



2010 COMPETITIVE FRESHMAN PROGRAMS APPLICATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI • HATTIESBURG CAMPUS

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2010 (POSTMARKED)

For entering freshmen only

Students who are entering Southern Miss the fall semester immediately following high school graduation may apply. In order to be considered for any of these scholarships, you must have been admitted to the University or have submitted all necessary information for admission evaluation (application for admission, \$35 nonrefundable application fee, transcript, and ACT or SAT scores) by the scholarship consideration deadline of February 1.

This completed application and all supporting materials should be mailed to the Office of Admissions, 118 College Drive #5166, Hattiesburg, MS 39406.

Students may be considered for multiple merit-based and competitive scholarships offered through the Office of Admissions, but only one scholarship offer may be accepted.*

Please note that only standardized test scores earned through December 2009 (ACT) and January 2010 (SAT) will be considered.**

THIS IS A COMMON APPLICATION THAT MAY BE USED BY STUDENTS WHO WISH TO APPLY FOR ONE OR A COMBINATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

- **Leadership Scholarship**

The Leadership Scholarship is a \$16,000 award (payable over four years) for students who have a strong academic history, a proven record of leadership in high school and community activities, and exceptional leadership potential at Southern Miss.

- **Luckyday Foundation Citizenship Scholarship (Mississippi residents only)**

The Luckyday Foundation Citizenship Scholarship is a \$16,000 award (payable over four years) for exemplary students who have a 3.0 high school grade point average, who are outstanding citizens committed to service in the community, campus involvement and academic excellence, and who need financial assistance for college.

- **Admission to the Honors College**

Admission to the Honors College is competitive. Successful applicants are offered admission based on a combination of performance on standardized tests (ACT/SAT), high school academic record, evidence of creativity and leadership, and relative strength of the applicant pool. Generally, the *minimum* criteria for consideration are 27 ACT (combined SAT score of 1210**) and a 3.5 high school grade point average, as computed by The University of Southern Mississippi (core GPA as determined by the Office of Admissions***).

- **Presidential Scholarship**

Students scoring a minimum composite 30 ACT/combined SAT score of 1330,** National Merit Commended Students, and National Achievement Semifinalists who are admitted to the Honors College are typically considered for the Presidential Scholarship, which is valued at approximately \$48,000 (for Mississippi residents). Presidential Scholarships are designed to cover the cost of attendance for four years, including tuition (and out-of-state fees, if applicable), campus housing, a meal plan and a book stipend for four years.

SECTION I – REQUIRED FOR ALL APPLICANTS (PAGES 1-8)

All applicants must submit the following:

- Biographical information
- Financial assessment
- Counselor school report (completed by your school counselor)
- History of extracurricular activities and honors
- Two recommendations: one from a teacher with whom you have taken a class and the other from a teacher or individual who sponsors or advises a school, community or church activity in which you participate

SECTION II – APPLICATION FOR LEADERSHIP AWARD & LUCKYDAY FOUNDATION CITIZENSHIP SCHOLARSHIP (PAGE 9)

Applicants who wish to be considered for the Leadership Award and Luckyday Foundation Citizenship Scholarship must also submit:

- Responses to all three short essay questions listed on page 9

SECTION III – APPLICATION FOR HONORS COLLEGE ADMISSION (PAGE 10)

Applicants who wish to be considered for admission to the Honors College must also submit:

- Responses to two essay questions (choose two of three essay options) listed on page 10
- Responses to all short answer questions listed on page 10

Presidential Scholarship consideration: Students with a composite 30 ACT/combined SAT of 1330** or higher who are admitted to the Honors College will be considered for the Presidential Scholarship. If you would like to be considered for the Presidential Scholarship, you must first apply for admission to the Honors College. If you are granted admission to the Honors College and meet the Presidential Scholarship requirements, you will automatically be considered for the Presidential Scholarship. Thus, the application for admission to the Honors College serves as the application for the Presidential Scholarship.

