

Southern Scholars Honors Program Requirements

The Southern Scholars Honors Program represents an alternative program of general education for students who bring to their studies a high degree of motivation and curiosity. It may be pursued in conjunction with any major (though the regimented nature of certain majors poses scheduling challenges). The program consists of designated honors courses and an independent project of research and/or creativity. This document outlines the policies and procedures which apply to Southern Scholars.

I. Requirements

1.1. Eligibility

A student who has compiled a **cumulative** high school GPA of 3.70 or higher, **and an ACT composite score of 23, or SAT cumulative score of 1140** is eligible to become a member of Southern Scholars at the beginning of his/her freshmen year. Students already enrolled in the university become eligible if they have completed at least thirty-one and not more than sixty-two semester hours with a cumulative GPA (including any transfer credit) of 3.50 or higher and complete the application essay.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. However, it is advised that students submit their applications no later than two weeks before the start of a semester to avoid scheduling conflicts and misunderstandings.

1.2. Maintaining Membership

To continue as a Southern Scholar, a student must fulfill the following conditions:

(a) Complete a minimum of twelve credits each semester or a total of thirty-one credits per calendar year.

(b) Enroll in the appropriate honors sequence courses and receive a 3.00 average or higher in these.

(c) Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 in all course work.

(d) Maintain a Scholars Portfolio. Instructions and assistance are provided to students to set up their Portfolio.

(e) Normally complete all college work within a four-year period. (Exceptions may be granted for extenuating circumstances, such as a double major, teaching certification, student mission involvement, or other reasonable requests.)

(f) Students are expected to participate in four Scholars events each semester: the mandatory Assembly meeting and three honors events of their choosing.

A student who violates the SAU Academic Honesty code will be dismissed from the program.

Should a Southern Scholar fall below the standards defined in (a), (b), and (c) above, he/she will be notified by letter of **academic warning** in the program. A student will be eligible for reinstatement in good and regular standing in the program after completing a semester of studies and attaining the standards in (a), (b), and (c) above.

Only two semesters of **academic warning** will be permitted before a student is dropped from the program. Students on **academic warning** do not receive any financial benefits of the program, **but are welcome to participate in Southern Scholar social events.**

Any student whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.00 will be automatically dropped from the program; also, any student whose cumulative GPA is below 3.50 just prior to the senior year will be dropped from the program.

II. Benefits

2.1. Scholarship Benefits

Upon completing one year in Southern Scholars as a member in good and regular standing eligible scholars may apply to the Honors Committee for the following scholarships:

- \$1,500 for the 2nd year of Southern Scholars
- \$2,500 for the 3rd year of Southern Scholars
- \$3,500 for the 4th year of Southern Scholars

The awarding of these scholarships is based on the following criteria:

(a) A minimum of one year in the honors program.

(b) Completion of two honors sequence courses or completion of one course and current enrollment in a second course.

(c) Commitment to remaining in the honors program to completion. This will be evidenced by presentation of the Course Planning Worksheet and Scholarship Application to the Honors Committee. Scholarships do not apply during the summer sessions.

(d) Students must also demonstrate their commitment to the program by having an updated Portfolio and complete their event participation requirements.

2.2. Special Programs

Throughout the year, visiting speakers, artists, and musicians visit the university. Whenever possible, Southern Scholars are invited to meet with these distinguished visitors on an informal basis. These occasions are opportunities to become acquainted with the thought leaders of our time.

2.3 Recognition at Graduation

In addition to special recognition at the graduation commencement ceremony, every Southern Scholar receives a special designation on his/her transcript and diploma acknowledging the completion of the special honors curriculum. This designation will enhance future employment and/or graduate and professional school opportunities.

III. Honors Studies Sequence

3.1. Designated Honors Courses

As a part of the regular general education requirements of the university, each Southern Scholar must complete the following designated courses:

(a) **English (Area IN-2).**

ENGL 103: H: College Composition II (3 hours)

A more rigorous version of ENGL 102, emphasizing full argumentation in all writing modes and a longer research paper. (Prerequisite: Acceptance into Southern Scholars and completion of ENGL 101 with a grade of A- or higher, or permission of the instructor.)

