

Dear Friend of the University Honors Program,

As someone who has previously recommended a student for UAB's University Honors Program (UHP), I am writing to encourage you to alert students to the wonderful opportunities here in the Spencer Honors House. The UHP was established in 1983 as UAB's original honors program. The program has achieved national recognition for the quality of its unique interdisciplinary arts and sciences curriculum. Our unique 33 credit hour curriculum replaces the Alabama core curriculum (41 credit hours) and is the only exception to the core among honors programs at UAB, or elsewhere in the state of Alabama. Since all incoming students are required to complete the core regardless of their major, the UHP is open to all majors. Participation in the UHP in no way slows down the student's progress toward a degree, and participation in the UHP is a major asset for students going on to pursue graduate or professional school. Our honors curriculum is a very different way of approaching the core curriculum, but it is not a lot of additional work over and above the workload of the non-honors student, which is how honors is often erroneously conceived.

I am attaching the 2013 Fact Sheet that provides a thumbnail sketch of the UHP. Our program accepts about 50 students a year from a pool of around 350-400 applicants. Intellectual curiosity, strong motivation, and a willingness to explore and develop one's talents define the UHP student. Hopefully you know many students with these characteristics. Students that apply to UAB by the December 1st scholarship deadline, and meet the criteria of 28 ACT and 3.5 GPA, will be automatically accepted into the UAB Honors College. If a student meets one of the criteria, but not the other, they can contact Lindsay Aycock, Assistant Director of High Ability Admissions, for consideration (205.934.8221, aycock@uab.edu). Upon receiving their acceptance to the Honors College, students will be invited to apply for the University Honors Program. Every student that applies will receive an interview in January or February. Our selection committee takes all aspects of the student's application into account.

Students in the UHP take unique interdisciplinary courses in the fall of their freshman and sophomore years. These are thematic courses taught by the best teaching faculty at UAB selected from six different disciplines. We have never repeated a course in our 30-year history. Students also take five honors seminars before they graduate. We offer 15-20 different seminars on frontier and novel topics not found in regular departmental offerings. Seminars are limited to 16 students and offer a wonderful opportunity to get to know leading faculty at UAB. All honors courses are offered in the friendly confines of the Spencer Honors House. The permanent faculty members have their offices in the house and are always ready to converse about matters great and small.

In addition to our nationally-recognized interdisciplinary honors curriculum, students are encouraged to get involved with faculty research and scholarship, study abroad, and participate in campus and community leadership activities. Students are fully funded to present their work at regional and national honors conferences. Over the years, around 70% of UAB students winning major national awards such as the Rhodes, Truman, Rotary International, Marshall, and National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowships have been students in the UHP.

Also enclosed is information regarding the application procedure. Please feel free to copy and distribute. There are no extra fees for applying to or participating in the UHP. If students want to visit the UHP and/or sit in on a class please encourage them to contact us at (205) 934-3228. If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact our Program Coordinator, Rebecca Freeman (honorsprogram@uab.edu).

Sincerely,



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Director of the University Honors Program
Associate Professor of Psychology

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BASIC FACTS

Program

- Founded in 1983
- Admits approximately 50 students per year
- Provides enhanced extracurricular opportunities for involvement in faculty research and scholarship and development of leadership skills through community service activities
- Provides formal and informal advising in addition to that received from the student's major advisor
- Located in the Spencer Honors House (1190 Tenth Avenue South), which has a large classroom, seminar rooms, computer clusters, kitchen, pool and ping-pong tables, and lots of areas to relax. UHP students have secured access to the house at all times

UHP Curriculum

- Replaces all UAB Core Curriculum requirements with the exception of Math
- Compatible with curricula of all majors and pre-professional programs
- Consists of:
 - ◊ 2 nine-hour fall-term interdisciplinary honors courses (1st and 2nd years)
 - ◊ 5 three-hour honors seminars prior to graduation (only two seminars can be related to the student's major). Enrollment in seminars is capped at 16 students. Students participating in departmental honors programs may replace from 3 to 6 hours (depending on their major) of the University Honors Program seminars with departmental honors work.

