their thirty honors hours.

Project Track

While the thesis track entails a one-on-one experience between you and your advisor, and the practicum track emphasizes either collaborative work or significant pre-professional activity, the project track is for those engaged in sustained community-transforming work. Some students start new clubs, they volunteer well beyond the CAC hours, they find community needs to meet, or they otherwise engage in work that has a direct impact on the campus, the city, the state, or beyond. The expectation for a project-track capstone is that the student is engaged in at least 100 hours of community work beyond the research and writing of the capstone. Unlike the other two tracks, there is no expectation that a project-track capstone will be closely tied to the student's major. Because of this, all project-track capstones must receive preliminary approval from the Associate Dean for Capstone.

The project track does involve research, but the expectation is that much of the time that would have been spent on research on a thesis track is instead spent on the community-transforming work. Research might include a literature review or survey, usually with the expectation that the guided research can benefit the work being done in the community.

Students on the project track can receive up to six credit hours toward their thirty honors hours. In the other two tracks, work done on the capstone usually helps a student meet the requirements of their major; this is less common on the project track.

Eligible Advisors and Topics

The topic and the advisor must be in your major, unless approved by the Associate Dean for Capstone. Before submitting your Capstone Form on a capstone outside your major, contact the Associate Dean for Capstone for preliminary approval. The capstone advisor must be a tenure-track faculty member with a terminal degree (such as a PhD, EdD, or MFA) or a research scientist (like those in the School of Pharmacy). A faculty member is likely tenure-track if they have the title "Assistant Professor," "Associate Professor," "Professor," or "Distinguished Professor." If you are considering an advisor at the university who has relevant experience but is not tenure-track or you are not sure, then contact the Associate Dean

for Capstone for preliminary approval.

Timeline for Completing a Capstone

While the Capstone can be started as early as the second year, every student must submit a [Capstone Form](#) by **November 1 of their third year**. Because graduation plans can change and some students plan to graduate in more or less than four years, please keep the Honors College updated of your expected semester of graduation.

Preparing the Capstone Form

The Capstone form will ask you which track you will be on. Please use the guidelines described above to check the appropriate box.

The form will also ask you which courses you will be taking while you work on your Capstone. Use the [Commonly Used Courses](#) page to determine which courses work for your path. When possible, choose one of the listed research or independent study courses in your major for your Capstone credit; this way your work on the Capstone will also help you meet the requirements of your major. We can also use HON 301, 302, 401, and 402, but these should be considered only when an appropriate course in your major is not available or you are on the project track. Before you submit the Capstone form to the Honors College, you should get the (ink or electronic) signature of your thesis advisor and the chair of the department in which you will receive course credit.

After Submitting the Capstone Form

The student and advisor should discuss expectations, deadlines, grading criteria, and how frequently they will meet. Be clear about the work required for each meeting and the agreed-upon deadlines.

In the fall of the student's final year, they must inform the Honors College of their second reader by **September 15**. The second reader is determined by the advisor and student.

If at some point the Honors Capstone takes on a significantly different focus or if the advisor changes, the student should fill out a new Capstone Form.

Students working on capstones may request research funds to support their work, may apply for study-abroad support, and may request funds for conference travel to present their work.

Final Steps

The student must defend the thesis before a committee of three people: the thesis advisor, a second faculty member chosen by the student and the thesis advisor (usually from the advisor's department), and a third reader designated by the Associate Dean for Capstone. 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. This 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 it may be written and defended whenever the advisor determines the student is ready. Completing the capstone a semester early is encouraged.

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 GPAs – 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

Use your first two years with us to select honors sections to fulfill general education requirements and/or to fulfill those introductory level requirements specified by your major (like a certain math or science class). The SMBHC offers honors sections of many 100- and 200-level courses that meet general education requirements across many schools and majors. These are different from regular sections in that they are smaller, and they are taught by tenured or tenure-track professors. **We offer few honors classes in anyone’s major at an advanced level.** Take at least 18 hours in honors before you finish your second year; in some disciplines, you would be wise to earn at least 21 if not 24 before that third year begins.

During the last two years, you should plan to use our honors resources to enrich the path you are designing for yourself. You will earn anywhere from one to nine hours when you undertake your capstone project and write your thesis or practicum. For other hours, use an honors class to fulfill any remaining general education requirements, electives, or indulge the special topics courses or Honors Conversations sections offered every semester. **Or, you can also take a graduate-level course in your major or minor, and earn honors credit for doing so. If the 500-level course is not required for your degree and you are taking it as an elective, tell us and we can count it as honors hours.**

In the back of this Handbook, you will find a form called “Succeeding in Honors.” Use that form to strategize about your honors coursework and to track your choices. *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.

The Option to Become an Honors Scholar

With the number of college hours that some students have from dual-enrollment, AP credit, or IB credit, we know sometimes it’s difficult to earn the minimum 30 honors hours to graduate as a Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors Scholar. However, some students will choose to double or triple-major, or have a major and two or three minors, and earn plenty of honors hours. Others may have a major with a more rigid curriculum where earning honors hours is not possible. For those in the latter category, know that it’s possible to switch from the 4-year honors program to the Honors Scholar program. Honors Scholars still complete a capstone, but beyond that are required to have a minimum of 3 honors hours. Honors Scholars graduate with the distinction of being an Honors Scholar in their major. In every other way, they have the same opportunities and resources of 4-year honors students.

