



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 the program has grown, it remains true to its original vision of providing a challenging and enriching educational experience for students who are committed to excellence.

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

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.

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.

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 f[(t)1 (h)-3 ( hi)-1 ( t)3 ( i)-7

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]

Strategy: The Honors Program at the University of Louisiana Monroe will build and foster a

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]

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The following student learning outcomes guide the ULM Honors Program:

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.

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.

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.

