



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

# HONORS

COLLEGE  
2017

*A premier  
program for  
outstanding  
students*

## **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 16,000 students in the eight undergraduate academic units, the Graduate School and the College of Medicine. Over the past 50 years, 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.

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### **Colleges and Schools at the University of South Alabama**

Pat Capps Covey 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 Computing  
School of Continuing Education and Special Programs  
The Graduate School

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### ***For questions about this prestigious program, please contact:***

Dr. Michael V. Doran  
Honors College Director  
University of South Alabama  
5920 USA Drive S., SBT 1230  
Mobile, AL 36688-0002  
251/461-1637  
E-mail: [honors@southalabama.edu](mailto:honors@southalabama.edu)  
or see  
[www.southalabama.edu/honors/](http://www.southalabama.edu/honors/)

The University of South Alabama does not discriminate in its student and employment practices in violation of any applicable laws.

The University of South Alabama is an Equal Opportunity Employer - Minorities/Females/Veterans/Disabled.

USA<sup>TM</sup>

# University of South Alabama

## Honors College & Whiddon Scholarship

### APPLICATION GUIDANCE

To apply to the University of South Alabama Honors College and for the Whiddon Scholarship, you must already be admitted to the university, assigned a student I.D. number (JagNumber) and university e-mail address. Note: There is only one application to complete and submit for the Honors College and the Whiddon Scholarship, which must be submitted in JagSPOT: [https://southalabama.academicworks.com/users/sign\\_in](https://southalabama.academicworks.com/users/sign_in) by the deadline date of the first Friday in December. Applications lacking the following will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed by the Honors Admissions Committee:

1. Two Letters of Recommendation on Letterhead and Signed
2. A Student Essay on the Topic Selected Annually by the Honors College

**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.** Letters of recommendation are to be submitted in JagSPOT ([https://southalabama.academicworks.com/users/sign\\_in](https://southalabama.academicworks.com/users/sign_in)). Please follow instructions in JagSPOT for submission.

**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 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: “*Plastic*”**

All Honors College /Whiddon Scholarship Application  
Materials Are To Be Submitted In JagSPOT  
([https://southalabama.academicworks.com/users/sign\\_in](https://southalabama.academicworks.com/users/sign_in)).

**NOTE: You must already be admitted to the university and assigned a student I.D. number and university e-mail address to access the Honors College/Whiddon Scholarship application in JagSPOT.**

## University of South Alabama Honors Research Curriculum

The following courses 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 Experience ..... 1 (required in first semester)	1
HON 201, Honors Sophomore Experience ..... 1	1
Two (2) Upper-level Honors Seminars ..... 6 (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) ..... 9	9

\* 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 College. 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 College should indicate any credit earned in other honors programs.

### Other Non-Research Tracks

In addition to the current research focus track (Whiddon Scholarship), new tracks are being created for the Honors College. These tracks will have a theme and enriched experiential learning activities leading to a non-research senior capstone. A modified honors curriculum will be available appropriate to each theme. Themes will include departmental honors, health-related issues, study abroad, and global engagement. Other themes are being developed and will include a wider variety of areas and topics. Students not selected for the research focus and Whiddon Scholarship might be invited to participate in the Honors College as part of a non-research track. Others not wishing to be considered for the research experience may choose to be considered for a non-research track-only admission. All students selected and admitted to a non-research track will receive only their Presidential Scholarship award. Switching from a research Whiddon Scholarship to a non-research track will not be allowed.

## Procedure to Apply for the USA Honors College and Whiddon Scholarship

1. Complete an application for admission to the University of South Alabama and submit it to the Office of Admissions with the nonrefundable 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. After admission to the university, complete and submit the University of South Alabama Honors College/Whiddon Scholarship Application Form (one application) in JagSPOT: ([https://southalabama.academicworks.com/users/sign\\_in](https://southalabama.academicworks.com/users/sign_in)). You will need your university I.D. number and university e-mail address password to sign in.
5. Provide two (2) letters of recommendation from individuals who can comment on your intellectual capabilities and personal characteristics such as independent thinking, motivation, creativity, and willingness to be academically challenged. Follow instructions in JagSPOT for letters of recommendation submission.
6. Complete an essay on a topic specified annually by the USA Honors College. The topic can be found in this brochure, in the Honors application, and may be requested from the Honors College Office at (251) 461-1637.
7. Participate in an interview with the Honors Admissions Committee if selected for final consideration to be admitted to the Honors College.

Honors College/Whiddon Scholarship application with essay and two letters of recommendation must be submitted in JagSPOT ([https://southalabama.academicworks.com/users/sign\\_in](https://southalabama.academicworks.com/users/sign_in)) by the annual published deadline date of the 1st Friday in December. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

# University of South Alabama Honors College

The University of South Alabama Honors College 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 College challenges the students with scholarly creative activities, exposes them to cultural enrichment, and requires them to engage in community service. The USA Honors College 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 College provides the academic and cultural atmosphere, and setting expected of a small, personal, campus community of excellence.

## Research Description

The University Honors College is a campus-wide program with 208 students 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 College is that each student is assigned a faculty mentor, chosen from the student's major department, or suggested by the Honors College 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 College 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 College 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 research requirements of both the University Honors College 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. University Honors College research 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 College 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. As with all University scholarships, recipients whose GPA falls below requirement will have their scholarship terminated.

### In-State Scholarship Awards:

ACT Composite	Annual Honors Scholarship Award	Four-year Total Amount
33-36	\$12,000	\$48,000
32	\$10,000	\$40,000
30-31	\$9,000	\$36,000
28-29	\$6,500	\$26,000
27	\$5,000	\$20,000

### Out-of-State Scholarship Awards:

ACT Composite	Annual Honors Scholarship Award	Four-year Total Amount
33-36	\$13,000	\$52,000
32	\$13,000	\$52,000
30-31	\$13,000	\$52,000
28-29	\$11,000	\$44,000
27	\$8,000	\$32,000

Please Note: Because admission to the Honors College is extremely competitive, interested students are also encouraged to follow the application procedures for the University of South Alabama Presidential Scholarships. If you are awarded a Presidential Scholarship and subsequently are accepted to the Honors College, and receive a Frederick P. Whiddon Honors Scholarship, then your previously awarded USA Presidential Scholarship will be voided. For information on the Presidential Scholarship, please visit JagSPOT [www.southalabama.edu/departments/financialaffairs/scholarships/](http://www.southalabama.edu/departments/financialaffairs/scholarships/).

## ***BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING***

- USA Honors Students may receive prestigious scholarships to attend the University.
- Research and Study Abroad Stipends competitively available to qualified Whiddon Scholars.
- 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 College 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.