



Baccalaureus Artium et Scientiae ~ The South Carolina Honors College Degree

The Baccalaureus Artium et Scientiae (“Bachelor of Arts and Sciences,” or “BARSC”) is the most selective undergraduate degree program at the University of South Carolina and one of the most selective in the country. In order to be admitted to this program, applicants must be fourth semester Honors College students with a minimum GPA of 3.6. They must develop a program of study approved by a panel consisting of an Associate Dean and Dean of the Honors College and two faculty advisors. They must satisfy the general education requirements for both the BS and BA degrees. They must complete the study of a foreign language into the third year. They must take at least 69 credits of honors course work, including an extensive nine-hour senior honors thesis. Finally, they must have a 3.5 grade point average to graduate.

The following steps are taken by any student considering the BARSC degree:

1. The student discusses the degree program with his or her Honors Advisor, and with the Dean of the Honors College. This is done during the student’s first three semesters in the college.
2. If the Dean approves the student to apply to the BARSC program, then the student prepares a “Statement of Purpose” and submits it to the Dean and an Associate Dean for review. The Statement of Purpose should contain the following information:
 - The student’s academic strengths and weaknesses;
 - The student’s personal and professional goals, both long- and short-term;
 - The reasons why the student’s academic and professional goals cannot be met through a standard degree program (for example, a double major).
3. The student establishes his or her BARSC Committee, which consists of (i) the Dean; (ii) one Associate Dean; and (iii) two faculty members invited by the student. The two faculty members represent two of the disciplines to be pursued through the student’s BARSC Program. The student’s BARSC Committee receives the student’s Statement of Purpose in preparation for meeting to establish the student’s program of study.
4. The student’s BARSC Committee meets with the student to work out the specific program of study for that student.

Once the program of study has been worked out, the student transfers to the BARSC degree program officially, with the Honors College Dean or Associate Dean serving as his or her Honors College and Major advisor.

The following are the BARSC degree requirements:

- Completion of the core degree requirements for both a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science in the College of Arts and Sciences, excluding duplications in requirements;
- A foreign language through at least one 300-level course;
- Mathematics through at least MATH 142 (Calculus 2), preferably as Honors College courses;
- One Independent Study to prepare for the Senior Thesis/Project;
- A Senior Thesis/Project of at least 9 but no more than 15 credits.

Aside from these requirements, the student, working with his or her committee, designs an individualized curriculum that has no major, minor, or cognate, but reflects the student’s interests, strengths and weaknesses. The Senior Thesis/Project (9-15 credits) represents the student's effort to pull the strands of this unique educational opportunity together in an extended research/scholarly experience.

Requirements for graduating with the Baccalaureus degree from the Honors College. In addition to these requirements the student must meet all requirements to graduate “with honors from South Carolina Honors College.”		
Minimum cumulative GPR to be admitted	3.6 at the end of student's 3rd semester	
Minimum cumulative GPR	3.5 at the end of the student's final semester	
Minimum letter grade	C or better for any course to count toward Baccalaureus degree	
Minimum hours	69 honors’ credits for the Baccalaureus Artium et Scientiae, 126 credits total.	
Required Courses	Number of courses/credits	Courses (may be non-Honors)
English	2/6	ENGL 101, ENGL 102
History	3/9	One European, One American, and One Non-western History.
Fine Arts and Literature	2/6	One Fine Arts and one Literature Course (beyond ENGL 101 and 102).
Language	6/19	Foreign Language through one 300-level course
Social and Behavioral Sciences	3/9	Political Science, Economics, Sociology, Anthropology, Economics, Geography, etc.
Science	2/8-10	Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Marine Science, etc. Must include 2 hours of laboratories.
Mathematics	2/8	MATH 141, MATH 142
Overlays	3/9-12	Two of three overlays may overlap with BARSC general education or degree specific requirements. At least one overlay must be met by a stand-alone course 1. Persuasive Communications 2. Information Literacy 3. Values, Ethics, and Social Responsibility
BARSC Specific Requirements	To be determined	Other courses are required as determined by the student’s BARSC committee in consultation with the student.
Integrative Course: Senior Thesis	Credits	
SCHC 399	3	Independent Study
SCHC 390z	1	Senior Thesis preparation course usually in 6th semester
SCHC 499	9-15	Usually register 7th semester and complete in 7 th and 8th semester