

Tulane University

Opportunities for Superior Students

THE TULANE HONORS PROGRAM

Chris M. M. Brady, Director

REQUIREMENTS

The Tulane Honors Program offers superior students of the Undergraduate College the opportunity to broaden and enrich their undergraduate education and to intensify their preparation for graduate work. Members of the program benefit from small, accelerated classes, special academic and social programming, and individual advising. Outstanding incoming freshmen are admitted to the program based on their high school records and test scores. Students not admitted as incoming freshmen may apply after completing one or more semesters at Tulane. After the first semester of residence, the criterion for admission and retention is a cumulative grade point average of 3.45 for freshmen and sophomores and 3.60 for juniors and seniors. Successful participation in the Honors program requires completion of four Honors courses, two of which must be at the 300 level or above, and a senior honors thesis or project.

HONORS COURSES

Members of the Tulane Honors Program usually enroll in at least one honors course per semester. Full participation in Tulane's Study Abroad Program fulfills the honors course requirement for the junior year. Honors courses, which are only taught by full-time faculty members or distinguished visitors, have a maximum enrollment of 20 students. The emphasis in these courses is on class discussion, and in most cases course material is studied in greater depth than might be possible in a regular course.

Honors students may also enhance their regular course offerings by requesting to add an "Honors Option" to a course they are currently taking. With the instructor's approval the student will engage in additional work that merits Honors credit. The course will appear on the student's transcript as an Honors course. This enables our students to customize their Honors curriculum to meet their interests. Those interested in adding an Honors Option to a course must pick up the form from the Honors Program office.

Upon completion of the form the Director will then approve the course work.

HONORS COLLOQUIA

Each semester Tulane offers a limited number of honors colloquia. These colloquia, which are interdisciplinary in subject and approach, may be initiated by students or by faculty and are designed around some integrating factor: a theme, a period, a creative work, or a problem. Usually the colloquium meets once a week, in a seminar format, with emphasis upon class discussion. To be eligible for enrollment in an honors colloquium, a student must be a member of the Tulane Honors Program, on the Dean's List, or a candidate for a degree with departmental honors.

OPEN CURRICULUM

An open curriculum option is available to students in the Honors Program who have at least two full semesters remaining before graduation. With the approval of the Honors Committee and under its guidance, a student may construct all curricular elements except the core curriculum.

PROGRAMS, EVENTS, AND POST-GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Honors Program sponsors a number of intellectual and cultural programs during the school year featuring Tulane faculty members and visiting dignitaries as participants. The program also sponsors social events to bring scholars and the Honors faculty together informally. Scholars may receive individual academic advising and career planning from the director of the program and from members of the Honors faculty.

The coordinator of fellowships works under the auspices of the Honors Program to help identify promising candidates for fellowships and scholarships such as the Rhodes, Marshall, Churchill, Truman, and Goldwater, and to assist them in preparing their applications, supporting materials, and interview strategies.

GRADUATING WITH UNIVERSITY HONORS

To be eligible for University Honors (*cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *summa cum laude*) a student must have completed a minimum of 60 credits (75 credits for dual degree candidates) while enrolled at Tulane University; this may include enrollment in Tulane's Study Abroad programs and semester-abroad programs

and Washington Semester. Only Tulane credits are computed in the cumulative grade-point average for Honors candidates. A student completing two degrees may be awarded University Honors for both degrees. Eligibility for Honors for each degree will be determined by grades earned in all course work counting toward the respective degree. A student who at the time of graduation has achieved a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.400 is awarded the degree *cum laude*. A student who at the time of graduation has achieved a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.600, has completed the Honors Program, and has fulfilled the requirements for departmental honors is awarded the degree *magna cum laude*. A student who at the time of graduation has achieved a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.800, has completed the Honors Program, and has fulfilled the requirements for departmental honors is awarded the degree *summa cum laude*.

GRADUATING WITH DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

To be eligible for departmental honors, a student must complete an honors thesis or project, and must fulfill all of the major's other requirements for Honors. All candidates for the degrees of *summa cum laude* and *magna cum laude* must complete the Honors Program and therefore must complete an honors thesis during their senior year. The term "honors thesis" includes any sort of project that a senior completes as one of the requirements for a degree with honors.

SENIOR THESIS

In the senior year (or 5th year for architecture students) the scholar writes an honors thesis or completes an equivalent honors project. The thesis may be completed in conjunction with or in addition to the Capstone Experience as determined by the major department and approved by the Honors Committee. The thesis involves substantial independent research and study under the direction of a professor in the scholar's major department. See the School and major department for details specific to each discipline.

LESS COMMONLY TAUGHT LANGUAGES

Motivated students with demonstrated achievement in foreign language may enroll for courses offered in the Less Commonly Taught Languages Program. These classes are primarily self-instructional; students use audiotapes, textbooks, and software where available and attend group sessions with a native speaker of

the language under study. Progress is monitored by the program director. Courses taken in the program are offered as electives and do not fulfill the basic undergraduate foreign language proficiency requirement. For further information on this program, contact Thomas Klinger, French and Italian (504) 862-3121 (e-mail: klinger@tulane.edu).

THE WASHINGTON SEMESTER PROGRAM

Well-qualified students are eligible to spend a semester in Washington, D.C., for the study of American government in action. A cooperative intercollegiate honors program, the Washington Semester Program is administered by the School of Government and Public Administration of American University. Areas of study include national government and politics, the judicial system, foreign and economic policy, international environment and development, international trade, museum studies, and journalism. The program features a seminar, an individual research project, and an internship. The major curriculum features are planned to provide both a sound common core of study and a reasonable degree of flexibility for each student. Students majoring in political science and other disciplines may apply for admission to the program. Only a small number of students are selected to participate each year. Those interested should contact the campus Washington Semester representative in the Department of Political Science.