

Special Programs and Honors

Center for Student Success and First-Year Experience programs

StudentsFIRST is a support program that addresses many of the common issues that first-generation students encounter during their first year of college. **StudentsFIRST** provides first-generation students with access to targeted services and resources to promote a positive experience towards becoming the first in their family to earn a college degree.

EDHE 105 Freshman Year Experience is designed to help first-year students adjust to the university, develop a better understanding of the learning process, acquire essential survival skills, and begin the major/career exploration process. The course also introduces students to the mission, values, and constituencies of a comprehensive public university, and to ethical and social concerns affecting its functioning.

EDHE 305 Transfer Student Experience is designed to help transfer students adjust to the university setting, develop a better understanding of university learning, and expand on their major/career explorations. The course also focuses on the mission, values, and constituencies of a comprehensive public university, and on the ethical and social concerns related to its functions.

EDLD 201 Career Decision Making aids in the development of self-awareness and career/life planning skills through exposure to theories of career development, self-assessment instruments, decision-making models, and occupational exploration.

FASTrack

FASTrack (Foundations for Academic Success Track) provides first-year students with academic support during the critical transition from high school to college. FASTrack students are divided into groups of 20 students or less called cohorts. Each cohort takes three classes together during the fall and spring semesters, satisfying core requirements and building a sense of community and peer support. On their own, students take one or two additional “non-FASTrack” courses to maintain full time schedules. Cohorts get to know each other quickly and students often study together. Our carefully selected instructors work with FASTrack academic mentors to track and report individual student progress so that struggling students can be identified and assistance can be offered.

Fall Semester

WRIT 101: First-Year Writing I

EDHE 105: First Year Experience

PSY 201: General Psychology

OR

SOC 101: Introductory Sociology

Spring Semester

WRIT 102: First-Year Writing II

BISC 102: Inquiry Into Life Human Biology - Associated lab: Bisc 103.

Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College Requirements

The curriculum of the Honors College requires a minimum of 29 hours of honors credit, with at least 18 hours by the end of the sophomore year. The following nine hours are required: Honors 101 (3 hours); Honors 102 (3 hours); and Senior Thesis (at least 3 hours). It also is expected that most students will earn 1-6 hours of honors credit for the exploratory research project. In addition, students must achieve computer literacy. The remaining hours are on a menu plan: students choose honors sections of regular courses or enroll in colloquia which are designated as honors courses.

Honors 101 and 102 ordinarily will satisfy the six-hour freshman composition requirement. Alternatively, a student may apply the credits toward humanities or social science hours, especially if the student has AP English or other college composition credit. If used as humanities and social science credit, Honors 101 and 102 functions differently in the various colleges and schools:

Business, Accountancy and Pharmacy: 6 hours of humanities requirements

Engineering: 3 hours of humanities and 3 hours of social science

Education and Applied Sciences: 3 hours of humanities and 3 hours of electives

Liberal Arts: B.A.—3 hours of humanities and 3 hours of social science

B.S.—6 hours of the required 12 hours of social science.

Please Note: Students must have a minimum of a 3.50 grade point average in order to graduate as a Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors Scholar. In the service of accomplishing this goal, Honors students must attain a minimum GPA of 3.20 at the end of the freshman year, a 3.40 at the end of the sophomore year, and a 3.50 by the end of the junior year. During the senior year, students should have at least a 3.50 cumulative GPA.