

**THE HONORS COLLEGE HANDBOOK:
A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS AND
ACADEMIC ADVISERS**

2006-2007 Academic Year

**The University of Southern Mississippi
Honors College
Hattiesburg, Mississippi**

*Celebrating our 30th Anniversary
1976 - 2006*

The Honors College

The Honors College at Southern Miss is one of the oldest in the nation. The first classes were taught in 1965 as part of an Honors program, which six years later was named in honor of George R. Olliphant, whose family still provides generous scholarships for high-ability students. The college was formally inaugurated in 1976 and offers special opportunities to students who demonstrate high academic potential, intellectual curiosity, and ambition. During the freshman and sophomore years, Honors undergraduates follow the same general education curriculum as other students but have the advantage of small classes led by experienced professors. Field trips and educational visits form an integral part of the learning experience. Juniors and seniors concentrate on research, taking a specially designed methodology class and preparing a thesis under the guidance of an adviser.

With the exception of the University Forum class (HON 321/322) in the freshman year, a prospectus writing class (HON 301) and the preparation of a thesis (HON 492) in the junior and senior years, Honors students take the same number of credit hours as non-Honors students (students may substitute a research class in their major field of study for the prospectus writing class). However, in order to ensure that they can compete for places in prestigious graduate, law and medical schools, they will be expected to hone their writing skills through essay work and to develop analytical talents through classroom discussion. They must maintain a GPA of at least 3.25, and upon graduation they will be awarded the designation *cum laude*, *magna cum laude* or *summa cum laude*.

The Curriculum

The Honors Curriculum is divided into General Honors (for freshmen and sophomores) and Senior Honors (for juniors and seniors). Students normally enter the College as freshmen and remain through Senior Honors but may enter the program as a rising junior and take just Senior Honors classes. Students who enter as freshmen are expected to complete the curriculum and requirements for both General and Senior Honors. Students must complete Senior Honors in order to graduate with Latin designation.

General Honors students take the same general education curriculum as all other students in the university but must complete at least 22 hours in Honors sections during their freshman and sophomore years. Those Honors sections normally consist of 12-20 students and are taught by experienced instructors, allowing undergraduates regular and easy contact with their professors. Honors faculty promote discussion and emphasize writing in order to train classes in communication skills. Also, they incorporate active learning techniques into their teaching so that students get involved in their academic work and participate in off-campus visits. Data collection and role-playing exercises are an important part of many classes and students may be required to attend sessions on weekends or in the evenings in order to take part in these activities. Compensatory free time will be allowed on other occasions. Normally, students must complete the general education curriculum before proceeding to Senior Honors.

Two of the 22 Honors hours required of General Honors students must be taken in the University Forum class (HON 321 and HON 322), which is offered every fall and every spring. This class, offered on a pass/fail basis and consisting of a series of events, including lectures by university faculty and by visiting speakers, is designed to broaden interests and provide intellectual stimulus in a different format from that of normal classes.

In Senior Honors, the emphasis moves from classwork to independent research. Students are required to take a class in prospectus writing (HON 301) or a research methodology course in their major field of study; however, the primary focus is on the Senior Thesis (HON 492 or departmental 492), which is written with the guidance of an academic adviser. In order to complete Senior Honors, students must also undertake a comprehensive examination in their major field of study. Those who are successful wear a distinctive Honors medallion with their commencement robes and receive a Latin designation on their diplomas (*cum laude* for those who graduate with a GPA of 3.25-3.49, *magna cum laude* for those who graduate with a GPA of 3.50-3.79 and *summa cum laude* for those who graduate with a GPA of 3.80 or higher).

The Students

Freshmen entering the Honors College are academically comparable to those gaining admission to selective private colleges and universities in the Southeast. The statistical information for the freshman class of fall 2006 may be summarized as follows:

Percent with ACT scores of 24 and above:	100%
Percent with ACT scores of 26 and above:	84%
Mean ACT score (range)	28 (24-34)
Percent with GPA of 3.2 and above:	92%
Number of National Merit Semi-finalists	9
Number of National Merit Finalists	6
Percentage of Female Students	57%
Percentage of Male Students	43%

About two-thirds of the students in the Honors College are from Mississippi, with the second largest geographical grouping from Louisiana, Alabama, and Florida. A smaller proportion of students in entering classes is from outside the Southeast. Usually, several students are international scholars; recent classes have included scholars from Europe, the Near East, and Asia.

As a class, the graduating seniors normally have a mean GPA of A- and most enter a graduate or professional school within two years of graduation. Recent graduating Honors scholars entered the following graduate and professional schools, among others:

Baylor University (Medicine)
Catholic University (Graduate)
Cornell University (Veterinary)
Duke University (Graduate)
Emory University (Medicine)
Exeter University, United Kingdom (Graduate)
Florida State University (Graduate)
Georgetown (Law)
Harvard University (Medicine)
Indiana University (Law)
Johns Hopkins University (Graduate)
Louisiana State University (Graduate)
Manhattan School of Music (Graduate)
Mississippi State University (Graduate)
New York University (Law)
Northwestern University (Graduate)
Princeton University (Graduate)
Southern Methodist University (Law)
Stanford (Graduate)
Texas A & M (Graduate)
Tulane University (Law)

