



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

HONORS

P R O G R A M
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*A premier
program for
outstanding
students*

University of South Alabama Honors Program

The University of South Alabama Honors Program offers a curriculum of interdisciplinary excellence designed to stimulate analytical and critical thinking of exceptionally qualified and highly motivated students. In this effort, the USA Honors Program challenges the students with scholarly creative activities, exposes them to cultural enrichment, and requires them to engage in community service. The USA Honors Program aspires to instill in students the intellectual excitement that will better prepare them for productive careers and citizenship. Within the context and diversity of a mid-size urban university, the Honors Program provides the academic and cultural atmosphere, and setting expected of a small, personal, campus community of excellence.

Program Description

The University Honors Program is a campus-wide program that includes honors course work and extracurricular activities throughout the four years of a student's undergraduate career. In addition to general university curriculum requirements and degree requirements of the selected major, USA Honors Students also complete enriched honors general studies courses, honors seminars and an Honors Senior Project. A cornerstone of the program is that each student is assigned a faculty mentor, chosen from the student's major department, or suggested by the Honors Program Director until a major has been identified, who directs the student through the research and scholarly experience that culminates in an Honors Senior Project. Mentors are outstanding faculty of the University.

Honors classes are small and are taught by the University's most stimulating faculty. Specially scheduled scholarly presentations involve Honors Students and the wider academic community in a format that includes the opportunity to debate various issues and to listen to and interact with invited speakers and performing artists.

In addition to challenging academic opportunities, the University Honors Program offers a variety of activities that extend learning beyond the classroom, including social and cultural activities and community service projects. All University Honors Students are required to participate on a continuing basis in community and campus service activities. University Honors Students are encouraged to participate in international programs and off-campus internships and are assisted by the Program in applying for national or international scholarships (e.g., Fulbright and Rhodes scholarships, graduate and professional schools). University Honors Students are also given priority for registration and an option to select Honors Housing.

Students who complete the requirements of both the University Honors Program and of the selected major with a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher (overall and in the major) will receive the designation "With University Honors" on the transcript. These requirements apply to all students accepted into the University Honors Program. University Honors Program graduates will be specially recognized in the graduation program. All courses completed for honors credit will be so indicated on the student's official transcript. Such achievements often represent the type of personal credentials sought by employers and graduate programs.

Frederick P. Whiddon Scholars

Students admitted to the USA Honors Program each spring may be eligible to receive a four-year Frederick P. Whiddon Scholarship in the amount below. Whiddon Scholarships are awarded only to U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents of the United States. Scholarships may be applied to tuition, fees, on-campus room and board, and books and supplies purchased at the University Bookstore. Scholarships apply to the academic year and summer term (if a balance remains). As with all University scholarships, recipients whose GPA falls below 3.0 will have their scholarship terminated. Students accepted into the Honors Program at other times of the academic year are eligible to apply for scholarships in the next spring application period.

ACT Composite	Annual Honors Scholarship Award	Four-year Total Amount
33-36	\$10,000	\$40,000
32	\$ 9,000	\$36,000
30-31	\$ 7,000	\$28,000
27-29	\$ 5,000	\$20,000

Please Note: Because admission to the Honors Program is extremely competitive, interested students are also encouraged to follow the application procedures for the University of South Alabama Presidential Scholarships which have an earlier deadline of **December 1**. This will make you eligible for consideration for these scholarships. If you are awarded a Presidential Scholarship and subsequently are accepted to the Honors Program and receive a Frederick P. Whiddon Honors Scholarship, then your previously awarded USA Presidential scholarship will be voided. For information on applying for the Presidential Scholarships, please contact the Office of Admissions (800/872-5247 or 251/460-6141), or visit <http://www.southalabama.edu/admissions/ugscholar.html>.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING

