

# THE HONORS PROGRAM

READY FOR THE CHALLENGE?





## Learning is a journey — an expedition that lasts a lifetime.

Gaining knowledge doesn't happen all at once. It's a long-term commitment you must make and put into practice year after year. You must get to know yourself and the people around you. You must delve deeply into the field you wish to practice to gain the skills that will transform you into a great leader.

For Florida Southern's most talented undergraduates, the Honors Program provides the guidance and flexibility you need to begin this great ascent. And because the path to success isn't the same for everyone, your experiences will be tailored to your individual strengths and interests, allowing you to make the most of your time as an undergraduate.

### **“I have been challenged in more ways than I could have imagined.”**

— Ryan Buckley '15, MBA '16,  
Account Executive, Lakeland Magic  
(Orlando Magic G-League Affiliate)

## BENEFITS FOR HONORS STUDENTS

Students invited to participate may take advantage of the following privileges:

- Topical seminars with the College's top faculty
- Special lectures and symposia
- Priority registration
- Ability to take up to 20 credit hours per semester at no additional cost
- Honors-only housing option and on-campus study lounge
- Honors study abroad opportunities
- Enhanced opportunities for community service and outreach
- Capstone project researched with a faculty member in your field with opportunities to present and publish your results
- Superior career and graduate school options
- Assistance in applying for prestigious scholarships, e.g., Fulbright, Rhodes

Innovative courses and personal interactions with faculty will inspire you to consider some of life's most important questions. Whether by close analysis of modern literature, application of economic theories in real-world business scenarios, or involvement in extracurricular adventures, you will be challenged to open your mind to new ways of thinking.

As an Honors student, you will also have access to the exceptional resources Florida Southern offers: internships, research, travel opportunities, the Career Center, and the knowledge and experience of FSC's finest faculty members who will motivate and encourage you to realize your full potential.





## READY TO TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE?

Build a website that showcases the College's collection of Frank Lloyd Wright memorabilia. Track the turtles in our local Lake Hollingsworth. Intern at the Tennyson Library outside London. Whatever you do, you'll be challenged to put your knowledge to work at Florida Southern!

To graduate from the Honors Program, you'll:

- take an interdisciplinary seminar and advanced general education courses.
- work one-on-one with faculty to learn techniques used in conducting research.
- complete a senior thesis project in your area of interest.

## LAYING A FOUNDATION

First-year honors seminars are specifically designed to challenge you to see the world through different perspectives. An essential part of our curriculum, every course tackles a major problem facing our society today. This semester, for example, students are examining global climate change and "fake news." Next semester, students will investigate a different set of issues.

Interdisciplinary courses like these encourage you to examine complex issues and, as a result, provide you with broader insights. And each seminar is fashioned to further your abilities to think, write, and speak about the biggest questions in contemporary Western culture.

Our expert faculty also makes sure that you don't have to wait until you graduate to get a taste of the real world; rather, our professors bring the real world to you, inside the classrooms and in the labs. As an Honors student, you will conduct meaningful research under the direction of a faculty member, who is distinguished in his or her academic discipline.

**All Honors courses apply to graduation requirements** by fulfilling general education, major, or elective obligations; therefore, participating in Honors courses allows you to complete your degree in a typical duration.

**Our faculty will provide abundant opportunities to ask big questions and encourage you to think analytically and imaginatively, while offering a richer understanding of the issues under examination.**





**“If you like to pick things up, shake them, and examine them from all angles, the Honors Program is for you.”**

— Laura Hackett '15,  
English literature

Nursing students traveled to Tanzania to provide much needed healthcare to children living in orphanages.





## SOPHOMORE INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH

Would you like to conduct research that results in a major presentation or possibly a professional publication? To reach these heights, we recognize that building research skills needs to happen early in the curriculum. You will be introduced to this process in your sophomore year in a seminar course that connects you with a faculty mentor; this will prepare you for a challenging Honors Thesis project.

For example, when biology major **Jasmine Childress '15** joined Dr. Gabriel Langford, associate professor of biology and former director of the Honors Program in his laboratory, she was able to participate in a substantial research project that resulted in an article in the *Journal of Parasitology*, with her as co-author. "This research experience was critical in my decision to pursue a Ph.D. upon graduation — it was awesome," says Jasmine.