** Students may accept only one scholarship offered through the Office of Admissions. The only exception is the Regional Award, the scholarship waiving out-of-state fees for nonresident students; the Regional Award may be combined with one other Office of Admissions-based scholarship. However, students can accept multiple scholarships offered through other departments at The University of Southern Mississippi or scholarships offered through sources outside of the University. Such outside or departmental scholarships may be “stacked” with Office of Admissions-based scholarships.*

*** The written portion of the SAT is not considered for admission or scholarship awarding purposes; the student’s combined verbal and quantitative scores will be used.*

**** Core GPA is calculated with the student’s grades earned in coursework that is part of the college preparatory curriculum (CPC). Core GPA is computed on a 4-point scale; thus, weighted grades earned in AP, advanced or honors classes are not factored into core GPA. Core GPA is used for admission and scholarship-awarding purposes.*



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Part D

History of Extracurricular Interests and Activities (Required from all applicants)

Instructions: In order of importance to you, please attach a thorough list of interests and activities to which you have committed significant amounts of time and energy during grades 9-12, and indicate whether you held an officer position or leadership role. Include any awards or special recognition. Also, please explain any activities or awards that are unique to your school or community so that we can better understand the significance of the activity or award.

Part E

Recommendations (Required from all applicants)

Submission of two recommendations is required:

1. One from a teacher with whom you have had a class; and
2. One from a teacher or individual who advises or sponsors a school, community or church activity in which you participate

Please ask your references to use the form provided in this application packet. Please do not attach additional letters of recommendation.

Please do not submit more than the required two recommendations. Only two will be considered. You should submit your completed recommendations with this application packet.

RATING

Compared to other students with whom you have worked, how do you rate this student in terms of:

	No basis	Below Average	Average	Good/ Above Average	Very Good/ Well Above Average	Excellent/ Top 10%	Outstanding/ Top 5%	One of the Top Few Encountered in my Career
Academic achievement								
Academic motivation								
Academic potential								
Intellectual creativity								
Critical thinking								
Emotional maturity								
Self-confidence								
Leadership								
Concern for others								
Work ethic								
Communication skills								
Organizational skills								
Punctuality								
Positive attitude								
Honesty and integrity								
Respect accorded by peers								
Respect accorded by faculty								

SUMMARY EVALUATION

How would you compare this student to others in his or her class year? Please check the single most appropriate rating.

	No basis	Below Average	Average	Good/ Above Average	Very Good/ Well Above Average	Excellent/ Top 10%	Outstanding/ Top 5%	One of the Top Few Encountered in my Career
Academic achievement								
Extracurricular/ community contributions								
Character and personal qualities								
Overall								

Signature _____ Date _____

Additional comments _____



RETURN THIS FORM IN A SEALED ENVELOPE SIGNED ACROSS THE SEAL TO THE APPLICANT.



RECOMMENDATION FORM

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Students must submit this application packet by the postmarked deadline of February 1, 2010, to be considered.

TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE APPLICANT

Applicant's Name _____
First Middle Last

High School _____

Please return this recommendation to the student in a sealed envelope. We ask that you use this form and do not attach an additional letter of recommendation.

This student is seeking to be awarded a competitive, merit-based scholarship from The University of Southern Mississippi. These scholarship recipients will participate in a community that incorporates coursework, service, campus activities and selected living arrangements.

TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE REFERENCE

Name _____

Title/Position _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____

Describe the situation in which you know the applicant. _____

If selected, the applicant will be required to interact with people from differing backgrounds.

Please comment on the applicant's relationship with others. _____

RATING

Compared to other students with whom you have worked, how do you rate this student in terms of:

	No basis	Below Average	Average	Good/ Above Average	Very Good/ Well Above Average	Excellent/ Top 10%	Outstanding/ Top 5%	One of the Top Few Encountered in my Career
Academic achievement								
Academic motivation								
Academic potential								
Intellectual creativity								
Critical thinking								
Emotional maturity								
Self-confidence								
Leadership								
Concern for others								
Work ethic								
Communication skills								
Organizational skills								
Punctuality								
Positive attitude								
Honesty and integrity								
Respect accorded by peers								
Respect accorded by faculty								

SUMMARY EVALUATION

How would you compare this student to others in his or her class year? Please check the single most appropriate rating.