- USA Honors Students may receive prestigious scholarships to attend the University.
- Each USA Honors Student is advised by a member of the University faculty, thereby establishing a one-to-one academic relationship with a faculty mentor.
- USA Honors Students participate in scholarly projects with their faculty mentors during their undergraduate careers.
- USA Honors Students participate in community service projects in conjunction with their faculty mentors and other Honors Students and in service-learning activities associated with specific courses.
- USA Honors Students have priority in registration.
- USA Honors Students have the option of designated Honors Housing.
- USA Honors Students have access to and use of the facilities and services of the Honors Center.
- USA Honors Students participate in special faculty/student/scholar seminars and cultural events.
- USA Honors Students participate in an annual Honors Students Colloquium presentation of Honors senior project results.
- USA Honors Students are encouraged to apply for national or international scholarships (e.g. Fulbright, Rhodes, etc.) and are counseled and assisted in their efforts by the Honors Program office and the Office of Enrollment Services.
- USA Honors Students may have opportunities to participate in national and international conferences with their faculty mentors.
- USA Honors Students receive Honors recognition on their permanent transcript and at graduation ceremonies.

University of South Alabama Honors Curriculum Requirements

The following courses, or an approved substitute, must be completed with a grade of C or better, in addition to general studies requirements and specific requirements of the major department, to graduate with University Honors. Transfer students may petition to receive credit for honors courses taken elsewhere. High school AP and IB credits may not substitute for Honors required courses.

	Credit Hours
HON 101, Honors Freshman Experience1 (required in first semester)	1
HON 201, Honors Sophomore Experience1	1
*One (1) Lower-level Honors Seminar3 (variable content)	3
Two (2) Upper-level Honors Seminars6 (variable content)	6
HON 301, Introduction to Honors Senior Project (taken in the Junior Year)1	1
Honors Senior Project (may count toward major)6	6
**Honors Electives selected from any Honors courses (only 3 hours may be from the major) 6	6

* Indicates courses that meet USA General Studies requirements.
 ** Student should determine early in their program the requirements in their major.

Qualifications for Consideration

High school seniors with a minimum 27 ACT Composite (or comparable SAT score) and a minimum 3.5 high school grade-point average (4.0 system), as computed by the University of South Alabama, are invited to apply. USA students and transfer students who have completed no more than 32 semester hours with an overall grade-point average of 3.5 (4.0 system) are also eligible to apply to the program. Students without the above qualifications, who feel they have strong potential for success in the University Honors Program, are encouraged to submit an application package and documentation of evidence of their special qualifications for review by the Honors Admissions Committee. Students transferring from honors programs of other institutions may petition to receive credit for honors work completed elsewhere. Transfer students applying for admission to the University Honors Program should indicate any credit earned in other honors programs.

Procedure to Apply for the USA Honors Program

1. Complete an application for admission to the University of South Alabama and submit it to the Office of Admissions with the non-refundable processing fee.
2. Request that your high school counselor mail an official copy of your high school transcript to the USA Office of Admissions OR request that an official transcript from your college/university registrar be sent to the USA Office of Admissions.
3. Request your official ACT or SAT results be sent to the USA Office of Admissions.
4. Complete the University of South Alabama Honors Program Application Form and mail it to the USA Honors Program. You may request this form when asking for a USA application package from the Admissions Office, from the Honors Program, or download a copy from the Honors web site.
5. Provide two (2) letters of recommendation from individuals that can comment on your intellectual capabilities and personal characteristics such as independent thinking, motivation, creativity and willingness to be academically challenged.
6. Complete an essay on a topic specified annually by the USA Honors Program. The topic may be requested from the Honors Program Office at (251) 461-1637 and found on the Honors web site.
7. Participate in an interview with the Honors Admissions Committee if selected for final consideration.
8. All required application materials must be received by the annual published deadline date. Deadline for applications is December 11. Late applications or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Note: The deadline for completing Honors applications is the date by which all materials must be **received** by the University.

Departmental Honors Programs

A second honors option is available in many departments throughout the colleges of the University of South Alabama. This option may be particularly suitable for transfer students, or others, who have completed significant credits toward graduation before deciding to pursue an honors degree, and for whom completing the entire University Honors curriculum would not be practical. To receive a designation of "With Distinction" on the final transcript students must successfully complete an Honors Senior Project in their major, have an overall GPA of 3.5 or greater, and meet the specific honors requirements of their major department. These students may also elect to take Honors Seminars and participate in other University Honors programs and activities upon the recommendation of their major advisor.

University of South Alabama
Honors Program
APPLICATION GUIDANCE

To apply to the University of South Alabama Honors Program, all of the following **must be received** by the University by the deadline date of Friday, **December 11, 2009**. Applications lacking any of the following will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed by the Honors Admission Committee. If you have already applied for admission, or have been admitted to the University of South Alabama, items 1-4 need not be resubmitted for the Honors Application.

