

**University of Louisiana
Monroe
Honors Program
Strategic Plan,
2022-2027**

Dear ULM Family, Friends, and Community:

In ancient Greek, ἀρετή (arête) means virtue or excellence and is the highest ideal of humanity; however, achieving arête is more than the state of simply being virtuous. It entails developing the mind, body, and soul through education, hard work, and action. It requires vision, value, and versatility.

Thirty years ago, a dedicated group of faculty had a vision to create an academically engaged program for highly motivated students in order to prepare these students for lifelong career success and global citizenship. Thirty years ago, the seeds of arête were planted.

Today, the ULM Honors Program has blossomed into an important academic unit within the University. While much has changed within the program, university, region, and higher education during the past 30 years, the ULM Honors Program's commitment to vision, value, versatility, and virtue has not. Arête remains the goal.

The ULM Honors Program Strategic Plan, 2022-2027 is built upon the pillars of arête in alignment with the recently revised vision, mission, and strategic plan of the University and the Office of Academic Affairs and with the assistance alumni, students, faculty, staff, and the community. This plan is ambitious. The most ambitious of these goals, the first goal, is implementing a truly unique competency-based experiential learning program unlike anything else offered by any other honors program or honors college in Louisiana. This plan also places a strong emphasis on growth and culture – any motivated student in Louisiana will have an equal opportunity to participate and the program should reflect the diversity of our university and region. This plan is exciting. The ULM Honors Program will be a dynamic and integral component to University efforts of truly being the best on the bayou.

The ULM Honors Program Strategic Plan, 2022-2027 retains a strong commitment to laying a foundation for lifelong success and to creating global citizenship without compromising vision, value, versatility, and virtue. Arête.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joshua Stockley, Director

Our Vision, Mission, Value, and Guiding Principles

ULM Vision Statement

ULM will transform lives by bringing true equality, inclusiveness, and opportunity for all individuals in our region and beyond.

Honors Program Vision Statement

The Honors Program at the University of Louisiana Monroe will be a model of excellence that transforms highly motivated students from any background anywhere into citizens who will positively impact the university, region, state, nation, and world.

ULM Mission Statement

The University of Louisiana Monroe prepares individuals from northeast Louisiana and beyond to compete, succeed, and contribute in an ever-changing global society through a transformative education while positively impacting society through research and service.

Honors Program Mission Statement

The Honors Program at the University of Louisiana Monroe provides an engaged educational experience through innovative courses, creates an inclusive honors experience featuring leadership and service learning opportunities, facilitates meaningful undergraduate research and creative work, and prepares students for lifelong career success and global citizenship in Louisiana and beyond.

The following principles guide the mission of the ULM Honors Program:

Vision. Vision means having a clear and transformational academic program with the highest standards that provides experiential learning and develops leadership. We value vision because it will give our students the tools to identify and to pursue career success.

Value. Value means being affordable. We value affordability because any student that desires to pursue an honors education should have access regardless of their socio-economic status and without having to compromise their financial health.

Versatility. Versatility means being accessible. We value the ability to include every student from every major, every organization, every place, and every walk of life because we are dedicated to inclusion and enriched by an exposure to diversity.

Virtue. Virtue means honesty, morality, and citizenship. We value virtue because our students will lead communities and their decisions are a reflection of our program and our university. If we are to make changes to our region, state, nation, and world, then we must provide a program that creates honest individuals, moral leaders, and ethical global citizens.

Strategic Priority 1: Enhance Program Excellence

Strategy: The Honors Program at the University of Louisiana Monroe will be the number one destination for Louisiana's most engaged students by delivering a transformative honors experience that prepares students from a diverse set of backgrounds for graduate school, productive careers, and responsible citizenship.

Strategic Priority I Goal 1: We will implement a competency-based experiential learning program focused on critical and creative problem-solving, communication, adaptable resilience, cultural competence, and self-reflective awareness. [Univ. Obj. 3.1, 3.2, VPAA Pillar 1.4, 1.5, 3.1; ULS Core Competencies]

Strategic Priority I Goal 2: We will adequately staff the program with administrative support to assist students with academic, career, and personal needs and to assist the director with implementing and administering the vision, mission, and strategic plan. [Univ. Obj. 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 5.1]

Strategic Priority I Goal 3: We will improve the communication between the Honors Program and individual programs, schools, and colleges to maintain alignment between academic majors and the honors curriculum, to reduce programmatic attrition, and to increase participation from underrepresented majors. [Univ. Obj. 1.3, 1.4, 3.1]

Strategic Priority 2: Enhance Student Success

Strategy: The Honors Program at the University of Louisiana Monroe will build and foster a community that inspires students and faculty from all backgrounds and majors to be involved.