Honors Academic Counseling

The SMBHC has Academic Counselors and 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
- 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) in your major nor do we lift advising holds; however, we are here as a resource.***

You can schedule an appointment with any of the staff through the online appointment calendar on the SMBHC website. ***You are encouraged to meet with the Academic Counselors or Associate Deans at least once per academic year.***

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 every Wednesday 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.

Listservs—The SMBHC also broadcasts much information through listservs. 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). You can also follow student groups within the SMBHC on Instagram: the Honors College Minority Engagement Council (umhoco_mec), Honors Senate (umhocosenate), and the First-Gen Network (firstgen_network).

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 an Academic Counselor or an Associate Dean 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 SMBHC 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 Case(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.*

Academic Dismissal/Re-admittance Policy – Except in cases related to academic discipline, **there is no probationary status for a student.** You are either in good standing or you are not a member of the SMBHC. Academic dismissals will be made after each spring semester. A student can be dismissed based on GPA, lack of CAC records for two or more semesters, or a pattern of non-participating such as no sophomore petition or capstone form. Students will be notified via email.

Students dismissed from the Honors College because of a low GPA may request readmission if they bring their GPA up to the minimum for their year. For example, a student at the end of the first year with lower than a 3.20 may pull their GPA up through summer school courses and re-enter the Honors College that fall. To re-enter a later year, a student needs to meet the minimum GPA requirement for that year. In other words, a first-year dismissed for not having a 3.20 would need to have at least a 3.40 as a second-year to be readmitted.

Students dismissed from the Honors College because of lack of CAC records can still submit their records, then notify the Honors College to regain their standing in the Honors College.

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. 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 shared benefits and the opportunity to step forward for additional honors enhancements to their professional and personal growth.

Honors Housing—RC South is a living-learning community available for most honors freshmen so that you can be part of a social and intellectual community. Through collaboration and conversation, students of the Honors Living-Learning Community will develop lasting relationships and enjoy a wide range of social and community action activities with their Honors peers. Within this environment, students can develop a community of intellectual discussion, especially as they will be studying works in common in the different sections of Hon 101/102.

SMBHC Convocations—Outside the classroom, honors students are expected to attend our annual Honors Convocations. Each semester we are called together to spend an evening 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 our guests to take us through perspectives that deserve our shared time and attention and always challenge our preconceptions.

Priority Registration—Honors students are allowed to register for courses 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 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 academic counselor 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—Stick with the SMBHC beyond freshman year and 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 by application when there is no internship credit in an honors student’s major, or when the student is pursuing an interdisciplinary experience beyond the parameters of departmental internships. Contact Dr. John Samonds at jsamonds@olemiss.edu for more information.

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. This course can be taken a maximum of two times.

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, affordable housing, 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 445, Art and the Republic—this course explores ways in which the arts help construct community identity. Through class discussion, field work, and visits with guest lecturers, students will grapple with conflicts and connections between artistic and societal values, methods, and outcomes. Students will design and carry out a project in their own communities.

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 semester studying abroad or a summer interning for a government agency or other organization, 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.

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. To be considered for these stipends or fellowships, you must submit a complete Honors College Student Fellowship Application; you must have a current FAFSA on file in Financial Aid (unless you are not a U.S. citizen), you must have at least a 3.50 GPA, and you must be in good standing with the SMBHC.

Students interested in studying abroad should contact the Study Abroad Office in Martindale-Cole 318 or online at studyabroad.olemiss.edu to explore all the study abroad options available to you.

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 purchased be retained by the University, not the student.

Conference Funds—Many honors students have their thesis or other 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 only supports conference travel when the student is presenting a poster or paper. The SMBHC does not fund student travel to only attend a conference.

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 awards up to two \$5,000 grants 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. Visit our website for more details.

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. 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, email 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 a 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 lounges, a computer lab, a 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.”

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 (Room 100) provides Honors College students access to computers and printers. Currently, students enjoy free printing in the lab, the lobby, and the Dungeon. 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 is open 24 hours a day, although it 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. You will receive this temporary password in your Ole Miss email.
- **The Kitchen**—Honors students are welcome to use the kitchen. *You are responsible for cleaning up after yourselves and returning any item you might borrow.*

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. 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 2023-2024 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 a college or university), you are invited to be a part of the SMBHC first generation student network! Throughout the academic year, 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 honorsfirstgen@go.olemiss.edu.

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).

Honors College Student Ambassadors - Honors Ambassadors are current Honors students who serve as hosts and hostesses of the SMBHC. Additionally, they help recruit, inform, and engage future SMBHC students. Applications are available at the beginning of the Spring semester. Students who have questions should contact the Head Ambassador Team at smbhcambassadors@gmail.com.

STUDENT FORMS

Visit our website to access [important forms](#), for example:

Capstone Form

Thesis Formatting Guidelines

Sample Thesis Syllabus (First Semester)

Sample Thesis Syllabus (Second Semester)

Internship Approval Form

Research Fellowship Application

Conference Funds Application

Travel Fellowship Application

Withdrawal Form

Honors Scholars Application

These forms are located at <https://www.honors.olemiss.edu/students/forms>