University of Alabama (Medicine)
University of Colorado (Graduate)
University of Florida (Graduate)
University of Houston (Graduate)
University of Iowa (Graduate)
University of London, United Kingdom (Graduate)
University of Louisville (Medicine)
University of Maryland (Graduate)
University of Massachusetts (Graduate)
University of Mississippi (Medicine)
University of New Mexico (Graduate)
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Graduate)
University of Oregon (Law/Graduate)
University of Rochester (Graduate)
University of South Florida (Graduate)
University of Southwest Louisiana (Graduate)
University of Texas, Austin (Graduate)
University of Virginia (Law/Graduate)
Vanderbilt University (Graduate)
Virginia Tech University (Graduate)
Washington University of St. Louis (Graduate)
Yale University (Medicine)

Graduates who directly entered the professions, or who attained professional positions after graduate school, accepted the following positions, among others:

Senior Investigator, Merck Research Laboratories
Instructor, Harvard Medical School
Developmental Chemist, Ethyl Corporation
Systems Analyst, Texas Instruments
Nurse, U.S. Public Health Service
Cartographer, National Geographic Society
Research Chemist, Valspar Corporation
Instructor, Teach for America Programs
Acquisitions Editor, Harcourt Brace Publishers
Saxophonist, The Rascher Quartet
Technical Sales Coordinator, Eastman Chemical Company
State Representative, State of Mississippi House of Representatives
Staff Accountant, Ernst and Young, LLP
Accountant, Entergy Corporation
Business Analyst, AMOCO
Technical Director, Pixar Animation Studios
Computer Animator, Industrial Light and Magic, California
Anchor, CNN

Honors College Administration

International Center, Suite 301
118 College Drive #5162
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
Phone: (601) 266.4533, Fax: (601) 266.4534
Web Page: <http://www.usm.edu/honors>
E-mail address: honors @usm.edu

KENNETH J. PANTON, Dean. M.A., University of Edinburgh; Ph.D., King's College, University of London. E-mail address: Kenneth.Panton@usm.edu

PAULA R. MATHIS, Coordinator of Senior Honors and Assistant to the Dean. B.S., M.Ed., University of Southern Mississippi. E-mail address: Paula.Mathis@usm.edu

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TOM LANSFORD, Assistant Dean, Gulf Coast Campus. B.A., Virginia Wesleyan College; M.A., Ph.D., Old Dominion University. E-mail address: Tom.Lansford@usm.edu

PEGGY BROCKMAN VARNADO, Scholarship Officer. B.S., University of Alabama; M.Ed., Loyola University New Orleans. E-mail addresses: Peggy.Varnado@usm.edu or pbvarnado@aol.com.

DAVID DAVIES, University Forum Director. B.A., University of Arkansas, M.A., Ohio State University; Ph.D., University of Alabama. Dave.Davies@usm.edu

The Honors College is administered by a Dean, a Coordinator of General Honors, a Coordinator of Senior Honors, a Director of the University Forum, and a Gulf Coast campus representative.

The Dean coordinates the General and Senior Honors programs, directs curriculum planning and class scheduling, oversees (in conjunction with the departments) faculty selection for Honors classes, hears appeals for admission and scholarship eligibility, and advises on campus-wide communications.

The Coordinator of General Honors directs the high school recruitment program for General Honors and coordinates this program with those of the colleges, oversees admissions, orientation, advisement for General Honors, assists the Honors Student Association, advises on College-sponsored student activities, and assists the Dean.

The Coordinator of Senior Honors oversees recruitment, admissions, orientation, and advisement for Senior Honors, gives initial supervision of senior research projects, organizes College participation in the Southern Regional Honors Council and the National Collegiate Honors Council, and advises College-sponsored student activities.

The Director of the University Forum directs the Forum special events series and coordinates it with other programs on campus.

The Scholarship Officer assists students applying for major national scholarships, such as the Goldwater, the Marshall, the Rhodes, and the Truman.

The Gulf Coast representative coordinates all aspects of the Honors College curriculum at the University's Gulf Coast campus.

The Administrative Secretary coordinates all communications of the Honors College, monitors the budget accounts, provides support service and record keeping for General and Senior Honors, and manages the overall work flow of the office.

HONORS COLLEGE FACULTY 2006-2007

Aronson, Robin, Assistant Professor of Theatre. B.A., Michigan State University; M.F.A., University of Connecticut.

Ball, Angela, Poet in Residence and Professor of English. B.A., Ohio University; M.F.A., University of Iowa; Ph.D., University of Denver.

Berman, Mitchell, Associate Professor of Psychology. B.A., Bloomsburg University, M.A., Ph.D., Kent State University.

Capper, Daniel, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion. B.A., M.A., University of Virginia; Ph.D., University of Chicago.

Conville, Richard, Professor of Speech Communication. B.A., Samford University; M.A., Ph.D., Louisiana State University.

Davies, David, Director of University Forum, Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Letters, and Associate Professor of Journalism. B.A., University of Arkansas, M.A., Ohio State University; Ph.D., University of Alabama.

Dearmey, Michael, Professor of Philosophy and Religion. B.A., Memphis State University; M.A., Ph.D., Tulane University.

Dixon, Clifton, Chair of Department of Geography and Associate Professor of Geography. B.S., M.A., Louisiana State University; Ph.D., Texas A & M University.

Evans, Jeffrey, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry. B.A., Graceland College; Ph.D., University of Kansas Medical Center.