STATISTICS ON STUDENTS

Current (221)

ACT:	Mean	30.05	Range	20-36
UAB GPA:	Mean	3.57		

Incoming (61 out of 359 applicants)

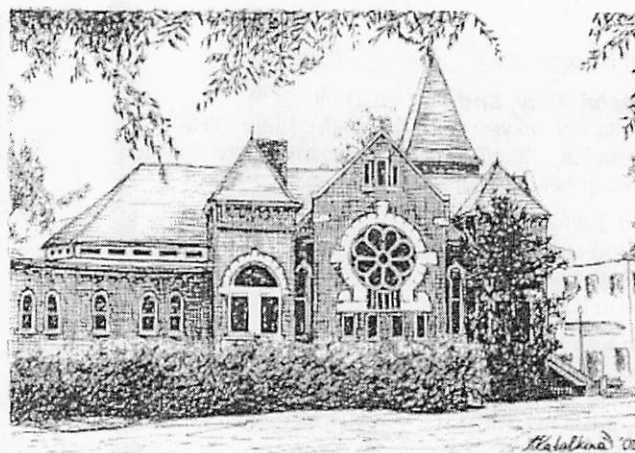
ACT:	Mean	31.21	Range	27-35
High School GPA:	Mean	4.20	Range	3.4-5.62

DISCIPLINES OF CURRENT STUDENTS

College of Arts & Sciences	81.0%
<i>Natural Sciences & Mathematics</i>	38.9%
<i>Social & Behavioral Sciences</i>	28.1%
<i>Arts & Humanities</i>	14.0%
School of Education	2.7%
School of Engineering	6.3%
School of Business	6.8%
School of Nursing	1.4%
School of Health Professions	1.4%
School of Public Health	0.5%
Undeclared	3.5%

ETHNIC DIVERSITY

Euro-American	African-American	Asian-American	Hispanic	Other
56%	11%	21%	4%	8%



RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

UAB's flagship honors program, the University Honors Program (UHP), is a nationally recognized honors program with a visible presence in honors education at the regional and national level.

UHP students are funded to attend and give presentations at state, regional, and national honors conferences. The majority of UAB students giving presentations at the SRHC and NCHC honors conferences have been students in the University Honors Program.

- Thirty-five UHP students presented at the SRHC conference in Louisville, Kentucky in spring 2013.
- Twenty-one UHP students presented at the NCHC conference in Boston, Massachusetts in fall 2012.
- Thirty-seven UHP students presented at the SRHC conference in Tampa, Florida in spring 2012.

Students in the UHP are encouraged to participate in research and scholarship with faculty all across campus. UHP students recently founded and serve as editors for the undergraduate science research journal *Inquiro*. UHP students also publish our own literary journal, *Sanctuary*, which was recently chosen as the journal of the Southern Regional Honors Conference.

NATIONAL AWARDS

Students in the University Honors Program account for about 70% of all post-baccalaureate and prestigious national scholarships awarded to UAB undergraduates in the past 20 years.

Just in the last three years, students in the University Honors Program were awarded national Teach for America Corps Positions (5), Goldwater Scholarships (2), Fulbright Scholarships (2), Alpha Lambda Delta Fellowships (2), national Phi Kappa Phi Fellowships (2), Benjamin Gilman International Scholarships (2), Beckman Foundation Scholarships (2), a Rhodes Scholarship, a Truman Scholarship, a Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship, a Boren Scholarship, a Pickering Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship, a William Jefferson Clinton Scholarship, a DAAD German Academic Exchange Scholarship, a Japan Exchange & Teaching Program Scholarship, a U.S. State Dept. Critical Languages Scholarship, and a Merck Undergraduate Fellowship.

In previous years, other national awards and fellowships received by University Honors Program students have included one or more of the following: British Marshall Scholarship, USA Today All-USA College Academic Team award, Conference USA Postgraduate Scholarship, NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship, NSF Graduate Fellowship, Pfizer Undergraduate Fellowship, Rotary Foundation Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarship, Rotary International Undergraduate Scholarship, Soros Fellowship for New Americans, and NASA Space Grant.

