

DOLORES MARGARET RICHARD (D. M. R.) SPIKES HONORS COLLEGE
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70813

PURPOSE

The Dolores Margaret Richard (D. M. R.) Spikes Honors College provides an enhanced educational experience for students who have a history of strong academic achievement and motivation, and who have demonstrated exceptional creativity or talent. Students are challenged and nurtured through the use of innovative pedagogy, flexible and competitive curricula, and mentoring relationships with distinguished faculty and scholars. The College also provides cultural and intellectual opportunities that are designed to motivate students to perform at increasingly higher levels of excellence. Acquiring and exhibiting a sound judgment, a good character, including self-discipline, and deploying sustained efforts ensure the morphing of Scholars of this College into better leaders.

PHILOSOPHY

The instrumental and functional roles of education are secondary goals of the D. M. R. Spikes Honors College. The development of knowledgeable and productive individuals, as a result of exposure to strong liberal arts experiences that emphasize the relationship between values and beliefs and all forms of meaningful activity, is a fundamental belief. In addition, the seed for quality leadership and scholarship can best be met by cultivating the critical, inquisitive and creative spirit.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Participation in the D. M. R. Spikes Honors College is voluntary. However, students must apply for admission to the College.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

INCOMING FRESHMEN STUDENTS

A. Valedictorians and Salutatorians

- ACT Composite 20 - 22.9 or equivalent SAT score (without writing) - \$1,000 per fall and spring semesters.

B. Minimum ACT Composite 23 – 23.9 or equivalent SAT score (without writing)

- Minimum High School GPA of 3.3. - \$1,000 per fall and spring semesters.

C. Minimum ACT Composite 24 and above or equivalent SAT score (without writing)

- Minimum High School GPA of 3.3 - Funding at the level of \$2,500 per fall and spring semesters.

D. Minimum ACT Composite 25 and above or equivalent SAT score (without writing)

- High School GPA of 3.0 – 3.29 - Funding at the level of \$2,500 per fall and spring semesters.

E. Minimum ACT Composite 27 and above or equivalent SAT score (without writing)

- High School GPA of 3.5 - Funding at the level of \$3,000 per fall and spring semesters.

F. Minimum ACT Composite 30 and above or equivalent SAT score (without writing)

- High School GPA of 3.5 - Funding at the level of \$3,500 per fall and spring semesters.

The application package includes a transcript, two letters of recommendation from high school instructors, principals or counselors, and an original essay on a topic chosen by the applicant.

CRITERIA FOR CONTINUING AFFILIATION WITH THE HONORS COLLEGE

To retain the designation of Honors Scholars, students must maintain a GPA higher than 3.0/4.0, preferably, or at least equal to 3.0/4.0, each applicable semester. They must earn a minimum of 12 credit hours each fall and spring semesters, including 2* or more Honors credit hours. Scholars are expected to conduct research, write a thesis, and defend it successfully. Scholars have to be in good standing (conduct/behavior wise and otherwise) with the University.

* (1) This requirement does not apply to a scholar with 32 Honors credits or on track for an average higher than 4 Honors credits in past semesters. (2) The minimum number of Honors credits, 32, is prorated for students coming from community (or 2-year) colleges.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Transfer students must apply for membership and show proof of a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.3; with a maximum of 36 earned college credits or demonstrated research performance potentially leading to a thesis; documented participation in high school and college co- and extra-curricular activities; and submit two letters of recommendation, one from a high school instructor, principal or counselor and one from a college or university faculty.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Scholarships and funds are available through other academic units and public and private sources. The D. M. R. Spikes Honors College is committed to working closely with all students admitted to the college to assist in the preparation of an adequate financial aid package.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The Honors College core curriculum consists of honors colloquia and designated honors courses in the general curriculum and the student's major area of study. Honors Colloquia serve as the orienting courses in the college and focus on innovative pedagogy and interdisciplinary approaches to current issues. Honors Contract courses and courses from the general curriculum and the student's major area of study are pursued in order to complete the requirements for the Honors degree.

CURRICULUM

(Honors Designated Course Areas)

- Arts & Humanities
- English Composition
- Honors Colloquia:
 - Freshman
 - Sophomore
 - Junior
 - Senior
- Foreign Languages
- Independent Study (**Select Curricula**)
- Natural Sciences
- Physical Sciences
- All Major Curricula (**Select Courses**)

HONORS CREDIT BY CONTRACT

(H-option)

Honors Credit by Contract (H-option) is designed to enable students to pursue Honors work in all curricula. It provides the resources by which students are able to complete the requirements for the Honors College degree. Furthermore, Honors Credit by Contract permits students' academic freedom in building their own honors curriculum, a flexibility that often results in programs and experiences not characteristic of the traditional program of study.

H-OPTION CONTRACTS GENERALLY SHARE ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Choice of courses content and/or material of particular interest to both student and instructor.
- Specification of data sources not routinely addressed in the course.
- Explicit provision for additional consultation between student and instructor.
- Evaluation methods that is specific and rigorous, although not necessarily in the form of traditional term papers.

H-OPTION WORK IS LIKELY TO, BUT NEED NOT NECESSARILY, FALL INTO ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- Guided research involving data from primary sources, laboratory investigations, or field explorations resulting in individual reports, annotated bibliographies, etc.
- Participation in weekly seminar sessions to review and discuss current honors work; in cases where the instructor chooses to schedule such sessions for several students pursuing H-option work.
- Class presentations designed, prepared and delivered to a standard that will qualify as teaching.
- Additional reading discussed with the instructor in individual or group tutorial sessions to be presented in class and/or incorporated into regularly required written work.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE HONORS DEGREE

The designation Honors College Graduate will be indicated on the transcript and diploma of students admitted to the Honors College and who have completed the following Honors College requirements:

1. A 3.0 GPA in all course work pursued.
2. A 3.3 GPA in all honors work pursued.
3. At least 32 credit hours to include:
 - 6 hours of Honors Colloquia
 - 2 hours of Honors Thesis
 - 9 hours in a junior or senior level course in the student's major area.
4. The recommendation of the college dean that an Honors Degree can be awarded.

Respective Latin Honors designations will also be indicated for students who graduate with a cumulative grade point average of 3.4 and above.