Fitzsimmons, Susan, Chair of Department of Art and Design and Associate Professor of Art. B.A., Webster University; M.F.A., Southern Illinois University; additional studies, Chicago Art Institute.

Forster, Michael, Director, School of Social Work and Associate Professor of Social Work. B.A., Louisiana State University, New Orleans; M.S.W., University of Illinois, Chicago; Ph.D., University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Goertzen, Christopher, Assistant Professor of Music. B.A., Austin College; M.M., Ph.D., University of Illinois.

Hafer, Edward, Assistant Professor of Music. B.A., M.M., Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Hauer, Stanley, Professor of English. B.A., M.A., Auburn University; Ph.D., University of Tennessee.

Klinedinst, Mark A., Professor of Economics. B.A., Clark University; M.A., Ph.D., Cornell University.

Kuczaj, Stanley, Chair of Department of Psychology and Professor of Psychology. B.A., University of Texas, Austin; Ph.D. University of Minnesota.

Lansford, Tom, Associate Professor of Political Science. B.A., Virginia Wesleyan College; M.A., Ph.D., Old Dominion University.

Lares, Jameela, Associate Professor of English. B.A., California State University; M.A., University of Southern California.

Lee, Aimée, Freshman Program Coordinator of Biology Labs. B.S., University of Southern Mississippi.

Lee, Sungwook, Assistant Professor of Mathematics. B.A., M.S., Keimyung University; Ph.D., University of Connecticut.

Lochhead, Robert, Professor of Polymer Science. B.S., Ph.D., Strathclyde University.

McBride, Allan, Associate Professor of Political Science. B.A., Louisiana State University, New Orleans; M.A., University of New Orleans; Ph.D., Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.

Miller, Amy, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Sociology. B.S., University of Alabama; M.A., University of Tennessee; Ph.D., University of Michigan.

Miller, Mark, Professor of Economic Development and Geography. B.S., University of Maryland; M.I.M., Thunderbird; Ph.D., University of Arizona.

Panton, Kenneth, Dean of the Honors College and Professor of Geography. M.A., University of Edinburgh; Ph.D., King's College, University of London.

Reese, Carl "Andy", Assistant Professor of Geography. B.A., M.S., Ph.D., Louisiana State University.

Regan, Jennifer, Director of University Forum and Instructor of Biological Sciences. B.S., University of Southern Mississippi; Ph.D., University of Houston.

Rehner, Timothy, Associate Professor of Social Work and B.S.W. Coordinator. B.A., Asbury College; M.S.W., Indiana University; Ph.D., University of Alabama.

Russell, Gail, Professor of Geology. B.S., M.S., Ph.D., Florida State University.

Smithka, Paula J., Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion. B.A., B.S., University of North Carolina; M.A., Ph.D., Tulane University.

Steedman, Marek, Assistant Professor of Political Science. B.A, Ph.D., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Stellhorn, David, Assistant Professor of Theater. B.A., California State University, Fresno; M.F.A., University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Weinauer, Ellen, Associate Professor of English. B.A., University of Wisconsin; M.A., Ph.D., Indiana University.

Wiest, Andrew, Professor of History. B.S., M.A., The University of Southern Mississippi; Ph.D., University of Illinois at Chicago.

Young, Amy, Professor of Anthropology. B.A., University of Louisville; M.A., Ph.D., The University of Tennessee.

GENERAL HONORS

Admission

The limited number of places in the entering class of 100 to 150 freshmen each year and the high number of applicants make admission to the Honors College competitive. Admission is based on an excellent record of achievement on the ACT (or SAT) and in high school classes, extracurricular activities, (including work experience and community service), honors, awards, elected offices and other achievements, an original essay, and in some cases an interview.

Advisement and Counseling

Entering students in General Honors are advised during a special preregistration day for Honors freshman in April or at a University orientation (Preview) the summer before their freshman year. During this advisement, students see an adviser from the Honors College, as well as an adviser from the college or department of their proposed major. Subsequently, Honors students may request Honors advisement, as needed, during the term. Advisement of a general nature for all Honors freshmen and sophomores is undertaken about two weeks before registration each semester. Individual advisement, by appointment, takes place during the scheduled advisement period before registration each semester. Honors students who have not declared a major (that is, General Studies students) are advised in Honors. The Coordinator of General Honors usually advises students in General Honors but students may also seek advice and counseling from the Dean or the Coordinator of Senior Honors.

Requirements for Good Standing

Students in the Honors College are expected to recognize the implications of 'honor' and take them seriously. They should serve as leaders and models in the University community. They are expected to maintain high standards of academic integrity, personal conduct, and campus citizenship, at all times conforming to the University's code of student conduct. They must attend class regularly, submit timely, original assignments and exert a sustained effort to succeed in their academic work. Students found guilty of plagiarism or any academic dishonesty will be expelled from the Honors College.

In addition, students who accept a scholarship to attend the Honors College are expected to fulfill the terms of that scholarship (that is, timely graduation from the Honors College with successful completion of the General and Senior Honors programs).