SAMPLE COURSE TOPICS

Examples of Recent Interdisciplinary Courses

Science, Technology, and Society (Fall 2013)

Faculty: Stella Aslibekyan (Public Health); Peter O'Neil (Mathematics); Stacie Propst (Science); Rusty Rushton (Literature); Mike Sloane (Psychology)

Nationhood (Fall 2012)

Faculty: Sarah Culver (Economics); Rusty Rushton (Literature); Mike Sloane (Psychology); Brian Steele (History); and Connie Stockham (Law & Ethics)

Knowledge and Ways of Knowing (Fall 2011)

Faculty: Doug Baulos (Art and Art History); Jacqueline Nikles (Chemistry); Peter O'Neil (Mathematics); Rusty Rushton (Literature); Mike Sloane (Cognitive Science); and Mary Whall (Philosophy)

Examples of Recent Honors Seminars

Food, Religion, and Violence in the Mediterranean

Zahariadis (Government)

Ethnographic Filmmaking

Forman & O'Beirne (History and Anthropology)

Personalized Genomic Medicine

Korf (Medicine, Genetics)

The Ecology of the Galapagos Islands

McClintock & Marion (Biology) - study abroad

Harry Potter: Ethics and the Imagination

Bach (English)

Representing Ecstasy

Rushton (Literature)

Philosophy, Psychology, and the Economics of Happiness

Angner (Philosophy)

Who is Jesus?

Blackerby (St. Andrews Church)

China's Next Phase

Pang (School of Business)

Cognitive Brain Imaging

Kana (Psychology)

Mythbusters! Archaeological Hoaxes

Parcak (Anthropology)

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS PROGRAMS

Students in the University Honors Program (as well as qualified students not in the UHP) may participate in departmental or school-wide honors programs designed for juniors and seniors.

STUDY ABROAD

In recent years, students in the University Honors Program have participated in study abroad programs in: Antarctica, Argentina, Austria, the Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, England, Fiji, France, the Galapagos Islands, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Nepal, New Zealand, Peru, Puerto Rico, Russia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine and Vietnam.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

Birmingham Crisis Center
Habitat for Humanity
Step-Up After School Project

Lovelady Project
Recycling Center
Big Brothers, Big Sisters

ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY THE UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

First Thursday Lecture Series

Fall Term Tuesday Night Film Series

Intramural Sports Teams

Arrington Middle School Partnership

Field Trips and Road Trips

Orientation Barbecue

Honors Semi-Formal

Honors Graduation Day

Annual Rushton Lecture

Ireland Visiting Scholar Lecture (co-sponsor)

Ada Long Creative Writing Workshop (co-sponsor)

Writers' Series (co-sponsor)

Free Food for Thought (co-sponsor)

ALUMNI STATISTICS

Cumulative statistics on alumni since the program was founded in 1983 show the following:

Graduate Programs	29%	Career Job Market	30%
Professional Schools	35%	Other Employment	6%

Of those going to professional schools, the breakdown is as follows:

Medicine	70%	Optometry	3%
Law	14%	Pharmacy	2%
Dentistry	6%	Physical Therapy	5%

HONORS PROGRAM PERSONNEL

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Website

www.uab.edu/universityhonorsprogram

APPLYING TO THE UHP

Students need to apply to UAB first, preferably by the December 1st scholarship deadline. If they meet the Honors College admission criteria (28 ACT, 3.5 GPA), they will be invited to apply to the UHP. The UHP application deadline is December 15th.



University Honors Program

Founded in 1983, the University Honors Program is UAB's original honors program. The unique, nationally-acclaimed interdisciplinary arts and sciences curriculum (33 credit hours) replaces the student's core curriculum (41 credit hours) and so is open to all majors. The UHP accepts about 50 students each year from a pool of 350-400 applicants. All applicants receive an interview in January or early February. We are seeking students with intellectual curiosity, strong motivation, and a willingness to explore and develop their talents.

Admission Process

- 1) Students must apply for regular admission to UAB first. Students are highly encouraged to apply to UAB before December 1st, the deadline for automatic consideration for scholarships.
- 2) All students who meet the minimum eligibility requirements (28 ACT/1260 SAT and 3.5 GPA) will be invited to join the UAB Honors College via mailed letter. Students that meet only one of the two criteria should contact Lindsay Aycock, Assistant Director of High Ability Admissions, for consideration (205.934.8221, aycock@uab.edu).
- 3) After confirming their interest in the UAB Honors College via a special web link, students are invited to apply to the University Honors Program.
- 4) Applications for the University Honors Program are due by December 15th. The application consists of an essay, resume, and 2 letters of recommendation.
- 5) All students receive an interview in January or February, and are notified of their admission status by late February.

For more information about the University Honors Program:

www.uab.edu/universityhonorsprogram

honorsprogram@uab.edu

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