

# Southern Arkansas University

---



Honors students  
and others in St.  
Mark's Square,  
Venice (2019)

---

**Institution Name:** Southern Arkansas University

**Program Name :** SAU Honors College

**Country:** USA

**State:** Arkansas

**City :** Magnolia

**ZIP Code:** 71753-9199

**Dean or Director of Honors :** Edward P. Kardas

**Website Address:** <http://web.saumag.edu/honors/>

**Institution Type:** Public or State College

**Institution Characteristics :** 4 Year College, Scholarships Available,  
Transfer Students Accepted

**Honors Program Characteristics :** General Honors Program, Midsize  
Program (100-500 students)

**Other Institution/Honors Characteristics:** \$600 annual stipend paid  
each semester. Students encouraged to use for needed equipment or  
travel.

**General Information:** The SAU Honors College was founded in 2003 and enrolls nearly 200 students. Honors College students comprise 6% of SAU's total enrollment and major in all four of SAU's Colleges. About 10% are international students. The rest mostly come from Arkansas and nearby states. The Honors College recruits students who are serious about academics. Most graduate in four years or less and nearly all enroll in graduate or professional programs upon graduation. Every year SAU's outstanding students awardees are usually honors students. The Honors College expects its students to learn leadership skills and to support local communities. However, the Honors College does not assign projects, rather it supports initiatives and goals generated by honors students themselves through their governing body, the Honors Association.

**Admission Criteria:** We admit first-year and transfer students based upon a global assessment of academic potential. We examine ACT scores, high school GPA, required two essays, and two letters of recommendation. Current SAU students who have earned at least a 3.5 GPA may petition the Honors College for admission. Classes do not necessarily involve a greater amount of work than other classes, but require students to apply critical thinking skills and function at a higher cognitive level.

**Honors Program Requirements:** Students must maintain a 3.25 GPA in order to remain in the Honors College. In order to graduate with an Honors College degree students must complete a minimum of 24 honors hours.

**Honors Scholarships:** Honors students receive an annual stipend of \$600 (\$300/semester) in addition to any other scholarships earned. For information on scholarships at SAU see: <http://web.saumag.edu/admissions/apply/scholarships/> Students may use their \$600 annual

stipend to purchase technology necessary for their education or to supplement travel expenses.

**Honors Curriculum :** Students in the Honors College must take a minimum of 24 honors hours. Some full honors classes available in the General Education curriculum are personal finance, world history, literature, art appreciation, film appreciation, psychology, U.S. history, philosophy, and Honors Seminar, the first class taken by all Honors College students. Contract honors classes may be arranged in nearly any major. Students must petition instructors, create, and sign honors contracts specifying how to elevate a class to honors level.

**Honors Faculty:** Honors College faculty are recruited and approved by the Honors Director. Honors general education classes enroll only honors students, are smaller (Mean = 15 students), and are taught differently. Honors contract students meet with the regular class but students arrange for a project to elevate the course to honors level. There is no typical example of such elevation. It may involve the student conducting supervised research, building scientific equipment, analyzing large datasets, or creating movies or other media from scratch. In general, the Honors College discourages the simple addition of a paper for contract courses. Students and faculty should seek unusual, interesting, and distinctive projects. Recent examples include building a saltwater aquarium, examining the human genome, and analyzing Holocaust art. Very often these projects become the basis for conference presentations and papers.

**Honors Advising:** The Honors College Student Advisor is also housed in the Honors Hall in order to answer any questions and provide the students with 24-hour assistance and advice. Honors College staff meet with students to make and enter their schedules on a priority basis before general registration begins.

**Honors Opportunities:**

Honors students receive priority registration throughout their academic career at SAU. They may elect to live in the Honors Hall, one of the newest residence halls on campus. Juniors and seniors may choose to reside in the University Village on-campus apartments. There, honors students are housed in top floor apartments (those are quieter) near each other. The Honors College sponsors educational trips and travel to academic conferences. Honors students have traveled to international destinations including London, South Africa, New Zealand, Havana, Paris, Venice, Florence, and Rome. National sites visited include Boston, New Orleans, Washington DC, Portland, Chicago, Denver, Seattle, and Atlanta. Honors students receive a special diploma and recognition of their honors status on their transcripts. They are also recognized at the commencement ceremony. The Honors College has partnered with three nearby two-years colleges that have recently established Honors Programs. Students from those programs may transfer their honors credits to SAU upon admission to the Honors College. The Honors College has established an exchange program with the University of Artemisa in Cuba that created complementary murals on both campuses.

**Honors Program Website Link:** <http://web.saumag.edu/honors/>

**Institution Website Link :** <http://web.saumag.edu>

**Admissions Website Link :** <http://web.saumag.edu/admissions/>

**Scholarships Website Links:** <http://web.saumag.edu/admissions/apply/scholarships/>

**Other Website Links:** <http://sauhc.blogspot.com>

**Institution Address:** Honors College, MSC 9199 Magnolia, AR  
71753-9199

**Institution Phone Number:** 870 235 4375

## Listing State : Arkansas

