Transfer Admission: South Carolina Honors College

Why South Carolina Honors College?
The South Carolina Honors College at the University of South Carolina offers its scholars the resources of a major research university while individualizing education to fit the needs and goals of its students. Students who enter the Honors College are challenged to think independently and to pursue their academic interests within a supportive environment that offers personal guidance and individualized attention. Honors College students are among the University’s highest academic achievers.

Transfer Admission Criteria
Students may transfer into the Honors College from within the University of South Carolina or from other colleges and universities. Admission for transfer to the Honors College is very competitive; the number of applications approved is based on the number of vacancies in the College. Students who have completed no more than 45 credit hours while enrolled at an institution of higher education and have a minimum 3.6 GPA in all college work attempted may apply for transfer admission to the Honors College. The 45 credit hour limit does not include AP credit hours, IB credit hours, or hours earned for college courses taken while enrolled in high school.

There are two transfer deadlines during the year. Students who are in their first year of college prior to application should apply by the May 1 transfer deadline and will enter the college the following Fall semester. There is also a December 1 transfer deadline, which is only for students who are completing the first semester of their sophomore year during the December in which the deadline occurs. These students will enter the college the following Spring Semester. In brief, if you are freshman, you should apply before the May deadline; if you are a sophomore, you should apply before the December deadline.

All students who wish to apply to transfer into the Honors College, whether from another college/university or as an enrolled USC Columbia student, should complete the SCHC application for transfer admission. Non-USC students will also need to apply for university admission through the USC Columbia Admissions Office. Students from a USC campus that is not USC Columbia will need to fill out a change of campus form in addition to the Honors College application.

The criteria for considering transfer applicants include the following:

- Minimum of a 3.6 GPA on a 4.0 scale on all college work attempted.
- The application, including an essay. See the application form for essay topics and guidelines.
- Two letters of recommendation from professors. These letters should not be submitted by the student, but should be sent by the recommenders directly to the SCHC. For regular mail, the address is “Transfer Applications, ATTN: Elise Porter, South Carolina Honors College, Harper College, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208.” For email submission, the address is recommendations@s chc.sc.edu.
- To apply for transfer from another college or university, please provide a transcript of college work. (The SCHC staff will have access to transcripts of students within the USC system.)
- To be accepted, you must in the judgment of the Transfers and Admissions Committee have a reasonable chance of graduating with “Honors from the South Carolina Honors College.” Graduation with honors requires 45 Honors credits, which include Honors specific distribution requirements. Please see our online handbook for a breakdown or for more information: http://students.schc.sc.edu/campus-resources

A student admitted to the Honors College as a new freshman but who declined admission for any reason may enter the Honors College during a subsequent semester—up to one year after the student would have originally enrolled—without submitting a further application. However, a student seeking to enroll in the Honors College in this way must have a 3.5 GPA from all college coursework. These students must submit a letter of intent to the Dean of the Honors College no later than December 1 for spring admission, and May 1 for fall admission. In addition, we require an official transcript from all previously attended institutions.

Application Deadlines: December 1 for spring semester admission (sophomores); May 1 for fall semester admission (freshmen). NOTE: When either date falls on a weekend or a holiday, the next business day is the deadline date.

Mail or deliver your application materials to:
Honors College Transfer Admissions/ South Carolina Honors College/ Harper College 120/ University of South Carolina/ Columbia, SC 29208

Contact
Please refer to our website for questions regarding transferring into the Honors College: http://schc.sc.edu/admissions/transfer-admission. Any further inquiries should be directed to Elise Porter, Recruiting Coordinator at portere@mailbox.sc.edu.
Application for Transfer Admission to South Carolina Honors College

Instructions
Complete the Personal Information portion directly on this form (please type or print legibly) and sign the bottom. Complete the Essay Responses on separate sheets of paper, being sure to indicate which questions you are responding to on each sheet of paper. Include your formal full name on the top right corner of each sheet of paper.

Personal Information
VIP Number _________________________
(or Social Security Number if outside USC System)
Legal name ______________________________
(last, first middle) preferred first name
Street Address _____________________________
City, State Zip ______________________________
(Amissions correspondence will be mailed to this address)
Current phone number ________________
Email Address ______________________________
Date of Birth _____________________________
Intended Major ____________________________

Essay Responses -- We want to know what you think. We want a sense of who you are as a person and a student. We therefore ask that you receive no assistance, including editing, from anyone in the preparation of your essays. Your work submitted here must be entirely your own.

1. Write an essay addressing one of the following topics, being sure to justify your position. Your essay should be 500 to 1,000 words.
   a. Intellectual curiosity is a vital attribute of a successful honors student. What do you think intellectual curiosity is? What is something that triggers your curiosity and why?
   b. Is there such a thing as “useless knowledge”?

2. What have you been reading, viewing, listening to, and thinking about? Give us a sense of your recent intellectual life by listing a sampling of the books, periodicals, websites, films, music, or other media that you have consumed or experienced over the past year that have been important to you. Choose two that were particularly significant and briefly explain why. Please note if any were for school assignments.

3. What do you consider to be your most significant accomplishments? To what degree and in what sense do you think these will have served as preparation for what you want to accomplish. Briefly describe your leadership and/or service activities and any awards received, including activities in which you have participated while at USC or at your current institution.

4. How will the Honors College contribute to your academic goals? How do you see yourself contributing to the Honors College? Please elaborate.

Transcript (ONLY for students outside the USC system)
Please provide an unofficial transcript of college work, including current semester grades (spring grades for those applying by May 1 deadline).

Letters of Recommendation
Please arrange for two letters of recommendation from professors. These letters should not be submitted by the student, but should be sent by the recommenders directly to the SCHC. For regular mail, the address is “Transfer Applications, ATTN: Elise Porter, South Carolina Honors College, Harper College, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208.” For email submission, the address is recommendations@schc.sc.edu.

By signing below, I agree that the information on this application and any attachments is both complete and accurate, that I have received no guidance or assistance of any kind in the preparation of my essays, and that the ideas and language are my own, unless otherwise noted.

Signature________________________________________ Date__________________

Deliver this application and unofficial transcript, if applicable, to:
Honors College Transfer Admissions/ South Carolina Honors College/ Harper College 120/ University of South Carolina/ Columbia, SC 29208