## YOUR HONORS THESIS

Each Honors experience builds your skills for work on your senior capstone project. With guidance from your faculty advisor, you will propose a project and work toward completing it in your final two semesters. "The research experience for students is important in that it's how science is actually done," says Dr. An-Phong Le, associate professor of chemistry.

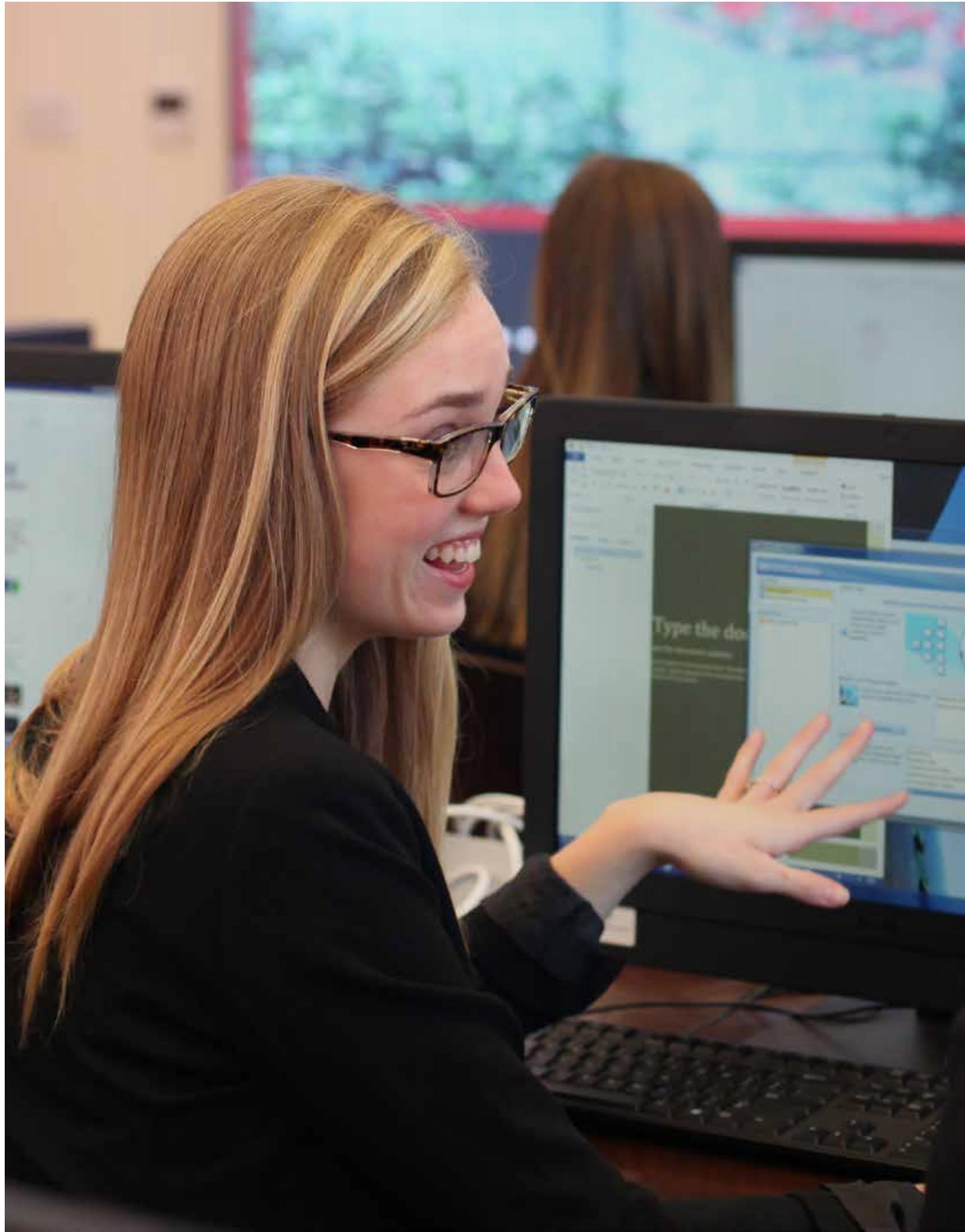
Honors students have worked with dolphins at Mote Marine Laboratories, written and published articles about the Whitewater scandal in Arkansas, compared species of roses using procedures similar to those used in DNA fingerprinting and presented their findings at national conferences, and traveled to rural parts of Costa Rica to teach English.

