



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 serving as his or her Honors College and Major advisor.

The following are the BARSC degree requirements:

- Completion of the basic degree requirements of both the Division of Liberal Arts and the Division of Science and Mathematics 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 Computer Science course;
- 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		
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 honors course to count toward Baccalaureus degree	
Minimum hours	69 honor's credits for the Baccalaureus Artium et Scientiae	
Required Courses	Number of courses	Notes (may be non-Honors)
English	3	ENGL 101, ENGL 102 and one more literature course
History	3	HIST 101 or 102, HIST 111 or 112, and Non-western History
Fine Arts	1	Fine Arts
Philosophical Reasoning	1	Any Philosophy course other than PHIL 110, PHIL 111, PHIL 511 (logic courses)
Language		Foreign Language through one 300-level course
Social Science / Behavioral Science	3	Political Science, Economics, Sociology, Anthropology, Economics, Geography, etc.
Science	2	Must be lab sciences
Analysis	3	MATH 141, MATH 142, and CSCE 102 or above
Cultural Overlay	2	North American Studies (other than HIST 111 / 112) and Course in culture of foreign language
BARSC Specific Requirements	To be determined	Other courses are required as determined by the students BARSC committee in consultation with the student.
Senior Thesis	Credits	
SCHC 399	3	Independent Study
SCHC 390z	1	Senior Thesis preparation course usually in 6th semester
SCHC 490 Thesis / Project	9-15	Usually register 7th semester and complete in 8th semester