A student must be in good standing to receive scholarship aid from the Honors College (\$150 a semester for a total of \$1,200 over eight semesters) and to be recognized as an Honors graduate at commencement. To be in good standing in General Honors, a student must be on track within the curriculum and must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.25. Entering freshmen who fall below the required 3.25 average in their first semester are given the next (probationary) semester to bring the overall GPA to 3.25. However, students forfeit the probationary semester if their cumulative GPA is below 2.50. Second-semester freshmen and sophomores whose GPA falls between 3.15 and 3.24 may receive probation for one semester, providing they have not already had a probationary semester. No Honors College student may receive more than one semester of probation with scholarship.

Presidential Scholars must maintain an overall GPA of 3.25 or higher. Scholars who fall below 3.25 may be granted a one-time-only probation with scholarship. However, students forfeit the probationary semester if their cumulative GPA is below 2.50. Also, students whose cumulative GPA remains below 3.25 after one semester's probation will not continue to receive the Presidential Scholarship. All Presidential Scholars in good standing wishing to live off campus after their sophomore year may apply to the Dean of the Honors College for permission to do so. Those permitted to live in a fraternity house, in Panhellenic, or off campus will receive a room-and-board allotment equal to the on-campus Honors housing and meal rate. Presidential Scholars who plan to work part-time jobs must seek formal permission to do so from the Dean.

It is expected that all Honors College students are full-time students at the University. A student who plans to take less than a full load of courses in a given semester should notify the Dean's Office of this intention; the Honors College scholarship will be adjusted to reflect the number of hours carried. To remain in good standing, Honors College students must make regular progress toward fulfilling the requirements of the Honors College curriculum. Students who take no Honors College courses in a given semester will not receive the Honors College scholarship for that semester without prior written approval from the Dean.

Honors College students should have completed university core requirements and General Honors requirements before admission to Senior Honors. In exceptional circumstances (for example, study abroad, major illness or change of major), General Honors students will be given the first semester of their junior year to complete core requirements.

Honors Housing

Honors housing, Mississippi Hall for women and Hattiesburg Hall for men, is an option for students in the Honors College. Only Honors students will be assigned to spaces in Honors housing, and the Department of Residence Life will make assignments on a first-come, first-served basis. To learn more about the housing application process, please visit the Southern Miss Residence Life Web site at www.usm.edu/reslife.

Honors College students who resign or are suspended from the Honors College must give up their space in Honors housing when the Honors College needs the room for another Honors student and, in any case, no later than the fall of the next academic year. Students should work with the Office of Residence Life to seek alternative on-campus housing.

College Credit through the Advanced Placement Program, the International Baccalaureate Program and the College Level Examination Program

Freshmen entering General Honors often gain credit for lower-division courses through the Advanced Placement (AP) Program, the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program or through the College Level Examination Program (CLEP). For further information, including a brochure on AP, IB and CLEP credit, students may contact the Admissions Office, Room 110E, Kennard-Washington Hall (Student Services Building), 118 College Drive #5166, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001, or admissions@usm.edu.

Study Abroad

Honors College students may apply, through the Office of International Programs, for international study in an exchange semester, or year abroad, in Swansea (Wales), Bonn (Germany), Paris (France), Victoria (Canada), London and Exeter (England), Merida (Mexico), Sydney (Australia), and Madrid (Spain). Students who plan to spend a semester or year abroad must meet with the Dean or Coordinator of General Honors (for freshmen or sophomores who plan to study abroad) or the Coordinator of Senior Honors (for juniors or seniors who plan to study abroad) before their departure to plan Honors course work after their return. Students may apply for travel awards to help cover the cost of summer, semester, or year-long study abroad programs. Summer, semester and year-long travel award applications should be submitted by the end of March. Applications are available [here](#).

Required and Recommended Courses for General Honors

Specific requirements and suggestions for the Honors College general education curriculum are as follows:

- I. WRITING AND ORAL COMMUNICATION (6 hours)**
Composition
ENG 101, 102.....6
Required: 6 hours preferably in Honors sections.
- II. BASIC SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS (11 hours)**
Laboratory Sciences.....8
Required: 8 hours, preferably in Honors sections.
See list of laboratory sciences in general education curriculum.
Mathematics.....3
Required: 3 hours in Mathematics 101 or higher level course.
- III. GLOBAL HISTORY AND CULTURE (14 hours)**
Humanities.....12
Required: 12 hours in
a) ANT 101, GHY 101, or SOC 101;
b) ENG 203;
c) HIS 101 or HIS 102;
d) HIS 101, HIS 102, PHI 151, or REL 131,
preferably in Honors sections.
University Forum
Honors 321, 322.....2
Required: 2 hours in the first year.
- IV. AESTHETIC VALUES (3 hours)**
Required: 3 hours in ART 130, DAN 107, MUS 365, or
THE 100, preferably in Honors sections3
- V. DECISION-MAKING AND RESPONSIBILITY (3 hours)**
Required: 3 hours in ECO 101, PHI 171, PS 101,
PSY 110, COH 100, or COH 101, preferably in Honors sections3

Note: Honors College students may also have to take additional or distinct core courses required specifically for their major and should consult their departmental advisers for details. In addition, each student must take two Writing Intensive courses, normally in the major or minor field. Such courses are designated in the annual Class Schedule Guide with the course suffix WI.

Honors College students should normally have completed university core requirements and General Honors requirements before admission to Senior Honors. In exceptional circumstances (for example, study abroad, major illness, or a change of major), General Honors students will be given the first semester of their junior year to complete core requirements.