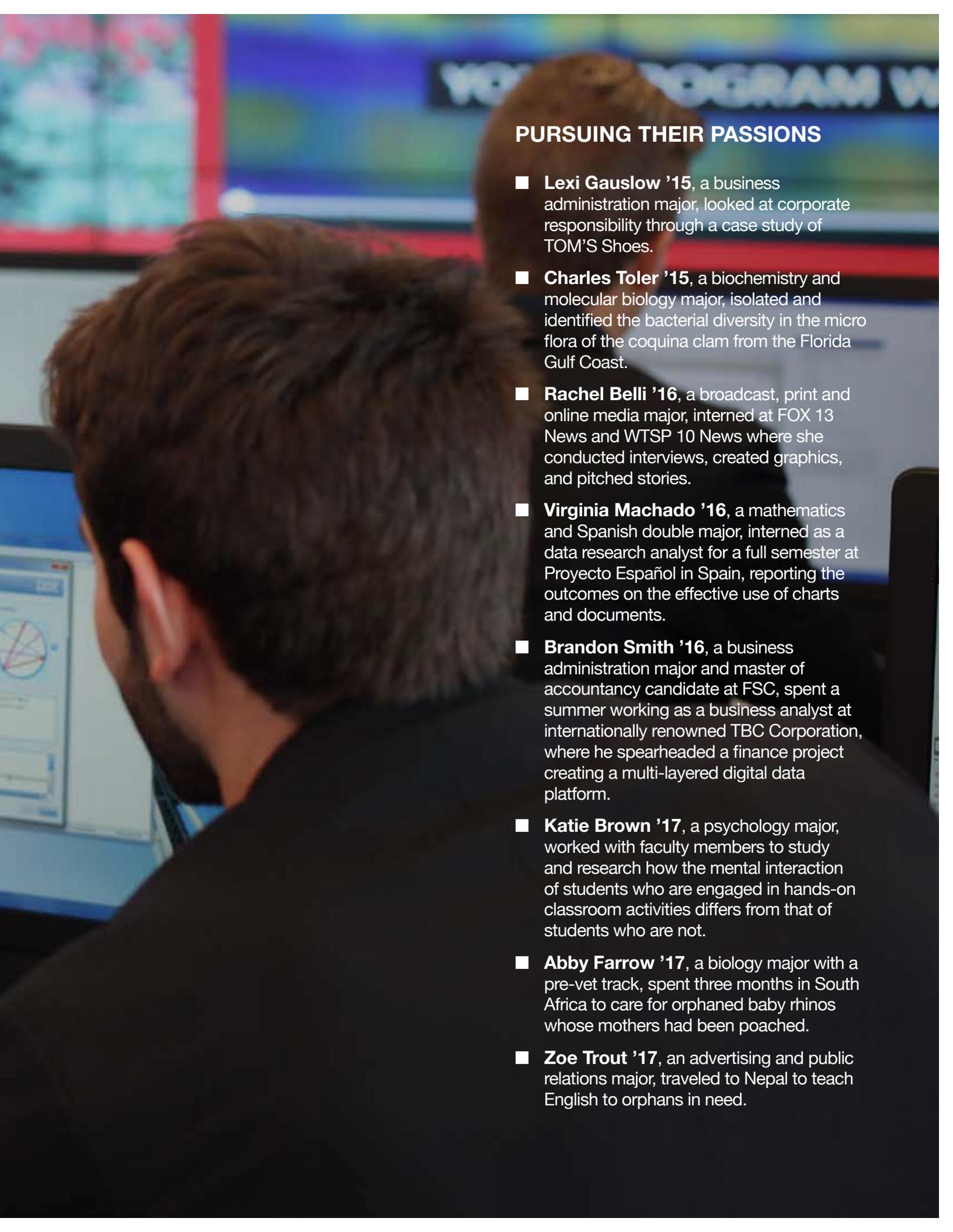


**After completing your project, you will have the opportunity to present your findings at our annual academic showcase, Fiat Lux.**

Sound exciting? "It is," confirms **Dr. Jennifer Bruno '11**, a former biology major who graduated from the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine. While at FSC, Jen worked closely with Professor Langford to design an ecological study looking at the parasite populations infecting the fish of Lake Hollingsworth. "Not only was this project immensely fun, but I also learned how to build a research study from the ground up, and we published a research note in a peer-reviewed scientific journal."







