University Honors Program
The University Honors Program offers an innovative and challenging curriculum for highly motivated students with a strong intellectual curiosity. The UAB Honors Program allows committed students representing a wide variety of majors, backgrounds, and interests to form close relationships with faculty, to explore new ideas, and to share their ideas, interests, all in the friendly confines of the Spencer Honors House. At the heart of the Honors program is an interdisciplinary approach to learning. Each year, the fall interdisciplinary course is team-taught by five or six faculty members from different disciplines who are carefully selected from the UAB faculty based on their excellence in teaching and scholarship. The Honors Program therefore draws on the vast resources of a major research university and concentrates them within a small, personal, liberal arts setting. The program is limited to a total of about 200 students (about 50 students per year) and is open to students pursuing any major. Participation in the Honors Program does not delay progress toward a degree.

Benefits
Students in the UAB Honors program take 33 semester hours of Honors coursework and three semester hours in mathematics, all of which replaces the 41 semester hours of the Core Curriculum requirements. Participation in the Honors Program therefore does not delay progress toward a degree nor does it interfere with commitment to a major. Instead of taking the regular Core Curriculum students in the Honors Program receive a more intensive and innovative education than is available in the regular curriculum. This is achieved through a stimulating range and depth of scholarly pursuits conducted within an interdisciplinary context. Starting in their first semester, students have close personal contact with their professors and fellow honors students, providing a sense of community and identity within the larger university context.

Honors Program students have the opportunity to meet and get to know not only a wide variety of faculty and administrators on campus, but important figures in the community and distinguished visitors from throughout the world. They have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of cultural, social, and scholarly events sponsored by the program, most of which take place in the Spencer Honors House.

Honors students are encouraged to conduct independent projects and research and they have unusual access to nationally and internationally recognized academics and researchers. The vast majority of UAB students who have won national awards such as Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, Goldwater, Rotary, Soros & Fulbright Fellowships have been students in the Honors Program. Honors students are encouraged to present their research at regional and national Honors conferences as well as at state, regional, and national student or professional conferences.

UAB Honors students receive many opportunities to develop their interpersonal and leadership skills. Student-run committees direct many aspects of the UAB Honors Program. Examples include a large array of community service programs, lecture series, intramural sports, special events and trips, and a literary journal entitled Sanctuary. In addition, many Honors students hold leadership positions in an array of student organizations across the UAB campus. UAB Honors students have held offices at the regional and national level of the National Collegiate Honors Council organization as well as in national student honors societies.
After completing the Honors Program, students graduate with the special designation “With University Honors” on their transcripts and in the commencement program. In addition, Honors students are recognized annually at the university-wide Honors Convocation and at the program’s own Honors Day. In the past graduates from the UAB Honors program have a much higher success rate in gaining entry to graduate or professional programs of their choice than students following the regular curriculum.

Spencer Honors House
The center of identity and community for the UAB Honors Program is the recently renovated Spencer Honors House, located on campus in the spacious and attractive environment of the Old Church at 1190 10th Avenue South. All instructional and social activities of the Honors Program take place there. The Spencer Honors House, with all of its facilities for recreation, studying, meeting, and relaxing, belongs to the Honors students and they have secure access at all times. In addition to a large lecture hall and seminar rooms equipped with state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment, the facilities include a kitchen, lounge areas, computers, pool & ping-pong tables, and a stereo. The offices of the director, associate director, and assistant director are also located in the house.

Honors Coursework
Honors students have two options for completing their 33 semester hours in honors:

- two 9-semester-hour Fall-semester interdisciplinary honors courses plus five 3-semester-hour honors seminars (only two of which can be related to the student’s major or minor); or
- two 9-semester-hour Fall-semester interdisciplinary honors courses, a minimum of two 3-semester-hour honors seminars (not related to the student’s major or minor), and up to nine semester hours of honors coursework within the student’s major Departmental Honors program (with the total number of semester hours adding up to 33).

The interdisciplinary honors courses are offered during the fall semester and are open only to Honors students. These courses are team-taught by faculty members (usually six) from different schools in the university. On occasion, guest lectures are given by experts from the medical center, the business sector, or the community. Each interdisciplinary course is organized thematically and is designed to cover a broad range of material from a variety of disciplines. Themes alternate between those with an arts & humanities bias and those with a more natural science bias. Depending on the year students complete either a major research paper or a research project related to the theme of the course. Students write a literary analysis in every interdisciplinary course.