Strategic Priority II Goal 1: We will increase program enrollment to 5.8% of the university's total undergraduate enrollment by the 2027-2028 academic year. [Univ. Obj. 1.2]

Strategic Priority II Goal 2: We will enroll a student population that reflects the diversity of the University of Louisiana Monroe and advances the university's diversity and equity initiatives. [Univ. Obj. 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, VPAA Pillar 1.2]

Strategic Priority II Goal 3: We will communicate a recognizable identity that clearly conveys our values and our unique community, research, and experiential opportunities. [Univ. Initiative 4, Univ. Obj. 1.1]

Strategic Priority 3: Enhance University Excellence

Strategy: The Honors Program at the University of Louisiana Monroe will increase its impact on the University of Louisiana Monroe and advance the program's and university's reputation by developing and cultivating partnerships with stakeholders and alumni, by communicating the accomplishments of our programs, students, and graduates, and by deploying mechanisms for positive and deep engagement with ULM and the honors program for families, alumni, and community and business leaders.

Strategic Priority III Goal 1: We will create and deploy mechanisms for positive and deep engagement with ULM and the Honors Program for families, alumni, and community and business leaders [Univ. Obj. 4; VPAA Pillar 1.5; VPAA Pillar 4.1]

Strategic Priority III Goal 2: We will track and increase awareness of the positive impact of honors students, faculty, and alumni on ULM, their communities, and their fields [Univ. Obj. 4]

Strategic Priority III Goal 3: We will expand our impact on ULM by incubating and sharing across campus innovative and cross-disciplinary teaching practices and community opportunities. [Univ. Obj. 4.1, 4.2; VPAA Pillar 3.1, 4.1]

Student Learning Outcomes

The Honors Program at the University of Louisiana Monroe provides an engaged educational experience through innovative courses, creates an inclusive honors experience featuring leadership and service learning opportunities, facilitates meaningful undergraduate research and creative work, and prepares students for lifelong career success and global citizenship in Louisiana and abroad.

The following student learning outcomes guide the ULM Honors Program:

Goal 1: Mastery of Content

Students will be able to:

- acquire general knowledge of cultures, sciences, literature, and humanities; and
- acquire specialized knowledge and skills from within a specific discipline or field.

Goal 2. Intellectual and Creative Skills

Students will be able to:

- acquire, analyze, and evaluate information and ideas from multiple sources in order to identify underlying assumptions and formulate conclusions;
- combine and synthesize existing ideas, images, or expertise in original and imaginative ways;
- develop, implement, and evaluate a solution to address open-ended questions, achieve a desired goal, or to solve a problem;
- construct arguments using a variety of approaches;
- communicate clearly in speech and writing.

Goal 3. Personal and Social Responsibility

Students will be able to:

- articulate their own and others' beliefs;
- articulate what it means to be ethical and to have personal integrity;
- evaluate ethical issues from multiple perspectives and apply those to courses of action; and
- change their communities through socially responsible engagement and leadership.

Goal 4. Intercultural and Global Understanding

Students will be able to:

- identify, describe, and communicate perspectives of others different from themselves;
- identify, describe, and communicate global interconnectedness and interdependencies; and
- ascertain how to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and to improve the quality of life in local and global communities, through both political and non-political processes.

Goal 5. Integration of Learning

Students will be able to:

- integrate their learning – curricular and co-curricular – to multiple fields and realms of experience;
- apply their learning to daily practice; and
- design, develop, and produce a significant intellectual project.

Goal 6. Preparation for Career and Beyond

Students will be able to:

- take initiative and to work in teams to achieve a common purpose, involve and motivate others, and demonstrate self-leadership and commitment
- create goals for future work that are the result of realistic self-appraisal and reflection;
- articulate their skills and knowledge and represent themselves to external audiences;
- use technology to create, communicate, and synthesize ideas; and
- apply strategies for a practice of life-long learning.