## PURSuing THEIR PASSIONS

- **Lexi Gauslow '15**, a business administration major, looked at corporate responsibility through a case study of TOM'S Shoes.
- **Charles Toler '15**, a biochemistry and molecular biology major, isolated and identified the bacterial diversity in the micro flora of the coquina clam from the Florida Gulf Coast.
- **Rachel Belli '16**, a broadcast, print and online media major, interned at FOX 13 News and WTSP 10 News where she conducted interviews, created graphics, and pitched stories.
- **Virginia Machado '16**, a mathematics and Spanish double major, interned as a data research analyst for a full semester at Proyecto Español in Spain, reporting the outcomes on the effective use of charts and documents.
- **Brandon Smith '16**, a business administration major and master of accountancy candidate at FSC, spent a summer working as a business analyst at internationally renowned TBC Corporation, where he spearheaded a finance project creating a multi-layered digital data platform.
- **Katie Brown '17**, a psychology major, worked with faculty members to study and research how the mental interaction of students who are engaged in hands-on classroom activities differs from that of students who are not.
- **Abby Farrow '17**, a biology major with a pre-vet track, spent three months in South Africa to care for orphaned baby rhinos whose mothers had been poached.
- **Zoe Trout '17**, an advertising and public relations major, traveled to Nepal to teach English to orphans in need.

## YOUR TRUSTED GUIDES

Teachers. Mentors. Advisors. Collaborators. Our Honors faculty are gifted teachers who dedicate themselves to working closely with you in and out of the classroom.

Nationally recognized scientists, artists, poets, and authors, teaching-award recipients, and distinguished thought leaders, our faculty is making significant contributions to the world in scholarship and creativity. Our professors bring classrooms to life with the most current developments in their fields. And they take pride involving you in cutting-edge research on topics from robotics to nanophotonics.

With care and compassion, they are also committed to guiding you through the discovery of yourself and the subjects you study. They eagerly come to class expecting strong students. Their goal is to engage you with interesting material. “We enjoy our students' genuine spirit of intellectual curiosity,” says Dr. Patrick Smith, who mentors Honors projects in psychology. “We thrive on the fact that they challenge us with difficult questions and want to dive into complex subjects.”

They see the potential in you and they are here to help you unlock it.

**“The Honors Program brings together students and faculty who are looking to transform their lives and the ways in which they view the world. Students receive the support, mentorship, and opportunities they need to develop their exceptional abilities.”**

— Dr. Erica Bernheim, associate professor of English, director of the creative writing department, and Honors mentor





**“ My teaching philosophy is simple: the most enriching learning takes place by doing. Applied work needs to be informed by solid theory, but the best theory is useless without application.”**

— R. Bruce Anderson, Ph.D.,  
professor of political science  
and pre-law advisor

**“The community is dynamic ...  
There was a balance between the  
support I needed and just enough  
independence to develop the academic  
discipline to make it through the  
challenging years of medical school.”**

— Dr. Cheryl Lodwick '07 OB/GYN  
Resident at the Ohio State University  
Wexner Medical Center



## WHAT DEFINES AN HONORS STUDENT?

Smart? Perhaps. Energetic, creative, adventurous, and motivated? Absolutely. Students invited to participate demonstrate a great deal of academic potential. Many are leaders in their high schools and local communities; others are gifted writers, artists, or scientists.

Honors students generally represent the top ten percent of their class and have a **1350 minimum** combined ERW + M on the SAT (or minimum composite score of **29** on the ACT) and an unweighted high school GPA of **3.5 or higher**. Beyond excellent academic records, Honors students also demonstrate superior academic abilities, intellectual promise, and self-motivation.



## GET READY TO GET BUSY

Within the program, you'll find varsity athletes, leaders of clubs and organizations, active fraternity and sorority members, and student government presidents. Despite their range of interests and opinions, Honors students unanimously share one trait: determination. "They are driven to succeed and the Honors Program provides a friendly arena to strive toward excellence and make lifelong friends," says Dr. Brian Hamilton, director of the Honors Program.



## INTELLECTUAL EXCHANGE

Honors students can be found engrossed in the study of the liberal arts — English, creative writing, philosophy, film, literature, art, math, and culture — making them promising physicians, clever engineers, and budding entrepreneurs who enjoy spirited debate and discussion. "More than their determination, Honors students share an intellectual generosity, which is evident whether they are teaching abroad or debating fellow students on campus," adds Dr. Hamilton.

