Newcomb-Tulane College

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James MacLaren (Ph.D., Imperial College, University of London)  
Interim Dean  

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Associate Dean  

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Associate Dean  

Newcomb-Tulane College has administrative oversight for the full-time undergraduate experience and the common core curriculum. Newcomb-Tulane College comprises all undergraduate programs at the university, including those in architecture, business, liberal arts, public health and tropical medicine, and science and engineering. All prospective undergraduate students apply to Newcomb-Tulane College for admission. A student designates a major no later than the beginning of a student’s fourth semester. After the selection of a major, the student continues to be a Newcomb-Tulane College student as well as a student in the school in which the major resides. Students who remain undecided as to their schools or majors will stay within the college. For example, a student who majors in biology is in the School of Science and Engineering and Newcomb-Tulane College.

CENTER FOR ACADEMIC ADVISING

Mailing Address:  Academic Advising Center  
Tulane University  
New Orleans, LA 70118  

Phone:  (504) 865-5798  
Fax:  (504) 865-5799  
Website:  http://advising.tulane.edu  

The Academic Advising Center offers a centralized organization to support full-time undergraduates in creating educational plans congruent with their individual objectives. The center serves as a general information clearinghouse for the wide range of majors and minors, the program requirements throughout all undergraduate programs, and other curricular programs, i.e., service learning, study abroad.

For first- and second-year students who have not declared majors, the center serves as a primary point of contact, and the center’s staff assists students to refine their academic goals, understand their choices, and assess their options, while emphasizing the belief that the students shoulder ultimate responsibility for making decisions about educational plans and setting goals and objectives. The center will continue to serve juniors and seniors to ensure progress toward their degrees, complementing the work of faculty advisers in the schools.

Each school will appoint faculty members from each area or department to work with the center’s professional academic advisers to formulate discipline-specific policies that meet accreditation standards. The center’s staff also includes pre-professional advisers to assist students in applying to programs in law, medicine and other health professions.

FIRST-YEAR PROGRAMS OFFICE

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New Orleans, LA 70118  

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Fax:  (504) 865-6723  

The First-Year Programs office administers the TIDES, Tulane Interdisciplinary Experience Seminar series for first year-students, as well as the mechanics of the Tulane Reading Project. For more information on TIDES, see http://tides.tulane.edu. For more information on the Reading Project, see http://reading.tulane.edu.
The Center for International Studies (CIS) was established to serve as a hub for Tulane’s international partnerships. CIS maintains a portfolio of high-quality study abroad programs that increase students’ knowledge and ability to function as responsible citizens in an international/global environment while ensuring that study abroad is an equitable endeavor that accommodates the broadest constituency possible.

The CIS sponsors over 70 study abroad programs for undergraduates in Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Australia. In addition, both graduate and undergraduate students can take advantage of a variety of faculty-led summer study abroad programs focused on special topics. Tulane University partners with top overseas universities and international institutions to make the highest quality overseas educational experiences available to its students. The range of subject matter reflects the particular opportunities and scholastic strengths available in each location. Language instruction is an integral part of the programs in non-English-speaking countries.

Study Abroad Advising

Newcomb-Tulane undergraduates are encouraged to begin their academic preparation for study abroad as early as their first semester at Tulane. Students may select a program independently or in close consultation with the CIS study abroad advisor, as well as the academic and major advisors. The CIS hosts informational meetings, advising sessions, discussion groups, and panel talks to inform students of their options for studying abroad. In addition, the CIS organizes an annual fall study abroad fair to promote education abroad opportunities. The “Tulane University Guide to Study Abroad” is available on the CIS web site or in print in the CIS office.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

At the time of application, all students must present persuasive evidence of the necessary academic and intellectual strength, linguistic skills, and special preparation in the area of the proposed course of study. A compelling argument that the proposed program and destination are appropriate in terms of academic, cultural and personal goals should be clearly articulated in the application essay. Students must also demonstrate the individual initiative and strong sense of personal responsibility required to complete the program abroad.

Students must familiarize themselves with the program-specific GPA and course prerequisites when planning for study abroad. Due to high demand, competition may occur within the various programs since some have a limited number of spaces.

The student’s academic and major advisors must support the application and indicate that the proposed overseas study will advance and not impede progress toward the degree. Applicants are also asked indicate how they expect to complete graduation requirements. Qualified students may study abroad as early as the second semester of the sophomore year. Students must present evidence of completion of necessary Newcomb-Tulane core curriculum requirements at the time of application. Students who are or have ever been on disciplinary or honor board probation are not eligible.