Over the four years Honors students take from two to five (see above) Honors seminars. Seminar topics are selected by an interdisciplinary faculty committee (the Honors Council) and are available in a variety of different fields and focus on issues that are of major and topical interest within the field. The seminars typically cover topics not covered by courses offered in the regular undergraduate curriculum. These seminars are offered during the fall, spring, and summer semesters.
Additional Information About the Curriculum

Core Requirement in Mathematics
In addition to the Honors coursework, Honors students must fulfill the mathematics requirement of Area III of the Core Curriculum.

Credit for Participation in Honors
Students may receive up to three semester hours of credit, graded on a pass/fail basis, for participating in the range of special events sponsored by the Honors Program. Those events include a monthly lecture series called First Thursday, afternoon receptions for distinguished visiting speakers, workshops, and field trips.

Credit for Community Service
Students may receive up to three semester hours of credit, graded on a pass/fail basis, for completing long-term service projects. Available projects are announced before each semester and typically include work at a recycling center, homeless shelter, crisis center, or public school.

Independent Study
Students may propose an internship or independent study project in place of one seminar. An example of such a project is an internship at city hall, leading to a policy proposal on some area of city government. Proposals for these projects must be approved by the Honors Council.

Continuation in the Program
An Honors student is expected to maintain a 3.0 average in Honors program coursework. If the average falls below 3.0, the student will have one year to raise his or her average up to a 3.0 in order to remain in the program. A student must have an overall 3.0 average in the program and at UAB to graduate “With University Honors”; a student who has a 3.0 average in the program but a lower UAB GPA will graduate “With Honors in Interdisciplinary Studies.” A student who leaves the Honors Program for any reason will receive full credit toward graduation for all coursework completed in the program. The director of the Honors Program will designate which of the Core Curriculum requirements have been fulfilled by the individual student’s Honors coursework.

Who Should Apply
Students wishing to enter the UAB Honors Program must complete a separate application in addition to the regular UAB application. Students entering or already enrolled at UAB are eligible to apply for the Honors Program. Although most students entering the program are full-time freshmen, part-time students are also eligible, and students may even enter the program as sophomores or juniors. Non-traditional students are encouraged to apply. Honors students are selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- academic ability, as indicated by high school or previous college grades;
- creativity or talent—as in science, music, art, drama, leadership, etc.;
- intellectual promise, as indicated by standard aptitude and/or achievement tests;
• recommendations of knowledgeable instructors; competence in grammar, English composition, and mathematics; and

• evidence of any of the above as disclosed in a personal interview.

Any student who has a genuine interest in the kind of education that the Honors Program provides should apply, even if the student may not feel that he or she has demonstrable evidence of the above criteria. There are no rigid minimum requirements for being accepted into the Honors Program, which is intended to attract bright, curious, dedicated students who can both profit from, and contribute to, an intensive learning experience. Such students cannot always be identified on the basis of any objective set of criteria; therefore, all applicants will be given careful consideration on the basis of whatever evidence they present, both in a written application and in a personal interview.

Scholarships
The UAB offers scholarships on a first-come first-served basis so students are strongly encouraged to apply early in the fall term. In addition to the variety of regular scholarships offered by UAB which are open to all qualified UAB applicants, the Honors Program has other scholarship options available. The Hess-Abroms Honors Scholarships, awarded annually, are valued at $16,000 each and provide $4,000 per year. Application is open to incoming freshmen. The award is based on superior academic achievement, creativity or talent, strong motivation, character, and intellectual promise. The deadline for application for the Hess-Abroms scholarship is January 1.

The Juliet Nunn Pearson Honors Scholarships are awarded each year to three first-year students in the UAB Honors Program. These three $1,000 scholarships are awarded on the basis of merit and need; all students admitted into the UAB Honors Program are automatically considered as candidates for this scholarship.

Application
Students interested in applying for admission to the Honors Program should use the contacts below to receive an application packet. Application Forms and forms to be used for Letters of Recommendation are also available on the Honors program website.

Director,
UAB Honors Program
HOH
1530 3rd Avenue South
Birmingham, Alabama 35294-4450
Telephone (205) 934-3228
E-mail: honorsprogram@uab.edu

In order to be guaranteed full consideration for fall admission, all parts of the application must be completed and submitted by January 1st.