## SUPPORT BUILT IN

While heading off to college is often your first opportunity for independent living, it's also a chance to become an active member of a vibrant residential community. When you live among other Honors students, it's easy to form study groups, build support networks, and make great friends. "You are surrounded by witty and smart people who are always full of ideas," says **Kassandra Galvez '16**, a political science major who is currently pursuing a J.D. at SMU's Dedman School of Law. "Being a part of this amazing community has opened me to so many different perspectives."

Accepting the challenge of the Honors Program indicates a willingness to take full advantage of all the opportunities Florida Southern offers. Honors students don't just go to class, write their papers, and ace their exams; they push themselves to learn and experience all they can.



## PREPARED FOR SUCCESS

You may not know exactly where you want to be in four years, but you can be certain that you'll have the skills you need to get there. "Choosing the FSC Honors Program was the best decision I made in my academic career. The program emphasized applied learning, encouraged me to think critically and creatively, and challenged me personally," says **Ashley Scott '13**, who received her masters of science in global health from the University of Notre Dame, and is currently the assistant director of the university's Eck Institute.

When you graduate, you will be armed with the ability to:

- assess and analyze information.
- work closely and harmoniously with others.
- take initiative.
- communicate clearly and effectively.
- adapt to change easily.

Given the rigorous yet supportive nature of our program, you'll find yourself prepared to be successful in a wide variety of post-collegiate careers.

## ON TRACK FOR GRAD SCHOOL

Honors students have already taken on challenges that most students don't experience until they arrive at grad school. "Our students are doing advanced-level work, contributing to the reason why top research universities welcome FSC students into their graduate programs," asserts Dr. Jason Montgomery, associate professor of chemistry. Our emphasis on critical thinking and commitment to engaged learning translates into valuable real-world experience, allowing you to position yourself as a competitive applicant and eventually a successful graduate student. Graduate schools also love the detailed recommendations our faculty write. Professors know each of our students and have spent extensive time with them inside and outside the classroom.

## ACCELERATED PROGRAM OPTIONS

Do you want to fast-track your way toward success? Take advantage of our degree programs in environmental studies, osteopathic medicine and pre-engineering.

- Through our partnership with **Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM)**, you can pursue a pre-med, pre-pharm, or pre-dental track. Those who meet the requirements while earning their undergraduate degrees will be guaranteed acceptance into LECOM's healthcare programs.
- Our 3-2 cooperative program with **Duke University** allows environmental studies majors to seamlessly move on to a two-year graduate degree.
- A dual-degree option in engineering allows you to earn a bachelor's degree from the prestigious **Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL)**, as well as a degree from Florida Southern!

## READY FOR THE REAL WORLD

Many Honors students have chosen to enter the workforce by securing a wide range of interesting positions directly after graduating from Florida Southern. Just to name a few: **Senka Softic '10** went to work as an analyst at Goldman Sachs; **Tyrone Wright '11** became an accountant with NASA; **Michael Scott '13, MBA '15**, went to CPS Investment Advisors to work as a portfolio analyst.

We'll give you the boots and help you adjust to the altitude, but you have to commit to the journey. If you're ready to begin your ascent, apply today at **[FLSOUTHERN.EDU/HONORS](http://FLSOUTHERN.EDU/HONORS)**.





**GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS WHERE HONORS GRADUATES HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED**

- Auburn University
- Boston University
- Columbia University
- Duke University
- Emory University
- Florida State University
- George Washington University
- Loyola University Chicago
- New England College of Optometry
- Northeastern University
- State University of New York, Stony Brook
- Old Dominion University
- Tel Aviv University (Israel)
- Tulane University
- University of California, Berkley
- University of Canterbury (New Zealand)
- University of Central Florida
- University of Houston
- University of Florida
- University of Miami
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of South Florida
- University of Virginia
- Vanderbilt University



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**Florida Southern College offers  
a rare combination of academic  
excellence, personal attention,  
and real-world experience.**

Our 2,500 curious and creative undergraduates come from nearly every state in the U.S. and 50 other countries to engage in the rigors and rewards of an interdisciplinary curriculum which focuses on individual achievement. Scholars can choose from 50 academic and pre-professional programs.

See a complete list:  
**[FLSOUTHERN.EDU/MAJORS](http://FLSOUTHERN.EDU/MAJORS)**