SENIOR HONORS

Admission

To enter Senior Honors, a student must

- a) have completed General Honors in good standing or
- b) have a GPA of 3.25 or higher on at least 40 hours, written recommendations from two professors, and the approval of the student's major department.

Advisement and Counseling

Senior Honors students should make an appointment for advisement during the scheduled advisement period each semester. The Coordinator for Senior Honors advises students in Senior Honors, but students may also seek individual advisement and counseling from the Dean or the Coordinator of General Honors.

Requirements for Good Standing

Students in the Honors College are expected to recognize the implications of 'honor' and take them seriously. They should serve as leaders and models in the University Community. They are expected to maintain high standards of academic integrity, personal conduct, and campus citizenship, at all times conforming to the University's code of student conduct. They must attend class regularly, submit timely, original assignments, and exert a sustained effort to succeed in their academic work. Students found guilty of plagiarism or any academic dishonesty will be expelled from the Honors College.

In addition, students who accept a scholarship to attend the Honors College are expected to fulfill the terms of that scholarship (that is, timely graduation from the Honors College with successful completion of the Senior Honors program).

A student must be in good standing to receive scholarship aid from the Honors College (\$150 a semester for a total of \$600 over four semesters) and to be recognized as an Honors graduate at commencement. To be in good standing in Senior Honors, a student must be on track within the curriculum and must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.25. Senior Honors students who fall below the required 3.25 average in their first semester are given the next (probationary) semester to bring the overall GPA to 3.25. However, students forfeit the probationary semester if their cumulative GPA is below 3.00.

Presidential Scholars must maintain an overall GPA of 3.25 or higher. Scholars who fall below 3.25 may be granted a one-time-only probation with scholarship. However, students forfeit the probationary semester if their cumulative GPA is below 3.00. Also, students whose cumulative GPA remains below 3.25 after one semester's probation will not continue to receive the Presidential Scholarship. All Presidential Scholars in good standing wishing to live off campus after their sophomore year may apply to the Dean of the Honors College for permission to do so. Those permitted to live in a fraternity house, in Panhellenic, or off campus will receive a room-and-board

allotment equal to the on-campus Honors housing and meal rate. Presidential Scholars who plan to work part-time jobs must seek formal permission to do so from the Dean. No Honors College student may receive more than one semester of probation with scholarship.

It is expected that all Honors College students will be full-time students at the University. A student who plans to take less than a full load of courses in a given semester should notify the Dean's Office of this intention; the Honors College scholarship will be adjusted to reflect the number of hours carried. To remain in good standing, Honors College students must make regular progress toward fulfilling the requirements of the Honors College curriculum. Students who take no Honors College courses in a given semester will not receive the Honors College scholarship for that semester, without prior written approval from the Dean.

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Honors housing, Mississippi Hall for women and Hattiesburg Hall for men, is an option for students in the Honors College. Only Honors students will be assigned to spaces in Honors housing, and the Department of Residence Life will make assignments on a first-come, first-served basis. To learn more about the housing application process, please visit the Southern Miss Residence Life Web site at www.usm.edu/reslife.

Honors College students who resign or are suspended from the Honors College must give up their space in Honors housing when the Honors College needs the room for another Honors student and, in any case, no later than the fall of the next academic year. Students should work with the Office of Residence Life to seek alternative on-campus housing.

Study Abroad

Honors College students may apply through the Office of International Programs for international study in an exchange semester or year abroad, offered in Swansea (Wales), Bonn (Germany), Paris Orléans, or Perpignan (France), Victoria (Canada), Keele, or Exeter (England), Merida (Mexico), Sydney (Australia), and Madrid and Jaen (Spain). Students who plan to spend a semester or year abroad must meet with the Dean or Coordinator of Senior Honors before their departure to plan Honors course work after their return. Students may apply for travel awards to help cover the cost of summer, semester or year-long programs. Summer, semester and year-long travel award applications should be submitted by the end of March. Travel award applications are available [here](#).

Required Courses for Senior Honors

Because the Senior Honors program emphasizes independent study, research, and the writing of a Senior Honors thesis, the number of required courses within the curriculum is relatively modest. Students must complete prospectus writing (HON 301) or a research methodology course in their major field of study before beginning the senior year and must complete a senior thesis (HON 492).

Specific requirements for Senior Honors are as follows:

HON 301 (Prospectus Writing or research methodology course in major department).....	3
Must be taken at least one year prior to the anticipated semester of graduation and students must submit the prospectus to the Honors College for approval after completing the class.	
HON 492 (Senior Thesis or other major department research course)*.....	3
Students must register for a minimum of one hour of the 492 course in the semester following completion of HON 301 and must be continuously enrolled in the course for a minimum of one hour each semester thereafter until the thesis is complete.	
Comprehensive Examination in the Major	

6

*The Senior Thesis must be done in the student's major unless specific approval is given by the Dean of the Honors College for a project in the minor.

Additional Requirements for Senior Honors

After identifying a thesis adviser, students should submit a completed [Notification of Thesis Adviser Selection and Agreement](#) form to the Honors College. If the student's thesis adviser changes, the student is responsible for notifying the Honors College of the change and submitting an updated notification form. In addition, when enrolled in the HON 492 or departmental research course, students must submit a [Progress Report](#) on the thesis twice each semester:

1. On or before the last day to drop full-semester courses (Midsemester Report) and
2. On or before the Friday before final exam week (End-of-semester Report)

However, in the semester of graduation, students will submit only the Midsemester Report, as the completed thesis must be delivered to the Honors College two weeks prior to commencement.