Tulane Study Abroad Programs (TSAP)

The CIS offers academic-year and semester programs in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Malta, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Spain, the United Kingdom and Uruguay (this list is subject to change). These programs are open to all qualified students in the Newcomb-Tulane College who meet specific eligibility requirements. Tulane credit and grades are awarded for coursework successfully completed abroad. Participants pay Tulane tuition, the academic support service fee, and a charge for emergency evacuation insurance. Airfare, housing, meals, vacation travel, and personal expenses are extra and vary by location.
Independent Scholar Option

We recognize a legitimate demand for study-abroad programs beyond the scope of current Tulane programs. For these students, CIS offers the Independent Scholar Option (ISO) for exceptional juniors and seniors who wish to study for a semester or year abroad on a program for which there is no academically equivalent Tulane program. Participants create their own study abroad program by choosing the country and university where they wish to study. In recent years, ISO participants have studied in Dominican Republic, New Zealand, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland, Tanzania and Vietnam. Tulane credit and grades are awarded for coursework successfully completed abroad. Participants pay Tulane tuition, the academic support service fee and a charge for evacuation insurance. Airfare, housing, meals, vacation travel, and personal expenses are extra and vary by location.

Prospective ISO applicants should be highly mature, independent, and have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better up until the semester of their departure. In addition to a standard application and resume, the applicant must submit a detailed proposal including the academic rationale behind choosing a particular overseas university, demonstration that the applicant can meet its acceptance requirements, and discussion of any health or safety risks associated with the proposed site. Applicants should also attach a detailed, published description of the program. If the proposal receives conditional approval from the Tulane Study Abroad Committee, the applicant will need to show proof of acceptance to the foreign institution before final approval can be given. Students who are or have ever been on disciplinary or honor board probation are not eligible.

Tulane Summer Programs

Each summer, individual departments and programs, such as the Center for Public Service and the Stone Center for Latin American Studies, offer short-term summer study abroad programs which award academic and/or service-learning credit. In recent years, programs have been offered in Australia, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, France, Guatemala, India, Mexico, South Africa, and Trinidad and Tobago. Costs and application procedures vary by program; the Center for International Studies posts these opportunities each spring.

Non-Tulane Study Abroad Programs

To participate in a study abroad program that has not been approved by the Tulane Study Abroad Committee, students must petition the CIS for permission to participate on a “non-Tulane” program. Students should consult the Center for International Studies on the petition process.

Students in the A.B. Freeman School of Business and the School of Architecture should consult with their respective schools on study abroad programs and policies

Financial Aid and Study Abroad (NOT applicable to summer programs)

As part of the study abroad planning process, the CIS urges students to meet with a counselor from the financial aid office. For eligible students, all federal financial aid (Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Perkins Loans, Stafford Loans, and Parent Plus Loans) except for work-study awards can be applied to all Tulane study abroad programs. All Tulane University institutional aid (Dean's Honor Scholarship, Distinguished Scholars Award, Founders Scholarship, and Tulane Need-Based Scholarship), except for the housing stipends, can be used for participation in Tulane study abroad programs as well.

HONORS PROGRAM

THE TULANE HONORS PROGRAM

Mailing Address: 105 Hébert Hall
New Orleans, LA 70118
Telephone: (504) 865-5517
Fax: (504) 862-8709
Website: http://www.tulane.edu/~honors/index.htm

F. Thomas Luongo, 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 two semesters at Tulane. The criterion for admission and retention to the Honors Program 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. Freshmen must take at least one honors course in the freshman year in order to continue in the Honors Program.

Honors Courses

Members of the Tulane Honors Program normally enroll in at least one honors course per semester. 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 300-level or higher 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. Honors option forms can be found in the Honors office. Up to two Honors course credits may be awarded to a student participating in certain Tulane Study Abroad programs. A student must petition to the Director of the Honors Program as well as provide a syllabus and all test material from the petitioned course. Honors credit is also given for graduate-level courses, and three-hour Independent Study courses. There are some science courses for which students are automatically given Honors credit. Please check with the Honors Program office for a list of these classes.

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 (magna cum laude, and summa cum laude) a student must fulfill all the requirements of the Honors Program. 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. 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.
University Honors (summa cum laude and magna cum laude) are reserved for Tulane Honors students only. A student not in the Honors Program who at the time of graduation has achieved a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.4, is awarded the degree cum laude.

Graduating With Departmental Honors

To be eligible for departmental honors, a student must have an overall grade-point average of at least 3.4, a 3.5 GPA in his or her major, complete an honors thesis or project, and must fulfill all of the major’s other requirements for Honors. Please see following paragraph for description of honors thesis.

Senior Honors Thesis

In order to graduate with University Honors or Department Honors, students during the senior year must write an Honors Thesis or complete an equivalent Honors project. As the culminating achievement of the scholar’s undergraduate career, this thesis or project involves substantial independent research and study under the direction of a professor in the scholar’s major department. It is recommended that a student begin the process of identifying a topic and director at the end of the junior year. The Honors Thesis or project is in every case a full-year endeavor. Students must sign up for their thesis in the home department each of the two semesters necessary for completion. Other specific criteria for completion of the thesis, a schedule of relevant dates (including deadlines for a progress report and completion of the first chapter), as well as necessary forms, can be obtained on-line from the Honors Program website or in the Honors Program Office.