

# THINK BIG

THE HONORS PROGRAM

FLORIDA   
SOUTHERN  
COLLEGE

**“ I dare you to think bigger, to act bigger, and to be bigger,  
and I promise you a richer and more exciting life if you do.”**

— William Danforth



**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 critical thinking and communication 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, further enriching your understanding and providing greater insights into your specific discipline.

## PROGRAM BENEFITS

In addition to small, interactive classes led by the College's most honored faculty, special lectures and symposia, and a rich array of social events, you'll benefit from additional resources to propel you along your career path.

### Priority Registration/Additional Credit

Honors students receive priority registration to ensure they can integrate their Honors requirements into their degree program. They also can take up to 20 credit hours per semester at no additional cost.

### Honors Housing and Study Spaces

Though it is not required, our Honors-only housing option allows you to build relationships with students who are as passionate about learning as you. In fact, 90 percent of our Honors students choose to be part of a special living and learning community housed in the Barnett Residential Life Center. Additionally, you'll have access to the Honors lounge which provides a private space for quiet study, collaboration, and socializing.

### Application Assistance

Honors students have access to writing specialists that will assist in applying for prestigious scholarships, such as Fulbright and Rhodes, as well as assistance in preparing personal statements for graduate, law, and medical school applications.

### An Honors Degree

When you complete the Honors curriculum (see the following pages), you will receive an Honors degree — the highest undergraduate degree available at Florida Southern. Graduating with an Honors Degree provides convincing evidence of rigorous scholarly inquiry and academic achievement — an accomplishment sought-after by graduate and professional schools as well as top employers.





## LEARN TO THINK BIG

The one characteristic that separates the most successful people from the rest begins with a single ability — to see these things from a wider and more far-reaching perspective. This skill, if cultivated, develops over time into the empowering habit of thinking big that eventually takes over a person's psychology, and catapults them towards the achievement of their goals and objectives.

Choosing to participate in the Honors Program is your chance to learn to think broadly. With an emphasis on scholarly inquiry, you'll work collaboratively with faculty and peers from other disciplines while enriching your understanding and gaining greater insight into your own major. All the while, you'll hone your critical thinking and communication skills transforming you into you into an effective leader.

## LAYING A FOUNDATION

Your first year will equip you with the tools needed to become an exceptional scholar. Our Honors Writing and Public Speaking courses ask you to examine how culture shapes and is shaped by our communication practices. Through interdisciplinary discussions led by faculty from multiple disciplines, you'll be challenged to analyze and pose solutions to problems facing our society. The issue to be tackled changes each semester. Whether you're taking on fake news, climate change, or wrongful convictions, these seminars are shaped to provide you with broader insights while furthering your abilities to think, write, and speak critically about the biggest questions in contemporary Western culture.

## CREATE YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING

In your second year, you'll continue to broaden your awareness by taking individualized honors courses outside your discipline. Are you a biologist? Learn to write poetry. Are you a poet? Gain the knowledge needed to start a small business. Are you an accountant? Why not study the works of Plato and Aristotle? Exploring topics beyond your field of expertise enables you to integrate new knowledge with previously held notions. Not only does this type of interdisciplinary study lead to exciting research topics, it often results in seeing the world in a whole new light!

*Most Honors courses apply to graduation requirements by fulfilling general education, major, or elective obligations — allowing you to graduate within the typical time frame.*



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

— Laura Hackett '15;  
Content Specialist,  
Asheville Area  
Chamber of Commerce

“ Looking back on my four years at Florida Southern, what I gained most from the Honors Program were the friendships I developed with my fellow students and research advisor Dr. Langford. His advice and assistance have pushed me to new heights.”

— Jasmine Childress '15, winner of an NSF grant and Fulbright finalist, and published author. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Parasitology at UC, Santa Barbara



### SOPHOMORE HONORS RESEARCH SEMINAR

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 your college career. During your sophomore year, you'll take an introductory course that prepares you to conduct research or engage in creative works. You'll learn the principles, procedures, and methods for designing research and creative works while preparing you to select a faculty collaborator. Together, you'll begin to develop an idea for your senior 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 SENIOR PROJECT

Each Honors experience is meant to prepare you for your senior project. With guidance from your faculty sponsor, you will propose a project and work toward completing it during your junior and senior years. “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, looked at the impact of streaming services on the music industry, analyzed consumer reactions to corporations taking political stands, interpreted black women's historical fiction, and even written their own books of poetry.



*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.”



## 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.*

**"The Honors Program required me to apply what I learned in my major to situations outside of the classroom. It also allowed me the opportunity to work with amazing faculty and gain knowledge from their insights."**

— Ashlyn VanDenDriessche '18; currently working towards her Master of Accounting (MAcc)





## PURSUING THEIR PASSIONS

- **Lexi Gauslow**, a business administration major, looked at corporate responsibility through a case study of TOM'S Shoes.
- **Charles Toler**, 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**, 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**, 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**, a business administration major, 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**, 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**, 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**, an advertising and public relations major, traveled to Nepal to teach English to orphans in need.

“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 earned a minimum **1330 SAT or 29 ACT** and hold an unweighted GPA of a **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 **Julia Couch '20**, an advertising and PR major and lacrosse player. “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 Master 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 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 exciting 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; math major **David Blanco '13** went on to work as a solutions design engineer at Saddle Creek Logistic; and **Ryan Buckley '15, MBA '16** first went to work at Polk County Sports Marketing and is now a corporate account executive for the Lakeland Magic (Orlando Magic G-League Affiliate)!

*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 3,000 curious and creative students 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 70+ academic and pre-professional programs.

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