Students satisfy seven credit hours in the Honors Keystone curriculum:

**HON 300 (Research Forum)** is a one-hour, pass/fail course taken in the first semester in Honors Keystone. Assignments are designed to introduce students to academic research and help them select a research adviser and thesis topic by the end of the semester.

**HON 301 (Prospectus Writing)** is a three-hour course in which students design an Honors research project that culminates with submission of their Honors Prospectus. Minimum required grade: B.

**492H or course equivalent in thesis adviser’s department (BSC 492H or ENG 492H, for example)** is an independent study course in which students work closely with their research advisers to complete an Honors research project and thesis. Students satisfy a total of three hours in the course, and are strongly encouraged to divide the hours over two semesters in their senior year, typically one in the fall term and two in the spring. Minimum required grade: B.

In addition, students must pass a **comprehensive exam** in their major discipline in the semester of graduation.

**Latin Distinction** is awarded to all students who complete Honors Keystone requirements with 3.25 or higher cumulative Southern Miss GPA, as specified:

- *cum laude* (3.25–3.49)
- *magna cum laude* (3.5–3.79)
- *summa cum laude* (3.8 or higher)