Students entering the program who have already completed ENGL 102 are required to take ENGL 106, a one credit hour course. The content of this class will be adjusted to meet the particular needs of the students as demonstrated in a portfolio of composition writing assignments.

(b) **Literature: Upper Division (Area IN-10).**

Students are required to take an upper division literature course and will need to contract this course. Contracted courses require a student to create an assignment demonstrating honors learning. This assignment is developed with the course instructor and the honors director. Students may choose from the following courses: ELIT 323, ELIT 333, ELIT 335, ELIT 337, ELIT 338, ELIT 340, ELIT 368, ELIT 417, ELIT 425, ELIT 430, ELIT 442, ELIT 444, ELIT 445, ELIT 463, or ELIT 465.

(c) **Religion (Area R-3 or R-4).** One of the following courses must be selected:

RELB 268: Sermon on the Mount (3 hours)

A study of the Sermon on the Mount as recorded in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

OR

RELT 317: Issues in Physical Science and Religion (3 hours)

Scientific method, truth, reality, logic and derivability, authority/inspiration, faith and reason in mathematics and physical sciences. Non-logical factors in acceptance of scientific statements as authoritative. Arguments for the existence of God. Causality, determinism and miracles. Scientific revolutions and paradigm shifts with relation to trends in religion and philosophy. (Prerequisite: One year of high school physics or chemistry or one semester of college physics or chemistry.) This course is cross-listed with PHYS 317, a student may receive credit for this course from only one program.

OR

RELT 421: Issues in Science and Society (3 hours)

A study of the philosophical basis of modern natural science as it relates to current issues in origins, biotechnology, bioethics, and environmental responsibility. Special attention is given to Christian perspectives of the issues discussed. This course is cross-listed with BIOL 421, a student may receive credit for this course from only one program.

OR

RELT 467: Christian Philosophy and Worldviews (3 hours)

A study of philosophical thinking as applied to understanding worldviews. Attention will be given to ancient philosophical systems and their influence on worldviews today. The student will also study current worldviews of Christian theism, deism, naturalism, nihilism, existentialism, Eastern Pantheistic monism, New Age philosophy, and postmodernism. This worldview understanding will be applied in case studies of contemporary movies. The criteria for evaluating all worldviews will be the Christian worldview in the context of the Adventist understanding of the great controversy.

(d) **Communication** (IN.-3).

COMM 145: H: Communication and Public Speaking (3 hours)

A more rigorous version of COMM 135, emphasizing rhetorical theory and implications of communicative practices. Like COMM 135, this course introduces students to the ways communication affects and relates to our everyday lives. Students will acquire theory and develop skills in preparing, presenting, and critically consuming messages in one-on-one, small group, and public speaking contexts.

(e) **History** (IN.-6).

HIST 280: H: Technology and Power (3 hours)

Utilizing a combination of primary and secondary sources, this honors history course will look at the dramatic extension of European power into Asia, Africa, and the Americas, beginning in the 15th century and proceeding through the 19th century. We will examine how the interplay among accumulated technique, a culture of competition, and varying environments led to extensive conquest. We will further consider how societies choose how and to what extent to utilize available technologies to pursue national goals.

(f) **Psychology** (IN.-8).

PSYC 234: H: Social Psychology (3 hours)

It is a more rigorous version of PSYC 224, a study of human behavior as affected in the context of the social world. Concepts such as group dynamics, social roles, communication, and mass behavior will be examined from an interdisciplinary

perspective. Students will learn how social psychological concepts impact various arenas such as families, business, religion, law, politics, and media.

- (g) **Natural Science (IN.-7)**. One of the following natural science sequences and corresponding lab must be completed.

BIOL 101:102: Anatomy and Physiology (4,4)

A study of the fundamentals of human anatomy and physiology

OR

BIOL 161:162: General Biology (5,5 hours)

A rigorous introduction to biology as a science.

