CAROLINA ELITE
A Guide to Our Scholar Programs
**BENEFITS OF BEING AN HONORS STUDENT**

**LIMITLESS INQUIRY**
Our nearly 600 honors courses are not just regular classes with more assignments. Signature courses are more individualized and were created specifically to meet the unique interests of our honors students.

**SMALL CLASS SIZES**
With an average class size of 18, our students receive personal attention and form connections with their peers and professors, often leading to research and internship opportunities. Small class sizes also allow students to explore beyond the norm through discussion-based learning.

**IN-DEPTH ADVISING**
Students are paired with an Honors College advisor who provides direction on Honors College curriculum and requirements, assists with course registration and helps make strategic course selections to meet academic and postgraduation goals. Honors advisors also support our students’ pursuit of Beyond the Classroom opportunities, including study abroad, internships, undergraduate research and service-learning courses.

**CREATE YOUR OWN CURRICULUM**
The BARSC degree allows students to create a custom curriculum by developing a challenging course of study tailored to their interests. The requirements are stringent, but the program is rewarding and lets students create their own path.

**SPECIAL FUNDING**
Regardless of major, students have access to research grant programs and can compete to receive financial assistance for travel abroad, academic conferences, groundbreaking research and their senior thesis.

**TOP SCHOLARS**
A small community within the South Carolina Honors College, our Top Scholars receive the highest merit scholarships awarded by our university. These students have access to exclusive services to support their academic and professional goals including our National Fellowships and Scholar Programs office, which offers four years of programming.

**BENEFITS OF BEING A TOP SCHOLAR**
_All the benefits of the Honors College, plus more._

**HOLISTIC ADVISING AND TOP SCHOLAR APPOINTMENTS**
Students develop strong relationships with scholar programs staff who are available to help them create long-term plans that meet their academic and co-curricular goals.

**FIRST-YEAR SCHOLAR PROGRAMS**
Top Scholars attend a special Orientation and Welcome Reception and participate in a team-building retreat. They are assigned to small groups led by peer leaders who help them transition to campus.

**CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS**
Students have access to a comprehensive calendar of activities including academic enrichment programming, social events and more.
**CAPSTONE SCHOLARS**

Capstone Scholars is a two-year, invitation-only academic enrichment program. The Capstone Scholars experience is defined by six areas of emphasis, and students choose those that best match their academic and professional goals. These areas are: common academic experiences, community engagement, diversity and global learning, leadership, research, and career readiness and professional development.

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**BENEFITS OF BEING A CAPSTONE SCHOLAR**

**INSTANT CONNECTIONS**  
Students form relationships in any number of ways, whether it’s attending a Capstone Scholars event, participating in a local workshop, or scheduling meetings with Capstone Scholars faculty or staff.

**PERSONAL GROWTH**  
Our students step out of their comfort zone to challenge themselves each semester. They experience new things like joining a student organization, training for a 5K or volunteering at service events.

**CAPSTONE SCHOLARS-THEMED CLASSES**  
Capstone Scholars have the opportunity to take select courses with their fellow scholars like U101, English 101 and 102, hauntings, video games, politics, environment, comedy, and more.

**SHORT-TERM STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCES**  
“Global classroom” courses allow students to see the world as they gain credit toward their degree.

**CAPSTONE SCHOLARS-EXCLUSIVE GRANTS**  
Students can pursue exclusive grants like the $1,500 Passport Travel Grant, the $1,000 Magellan Apprentice Undergraduate Research Grant and the Professional Development Grant.

**OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A CAPSTONE FELLOW**  
Upperclassmen can apply to earn further distinction based on their academic achievement and beyond-the-classroom experience. Capstone Fellows continue to have access to Capstone Scholars-specific grants, travel and research, and become part of an expanded professional network.

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**ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR CAROLINA ELITE**

**UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH**  
As a comprehensive research university, our faculty and students engage in research and scholarly activities that promote innovation across the arts and humanities, mathematics, engineering, and the sciences. Our sponsored research awards have totaled more than $200 million each of the last 10 years, making a significant impact on both the state and national economy.

**PRE-PROFESSIONAL ADVISING**  
Students work with the Office of Pre-Professional and Graduate Advising to prepare for law, medical, dental, veterinary or other professional schools. Students can take part in career observations, learn to craft unique personal statements, seek guidance on professional school applications and identify their strengths and weaknesses during mock interviews.

**FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**  
Receiving individual attention from award-winning faculty members and researchers has many tangible benefits, including the ability to work together to win national and international awards. Last year, USC students and recent alumni won nearly $4.5 million for advanced academic study.

**INTERNSHIPS AND CO-OPS**  
Internships are an important part of our Carolina Elite programs. It’s not unusual for our students to complete two or more internships during their college career. With the support of internship directors and advisors for both the Honors College and Capstone Scholars, students develop a career plan and find an internship that meets their academic and personal goals.
CAROLINA ELITE FRESHMAN PROFILES

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES* MIDDLE 50%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAPSTONE</th>
<th>HONORS COLLEGE</th>
<th>TOP SCHOLARS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1340 - 1420 SAT</td>
<td>1430 - 1520 SAT</td>
<td>1520 - 1560 SAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 - 32 ACT</td>
<td>32 - 34 ACT</td>
<td>34 - 35 ACT</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.3 - 4.9 HS GPA</td>
<td>4.5 - 5.1 HS GPA</td>
<td>4.7 - 5.4 HS GPA</td>
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<tr>
<td>4% - 16% Class rank</td>
<td>1% - 5% Class rank</td>
<td>1% - 3% Class rank</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Test score ranges only include students who chose to have their test scores considered in the admission and scholarship process.

60
Nationally ranked academic programs

350+
Unique combinations of majors, minors and areas of study

TOP 1%
of patent-producing universities in the world—National Academy of Inventors

1 of 64
public universities to receive the Carnegie Foundation’s “highest research activity” and “community engagement” designations

1,900+
FULL-TIME FACULTY
87% have the highest terminal degree in their field

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS
Lieber College
902 Sumter Street Access
Columbia, SC 29208
803-777-7700
admissions-ugrad@sc.edu
sc.edu/admissions

SOUTH CAROLINA HONORS COLLEGE
Harper College
Columbia, SC 29208
803-777-8102
admhonor@sc.edu
sc.edu/honorscollege

CAPSTONE SCHOLARS PROGRAM
13 Gibbes Court
Columbia, SC 29208
803-777-3912
capstonescholars@sc.edu
sc.edu/capstonescholars

NATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLAR PROGRAMS
DeSaussure College
Columbia, SC 29208
803-777-0958
nfsp@sc.edu
sc.edu/nfsp

SCHonorsCollege
CapstoneScholars
CapstoneScholar
UofSCAdmissions
UofSCNFS

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