1. USA Admissions Application
2. Official High School Transcripts
3. Official Jr./Community College, College or University Transcripts
4. Official ACT or SAT Score Reports
5. USA Honors Program Application
6. Two Letters of Recommendation
7. A Student Essay on the Topic Selected Annually by the Honors Program

Letters of Recommendation. Letters may play a significant role in distinguishing between otherwise equally-qualified students. Letter authors should be asked to discuss in detail your intellectual capabilities and personal characteristics such as independent thinking, motivation, creativity, and willingness to be academically challenged.

Emphasize that the letters must be received by the application deadline for your file to be complete and considered by the Honors Admissions Committee.

Student Essay. Present your perspective on the topic below. The essay must be typed and must not exceed 500 words in length. Be sure to include your full name and social security number on your essay. Essays will be evaluated on the basis of:

1. appropriateness of response to the topic;
2. development and support for your position;
3. focus and organization;
4. clarity and precision of ideas;
5. language fluency;
6. facility with conventions of standard written English (grammar, sentence structure, punctuation, and mechanics);
7. creativity.

Essay Topic: *"Window"* Please discuss.

Mail all application materials to:

University of South Alabama
USA Honors Program
307 University Blvd., N, SBT 1230
Mobile, Alabama 36688-0002

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

Application For Honors Program



USA Honors Program
University of South Alabama
307 University Blvd., N, SBT 1230
Mobile, AL 36688-0002
(251) 461-1637
FAX: (251) 460-7732
www.southalabama.edu/honors

Deadline: December 11, 2009
All materials must be received by the University no later than this date.

Please PRINT or TYPE the information on this page in accordance with the instructions.

Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - _____ Term Applying For: _____ Male Female

Applicant's Full Name: _____
Last First Middle Initial Other name in which transcripts may be listed

Applicant's Present Address: _____
Street/P.O. Box City State Zip Code +4

Home Telephone: () _____ Work Telephone: () _____ Email: _____

School Where Currently Enrolled: _____ Anticipated Major: _____

Pre-health fields? _____ Pre-Law? _____

ACT Scores: _____
Reading English Math Composite

SAT Scores: _____
Verbal Math Combined

List Advanced Placement courses completed or in progress (with test scores): _____

List extracurricular activities while in high school (both associated with your school and outside of school).

List individuals who you have asked to write recommendation letters.
1. _____
2. _____

List participation in any academic programs other than your high school.

List hobbies.

I am _____ I am not _____ interested in USA Honors Housing (should also request a USA Housing Application).

Qualifications to Maintain Status as a University Honors Student:

- maintain satisfactory progress in the Honors Curriculum (a minimum of 15 hours of enrolled credit per semester, excluding summer term, is required for scholarship recipients unless otherwise indicated in the scholarship award).
- have an overall grade-point average of 3.0 after the freshman year, 3.25 after the sophomore year, and 3.5 after the junior year.
- participate in USA Honors activities.
- participate in community and campus service projects.
- attend cultural and scholarly events on campus and in the community.
- design and complete an Honors Senior Project.

About the University of South Alabama

The University of South Alabama is the state's youngest comprehensive institution, with an enrollment of approximately 14,000 students in the eight undergraduate academic units, the Graduate School and the College of Medicine. In its brief 40-year history, the University has established a reputation for academic excellence by recruiting outstanding faculty from the nation's most prestigious institutions, establishing rigorous standards for students, and offering academic programs of high quality. As a result, graduates of the University are highly sought by graduate and professional schools, and actively recruited by corporations.

Colleges and Schools at the University of South Alabama

College of Allied Health Professions

College of Arts and Sciences

Mitchell College of Business

College of Education

College of Engineering

College of Medicine

College of Nursing

School of Computer and
Information Sciences

School of Continuing Education and Special Programs

The Graduate School

For questions about this prestigious program, please contact:

Dr. Robert L. Coleman
Honors Program Director
University of South Alabama
307 University Blvd., N, SBT 1230
Mobile, AL 36688-0002
251/461-1637
e-mail: honors@usouthal.edu
or see
www.southalabama.edu/honors/