Graduating With Senior Honors

(Note the firm deadlines in the calendar at the back of the *Handbook*. Students who miss deadlines will jeopardize their graduation with Latin designation.)

Students wishing to graduate with Latin designation (*summa cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, or *cum laude*) must meet the following requirements:

1. The Prospectus

The Honors College requires students to submit to the Honors College, **no later than two semesters prior to graduation**, a prospectus acceptable to the thesis adviser, department chair, and Dean of the Honors College. Honors 301 (Prospectus Writing) provides three hours of credit for an introduction to research methodology and is required of all Senior Honors students. However, with prior approval of the Coordinator of Senior Honors, students may substitute their major departmental research methodology course. Students must take the course during the junior year. In the event that the thesis project is redefined, the student must submit for approval a revised prospectus. (The appendix to this *Handbook* provides guidelines for the prospectus, and the calendar notes specific deadlines.)

2. The Thesis

The exact nature of the thesis will be decided by the student and the proper representative of the major department. However, the following general guidelines should be observed:

- 1) The project should reflect significant individual effort that involves library research, laboratory research, or field research.
- 2) The project must conform to accepted scholarly procedure within the discipline of the major field. The project may be creative, as opposed to derivative, and subject to the discretion and specific prior approval of the department chair involved and the Dean of the Honors College. However, a creative project must be executed within the framework of accepted scholarly procedure (that is, a student who produces a creative effort should introduce that effort by adequate discussion of the nature of the creative form involved, including an indication of familiarity with other examples of the form).
- 3) The project must be done in the area of the student's major, unless specific approval is given by the Dean of the Honors College for a project in the area of the student's minor.
- 4) A joint project by two or more students is permissible if specifically approved in advance by the appropriate department chair and the Dean. Such a project should be defined in discussion with the project director, the appropriate chair, and the Honors Dean. (The appendix to this *Handbook* provides guidelines for the thesis and the calendar notes specific deadlines.)

3. Comprehensive Examination

The comprehensive examination must be taken **no later than four weeks before the end of the semester in which the student will graduate**. The examination may be written or oral, at the option of the major department. Although the exact nature of the examination will be determined by the department involved, there are general guidelines:

- a. The examination should be designed so that it does not exceed three hours.
- b. The examination should test the candidate's general knowledge of the field of the major rather than specialized information about some particular aspect of the major.
- c. The examination should be uniform for all candidates within a particular semester.

It is the responsibility of the student to contact the department chair and request that the comprehensive examination be designed and administered. These arrangements should be made **one**

semester in advance. The Department must notify the Honors College, in writing, of the results of the comprehensive examination two weeks prior to graduation.

4. Notification to Department, Application for Degree and Honors College Attachment

Students must notify their department chair in writing of their intent to graduate with Latin designation and request the scheduling of the comprehensive examination. **The chair must be notified by midsemester prior to the semester of graduation.** A copy of the letter should be sent to the Coordinator of Senior Honors.

In addition, each student should print and complete the Application for Degree **by midterm of the semester prior to graduation.** The Application may be found on the University Registrar's website at www.usm.edu/registrar.

When the Honors College receives a copy of the letter of notification to the department, the student's Honors record will be reviewed and an Honors College Attachment will be prepared. The Attachment will be mailed to the student's local mailing address and the student should fasten the Attachment to his/her Application for Degree and then submit it to the Dean's Office of his/her major. **It is the responsibility of the student to meet the deadline for filing the Application for Degree.**

5. Completing the Thesis

The student must submit a draft of the thesis to the thesis director and a progress report on the thesis to the Coordinator of Senior Honors **midterm of the semester in which he or she will graduate.** The student must submit the completed thesis to the thesis director **three weeks after the draft is submitted.** (See the guidelines in the appendices.) The original and one copy, together with the binding fee receipt, must be delivered to the Honors College office **no later than two weeks prior to graduation.** Students planning to graduate with Senior Honors should check the calendar in the *Honors College Handbook* concerning specific dates for completion of the comprehensive exam and submission of the approved thesis.

6. Latin Designations

Students completing requirements in Senior Honors with a cumulative GPA of 3.25 to 3.49 will graduate *cum laude*, those with a cumulative GPA of 3.50 to 3.79 will graduate *magna cum laude*, and those with an overall GPA of 3.80 or above will graduate *summa cum laude*.

APPENDICES

Guide for Writing the Prospectus

The Prospectus will include (in this order)

1. A title page (see sample).
2. An approval page with spaces for the signatures of the thesis director, the department chair, and the Dean of the Honors College (see sample).
3. An outline, in no more than 300 words, of the subject for investigation.
4. A brief statement of the purpose of the project and its value to the academic discipline chosen.
5. A preliminary outline of the thesis.
6. If appropriate, a description of work already done in relation to the project.
7. A preliminary bibliography

The prospectus should be typed, double-spaced and submitted to the Honors College. After the Dean of the Honors College has reviewed the prospectus, the student will receive a letter approving or disapproving it. A copy of the letter will also be sent to the student's adviser. The original will remain in the student's file in the Honors College. If, once under way, the thesis project changes, the student must submit a revised prospectus for approval.

