DELTA SCHOLARS PROGRAM

CULTIVATING CHANGEMAKERS IN MISSISSIPPI

The Delta Scholars Program is a leadership development program for academically talented and socially conscious college students interested in moving the state of Mississippi towards a brighter, more just tomorrow.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Sophomores who are currently enrolled full-time in a two or four-year college or university in Mississippi (or are legal residents of Mississippi) are encouraged to apply. Preference is given to sophomores (rising juniors), but students in other class years may be considered.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Talented and motivated students from all majors will apply early in their spring semester or their sophomore year. A statewide committee of faculty and students will review applications and select up to 14 Delta Scholars each year to participate.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants must submit the following:

- Application form (found online)
- Statement of interest in the program, including personal connections with issues in the Delta region (max 1,000 words)
- One letter of recommendation from a faculty member
- Unofficial copy of college transcript

All materials must be mailed to:

Delta Scholars Program
Shackouls Honors College
P.O. Box #EH
Mississippi State, MS 39762

To download the application form or for more information, visit: deltascholar.wpengine.com

All questions should be directed to Dr. Chris Snyder, Dean of the Shackouls Honors College, at 662.325.2522 or csnyder@honors.msstate.edu.

JUNE JULY
22 - 02
APPLICATIONS DUE: JAN. 24
The Summer Institute is an eleven-day immersion program during which students will work to identify an issue of inequality or injustice that they are interested in, and develop a proposal for a project that will promote dialogue and change around that issue in their own communities or the state of Mississippi broadly.

Students will spend the first six days of the program at the Shackouls Honors College at Mississippi State University where they will engage with faculty and guest lecturers from a range of fields to learn about issues currently challenging the people and the economy of Mississippi, including food insecurity, public health, education, and more. Substantive lessons designed to teach students about the workings and impact of different systems in the Delta will be intermixed with skills-based workshops designed to give students the planning, research, and advocacy skills necessary to begin developing their independent projects.

Over the next five days, students will take an Innovation Tour of the Delta, where they will have the chance to meet and learn from researchers, non-profit organizations, and community members who have worked to tackle difficult issues in their community through bold new approaches and community-led efforts. During their time in Clarksdale, students will attend the Delta Regional Forum, where they will hear from a wide variety of presenters about current research and work impacting the Delta region, and have the opportunity to present their own project proposals.

PAR PARTNERS

The Delta Scholars Program is a collaborative effort between the Shackouls Honors College at Mississippi State University, University of Mississippi's Center for Population Studies, the Delta Directions Consortium, Mississippi State University's Social Science Research Center, Harvard Law School, and the Phillips Brooks House Center for Public Service and Engaged Scholarship at Harvard College.

HARVARD WEEK

*FALL 2020

The Delta Scholars will reconnect in the fall for five days at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. This trip will provide an opportunity for students to share updates on their projects, receive ongoing feedback, reflect on lessons learned from the program, and discuss how those lessons might be applied to solving other problems in or outside of Mississippi.

The Scholars will engage with Harvard students and faculty working on Mississippi issues, including Harvard Law students in the Mississippi Delta Project. The goal of this intellectual exchange is to provide both sides with fresh perspectives, promote dialogue that can push their work forward, and foster networks of young leaders that might collaborate in the future.

*Dates for Harvard Week are set during the Summer Institute based on participant availability.