	No basis	Below Average	Average	Good/ Above Average	Very Good/ Well Above Average	Excellent/ Top 10%	Outstanding/ Top 5%	One of the Top Few Encountered in my Career
Academic achievement								
Extracurricular/ community contributions								
Character and personal qualities								
Overall								

Signature _____ Date _____

Additional comments _____



RETURN THIS FORM IN A SEALED ENVELOPE SIGNED ACROSS THE SEAL TO THE APPLICANT.



APPLICATION FOR LEADERSHIP & LUCKYDAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

SECTION II – APPLICATION FOR LEADERSHIP AWARD AND LUCKYDAY FOUNDATION

CITIZENSHIP SCHOLARSHIP Complete this section in addition to Section I if you want to be considered for these scholarships.

(Luckyday Foundation Citizenship Scholarship for Mississippi residents only)

Please provide typed short-essay responses to all of the following questions (limit each answer to 500 words):

1. Describe the role that service to your community and/or school has played in your life. How do you expect involvement and service to affect your career at Southern Miss?
2. Give a specific example of a situation in which you led a group or team toward the accomplishment of a goal, highlighting the goal itself, your contribution and the outcome.
3. Many students seek scholarship assistance. Explain why you are a deserving candidate for a scholarship and how financial assistance will be beneficial to you. What are your plans if you do not receive a Leadership Award or Luckyday Foundation Citizenship Scholarship at Southern Miss?



APPLICATION TO THE HONORS COLLEGE

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

SECTION III – APPLICATION FOR HONORS COLLEGE ADMISSION: Complete this section in addition to Section I if you want to be considered for admission to the Honors College.

The latest standardized test scores that will be accepted for Honors College admission evaluation and Presidential Scholarship consideration are the December ACT and January SAT.

Requirements for Honors College Admission Consideration: Admission to the Honors College is competitive. Successful applicants are offered admission based on a combination of performance on standardized tests (ACT/SAT), high school academic record, evidence of creativity and leadership, and relative strength of the applicant pool. Generally, the *minimum* criteria for consideration are 27 ACT (combined SAT score of 1210*) and a 3.5 high school grade point average, as computed by The University of Southern Mississippi (core GPA as determined by the Office of Admissions).**

Essays: Please answer two of the following three questions (each answer should be approximately 500 words):

1. In his preface to *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1891), Oscar Wilde claimed that “All art is useless.” Assess the validity of that view.
2. Explain the role the United States has regarding the expansion or elimination of nuclear power.
3. Nolan Finlay, a columnist for the *Detroit News*, wrote on May 1, 2005, that Mississippi is a “backward state.” Present a reasoned critique of that assertion.

A Few Details: Please provide short answers (one word or phrase).

Your favorite book _____

Your favorite movie _____

Your favorite Web site _____

Two adjectives your friends would use to describe you _____

Your favorite recording artist _____

Your dream job _____

Your favorite source of inspiration _____

Your favorite word _____

Your favorite line from a movie (and the movie’s title) _____

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP CONSIDERATION

Consideration for the Presidential Scholarship will automatically be given to students who have been offered admission to the Honors College and who

1. Have a minimum composite ACT score of 30 or combined SAT score of 1330*
2. Are a National Merit Commended Student
3. Are a National Achievement Semifinalist

NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS & FINALISTS

Honors College applicants who are designated as National Merit Semifinalists and Finalists are automatically offered the Presidential National Merit Scholarship.

* The written portions of the ACT and SAT are not considered in the evaluation for Honors College admission or Presidential Scholarship consideration.

**Core GPA is calculated with the student’s grades earned in coursework that is part of the college preparatory curriculum (CPC). Core GPA is computed on a 4-point scale; thus, weighted grades earned in AP, advanced or honors classes are not factored into core GPA. (Consideration is given to applicants attempting AP, advanced or honors coursework, but primary emphasis is on grade point average.) In 2009, applicants offered admission to the Honors College had an average ACT score of 29 and an average core high school GPA of 3.77.