The prospectus title page will be as follows:

The University of Southern Mississippi

TITLE

by

Name

A Prospectus of
a Thesis
Submitted to the Honors College of
The University of Southern Mississippi
in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree of
Bachelor of Arts (of Science, of Business Administration, etc.)
in the Department of _____

Month Year

The prospectus approval page will be as follows:

Approved by

1st line — Signature of the thesis director
Under that line, type name and title.

For example:

Jameela Lares
Associate Professor of English

2nd line — Signature of the department chair
Under that line, type name and title.

For example:

Michael Mays, Interim Chair
Department of English

3rd line — Signature of the Dean of the Honors College
Under that line, type name and title.

For example:

Kenneth J. Panton, Dean
Honors College

GUIDE FOR WRITING THE SENIOR THESIS

1. Documentation

Documentation (footnotes, bibliography, etc.) of the thesis should follow the style dictated by the department of the student's major.

2. Specifications

Each copy of the thesis should have the following pages, in the following order, at the beginning of the thesis: title page, blank page (page ii), approval page (page iii), blank page (page iv), table of contents (page v). (See attached sample of title and approval pages.) All typed pages must bear a number except for the title page (which is counted but not numbered). The page number should be aligned with the right margin one inch from the top of the page or centered one inch from the bottom of the page.

All pages must have a left-hand margin of 1 1/2 inches and other margins of 1 inch. Tables, figures, and graphs, whether one or several per page, must also be contained within these margins. Symbols, elaborate mathematical equations, and other usual notations, may be neatly hand executed in black ink. Double spacing should be used throughout the text, with the exception of footnotes, table titles, block quotations, and reference lists.

All copies of the thesis must be on white paper of 100 percent cotton quality. This type of paper may be found in stores that stock school supplies, including national chain stores. The thesis may be reproduced by photo duplication provided that the paper regulations are followed and that the reproductions are of high quality. All signatures must be original. Because each thesis will become a part of the permanent collection of the Southern Miss library, certain specifications are necessary to ensure the durability of the thesis as well as to facilitate binding and microfilming.

Each copy should be placed in a manila envelope with an additional title page taped to the outside of the envelope. It is essential that the type on all copies of the thesis be clear, black, and neat. A letter-quality printer or electric typewriter should be used. Corrections in the final typed draft may not be made in ink or pencil but must be made by a typewriter. (White liquid correction fluid, or an appropriate alternative, may be used.)

3. Binding

The student will pay an Honors thesis binding fee of \$14 per copy. At least two copies will be bound, one for the Cook Library and one for security in the library. Students who wish additional copies to be bound for personal use will pay an extra \$14 for each copy.

Because of the large number of graduate theses and dissertation binding fees handled in the accounting office, it is imperative that those processing the binding fee in the Business Office be given the **Honors Theses Chartfield string 14H40 390001 04001** when the fee is paid.

The Honors College sends the completed theses and copies to a bindery. Students wishing to receive a personal bound copy should provide the Honors College a self-addressed postage-paid (\$7.00) padded envelope for mailing of each copy and deliver it to the Honors College at the time the senior thesis is submitted.

The thesis title page will be as follows:

The University of Southern Mississippi

TITLE

by

Name

A Thesis

Submitted to the Honors College
of The University of Southern Mississippi
in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree of
Bachelor of Arts (of Science, of Business Administration, etc.)
in the Department of _____

Month Year

The thesis approval page will be as follows:

Approved by

1st line — Signature of the thesis director
Under that line, type name and title.

For example:

Jameela Lares
Associate Professor of English

2nd line — Signature of the department chair
Under that line, type name and title.

For example:

Michael Mays, Interim Chair
Department of English

3rd line — Signature of the Dean of the Honors College
Under that line, type name and title.

For example:

Kenneth J. Panton, Dean
Honors College

CONSTITUTION OF THE HONORS STUDENT ASSOCIATION

PREAMBLE:

The Honors Student Association (HSA) of The University of Southern Mississippi will exist to enhance the educational experience of the Honors College students by promoting effective communication and unity among Honors College students and between Honors College students and students throughout the University. The HSA will serve as a liaison between Honors College students and the Honors administration and faculty and will help to promote the objectives and opportunities of the Honors College within the University community.

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. Membership in the Association will be open to all students who are members of the Honors College.
- Section 2. Membership will be maintained through the payment of annual dues and terminated upon departure from the Honors College.

ARTICLE II: VOTING

- Section 1. Each member will be entitled to one vote in all transactions of the Association. Each individual will be entitled to one vote only.
- Section 2. A majority of all votes cast will be required to effect policy and commence action.

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

- Section 1. The officers of the HSA will be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Web Master, a Public Relations Representative, and two student representatives to the Honors Council (one for the Freshman and Sophomore classes and one for the Junior and Senior classes).
- Section 2. Said officers will be elected by majority vote at the last meeting of the spring semester to serve the following fall and spring semesters.
- Section 3. The President and Vice President will be elected from those members who will have sophomore or higher standing during the term in which they serve. In addition, the President is required to have served at least one (1) term in another HSA office. All other offices will be open to all members of the HSA.
- Section 4. The President will preside at all meetings, appoint various committees, form temporary committees as he/she deems necessary, be the official spokesperson for the HSA, and perform any duties that pertain to the office of President.