OR

CHEM 151:152: General Chemistry (4,4 hours)

An introduction to the fundamental laws and accepted theories along with applications to the various fields of chemistry.

OR

PHYS 211:212: General Physics (4,4 hours)

The algebraic and trigonometric treatment of mechanics, heat, sound, light, electricity and magnetism, and modern physics. (Prerequisites: MATH 120 and MATH 121 or MATH 181).

OR

PHYS 221:222: University Physics (5,5 hours)

The calculus-based treatment of mechanics, heat, sound, light, electricity and magnetism, and “modern physics.” (Pre- or Co-requisites: MATH 181)

- (h) **Honors Seminars** The following courses are required:

HMNT 251: Philosophy and Practice of Research

This sophomore seminar class is a study of values and ethics.

HMNT 451: Interdisciplinary Studies: Belief

This junior seminar class is a study of great books in religion, philosophy, science, and social science that have shaped western culture focusing on belief.

HMNT 452: Interdisciplinary Studies: Doubt

This senior seminar class is a study of great books in religion, philosophy, science, and social science that have shaped western culture focusing on doubt.

- (i) **Honors Elective** One of the following Elective courses must be completed.

HMNT 211: Introduction to Philosophy

An introduction to the major schools of Western philosophy, e.g. Platonic, Aristotelian, Medieval, Enlightenment, Hegelian, Analytical. The course will suggest how philosophy can help students think more critically and coherently. Issues of logic, epistemology, freedom of will, and ethics will be explored.

OR

HMNT 205: Arts and Ideas

A cultural appreciation class tracing the historical evolution of intellectual movements in western civilization. Ideas from leaders in philosophy and the arts will be studied with appropriate works from music, art, and literature.

OR

Honors Contract

Students may choose a non-honors course approved by the honors director and contract the course. Contracted courses require a student to create an assignment demonstrating honors learning. This assignment is developed with the course instructor and the honors director.

3.2. **Senior Project**

A significant scholarly project, involving research, writing, creativity or special performance, appropriate to the major in question, is ordinarily completed the senior year. The project is expected to have an interdisciplinary aspect to it and be of sufficiently high quality to warrant a grade of A and will be presented at a conference of the students choosing. (Many students choose to present their Honors Senior Project at Campus Research Day hosted by McKee Library.) The completed project must be approved by the Honors Committee in consultation with the student's supervising professor four weeks prior to the last day of class for the semester the project is turned in. The project must be submitted electronically and to turnitin.com. The 2-3 hours of credit for this project is normally done as directed study or in a research class within the student's major.

IV. Administration of the Southern Scholars

The honors program is administered by an Honors Faculty Committee and a Student Honors Council. The president of the Honors Council is a voting member of the Honors Faculty Committee. The Honors Faculty Committee admits students to the program and discontinues honors status of those who fail to maintain minimum program standards. Its members also advise individual Southern Scholars and continually monitor their progress.

V. Additional Information of Interest to Southern Scholars

5.1. **Graduation with Honors**

Graduation from the university with honors will be accorded those who achieve a GPA of 3.50 or better. Cum Laude graduates must have maintained a GPA of 3.5; Magna Cum Laude graduates, 3.75; and Summa Cum Laude, 3.90. Graduation regalia will reflect these achievements, and the appropriate designation will appear on the diploma. Southern Scholars will graduate with one of these distinctions, but a student may graduate with honors without being a Southern Scholar.

5.2. **Honor Roll/Dean's List**

At the end of each semester, students who have completed a minimum of twelve semester hours and maintained a GPA of 3.25 or higher will be accorded the following honors:

- 3.25 Honor Roll
- 3.50 Dean's List
- 3.75 Distinguished Dean's List

NOTICE

Once you have applied to be in the Southern Scholars Honors Program, it is your responsibility to maintain membership by taking honors courses, participating in honors events, and maintaining the required GPA. The Program provides advisement to students; however, it is your responsibility to utilize this help. It is also your responsibility to fill out a Scholarship Application, to complete a Course Planning Worksheet, and when applicable, to complete the Southern Scholars Senior Project form.