

Opportunities for Superior Students

THE TULANE HONORS PROGRAM

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The Tulane Honors Program offers superior students 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 3.30 for freshmen, 3.45 for sophomores and 3.60 for juniors and seniors.

Members of the Tulane Honors Program usually enroll in at least one honors course each semester during their freshman, sophomore, and junior years; full participation in Tulane's Junior Year Abroad Program fulfills the honors course requirement for the junior year. Honors courses, which are taught only 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. In the senior year the scholar writes an honors thesis or completes 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. (See divisional sections for further information.)

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.

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 proficiency component, subject to the goals of a liberal arts education.

Honors and Other Special Sections

The University recognizes that any given class contains students who possess a wide range of abilities and attempts to fit students' courses of study to their individual needs. To challenge its best students, the University offers special honors courses or sections, designated by an H alongside the course number, which treat the subject matter in greater depth and with more sophistication than do the equivalent non-honors sections. Preferential enrollment is afforded to members in good standing with the Tulane Honors Program.

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.

Additional information concerning colloquia, including non-honors and student-initiated colloquia, may be found under "Courses of Instruction" or obtained from the director of the Tulane Honors Program.

Less Commonly Taught Languages

Motivated students with demonstrated achievement in foreign language may enroll for courses offered in the Less Commonly Taught Languages Program. The university wide program currently offers Arabic, Haitian Creole, Hungarian, and Swahili, with more languages to be offered in the future. 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 (supplementary program credits for students in Newcomb and Tulane Colleges) and do not fulfill the basic undergraduate foreign language proficiency requirement. For further information on Arabic, Swahili, Hungarian or Haitian Creole, 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 either an additional course or 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.