CALENDAR

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2006-2007

	Senior Honors Orientation (2:30-3:30 p.m., International Center, Room 101)
	General Honors Orientation for students whose names begin with the letters A-M (2:30-3:30 p.m., International Center, Room 101)
	General Honors Orientation for students whose names begin with the letters N-Z (2:30-3:30 p.m., International Center, Room 101)
Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2006	Welcome Back Party (5-6:15 p.m., in front of Bennett Auditorium)
Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2006	Mandatory Forum Orientation (6:30 p.m., Bennett Auditorium)
Thursday, Oct. 24, 2006	Presidential Scholars' Foundation Luncheon (noon – 1 p.m., Union)
Friday, Oct. 27, 2006	Honors Day
Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2006	Holiday Party (2:30 - 4:30 p.m., Union)
Friday, Feb. 9, 2007	Presidential Scholarship Competition (Student Union)
Friday, March 30, 2007	Last day to submit an application for an Honors College Travel Award to Dean's Office. (Forms are available here .)
Friday, April (TBA) 2007	Priority Preview (Freshman Preregistration) (Student Union)
Senior Symposia	
Friday, July 21, 2006	International Center, Room 318

August Graduation 2006 Thesis Schedule

Friday, 12/09/05 - Last day to submit prospectus for senior project for August 2006 graduation.

Friday, 3/31/06 - Last day to submit letter of intent to graduate with Honors to department chair and Dean of the Honors College. Note: The Honors attachment to the application for degree will not be prepared until the Honors College receives a copy of the letter.

Friday, 4/7/06 – Last day to file application for August graduation.

Friday, 6/23/06 - Completed draft of the thesis must be submitted to the adviser. Also, last day to submit title of the thesis to the Honors College (via e-mail: honors@usm.edu) for the Symposium program.

Friday, 7/7/06 - Revised thesis must be submitted to the adviser for final approval. Also, last day for comprehensive examination to be taken. Results of exam must be reported to the Honors College office.

Friday, 7/21/06 - Senior Symposium and last day for results of the comprehensive examination to be submitted to the Honors College Office. Also, the original and one copy of the thesis, signed by the adviser and department chair, together with receipt from the Business Office for binding, due in the Honors College office. Additional copies for personal use and the receipts for binding should be submitted on this date as well.

Note that commencement occurs only in the fall and spring semesters.

December Graduation 2006 Thesis Schedule

Friday, 5/12/06 - Last day to submit prospectus for senior project for December 2006 graduation.

Friday, 6/30/06 – Last day to submit letter of intent to graduate with Honors, including request for scheduling of the comprehensive exam, to department chair and Dean of the Honors College.

Friday, 7/7/06 - Last day to file application for December 2006 graduation.

Friday, 10/6/06 - Last day to submit completed mid-term [Progress Report](#) on thesis to the Honors College.

Friday, 11/3/06 - Completed draft of the thesis must be submitted to the adviser.

Friday, 11/17/06 - Revised thesis must be submitted to the adviser for final approval. Also, last day for comprehensive examination to be taken. Results of exam must be reported to the Honors College Office.

Friday, 12/1/06 - Last day for results of the comprehensive examination to be submitted to the Honors College Office. Also, the original and one copy of the thesis, signed by the adviser and department chair, together with receipt from the Business Office for binding, due in the Honors College Office. Additional copies for personal use and the receipts for binding should be submitted on this date as well.

Friday, 12/8/06 – Last day to submit completed “Questionnaire for Graduating Seniors.” After submitting the thesis, receipt for binding, and the questionnaire, students may pick up their medallions in the Honors College Office.

Friday, 12/15/06 - Commencement.

May Graduation 2007 Thesis Schedule

Friday, 8/11/06 - Last day to submit prospectus for senior project for May 2007 graduation.

Friday, 10/27/06 - Last day to submit letter of intent to graduate with Honors, including request for scheduling of the comprehensive exam, to department chair and Dean of the Honors College.

Friday, 11/3/06 – Last day to file application for May 2007 graduation.

Wednesday, 12/6/06 – If you are currently enrolled in HON 492 (or departmental research course) -- Last day to submit completed mid-term [Progress Report on Thesis](#) to the Honors College

Friday, 2/23/07 – Last day to submit completed mid-term [Progress Report](#) on thesis to the Honors College.

Friday, 3/23/07 - Completed draft of the thesis must be submitted to the adviser.

Friday, 4/13/07 - Revised thesis must be submitted to the adviser for final approval. Also, last day for comprehensive examination to be taken. Results of exam must be reported to the Honors College office.

Friday, 4/27/07 – Last day for results of the comprehensive examination to be submitted to the Honors College office. The original and one copy of the thesis, signed by the adviser and department chair, together with receipt from the Business Office for binding, due in the Honors College office. Additional copies for personal use and the receipts for binding should be submitted on this date as well.

Friday, 5/4/07 – Last day to submit completed “Questionnaire for Graduating Seniors.” After submitting the thesis, receipt for binding, and the questionnaire, you may pick up your medallion in the Honors College office.

Friday, 5/11/07 - Commencement.

August Graduation 2007 Thesis Schedule

Friday, 12/8/06 - Last day to submit prospectus for senior project for August 2007 graduation.

Note: Additional August information will be posted after the University Registrar’s Office publishes the academic calendar for the 2007 summer semester.