The Honors Transfer Fellowship

at Middle Tennessee State University is the highest academic scholarship available for students transferring to MTSU from other schools. It is open to a very select group of 30 incoming transfer students a year.

MTSU is especially interested in students who have successfully participated in Honors programs at other colleges and universities, who have letters of recommendation from Honors directors and professors, and who are committed to graduating from the Honors College at MTSU. However, we will also consider students who transfer from colleges without an Honors program who are willing to commit to completing the required upper-division coursework (including an Honors thesis or creative project) that will enable them to complete an Honors minor. All students must maintain a 3.25 grade point average on all MTSU coursework to maintain the scholarship.

Tia Shutes, a transfer from Nashville State Community College, is performing research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center after earning her Biology degree. She also is shadowing doctors, gaining health care experience, and preparing her application to medical school to pursue a career in surgery.
Entering students will be expected to have a minimum of 60 hours of college or university coursework with a 3.5 grade point average or better. (Students may apply with fewer hours if they anticipate completing 60 hours by the fall.) Each applicant will complete an essay and secure two letters of recommendation from college professors and/or directors or associate directors of a college or university Honors program. The Honors College will look particularly favorably on letters from Honors faculty and administrators. The college will seek a diverse group of students including nontraditional students who did not go directly from high school to college.

Students who qualify for in-state tuition will receive $3,500 per semester (up to four semesters). Up to six scholarships of $7,000 per semester will be available each year to students applying from out of state or from foreign countries.

Students must complete and submit an application form by Feb. 15. A Transfer Fellowship application will include (1) a completed application to MTSU, (2) official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended, (3) two letters of recommendation from college professors and/or honors administrators, and (4) a personal essay. Students selected for this program will enroll in a common upper-division interdisciplinary seminar on research methods in their first semester and one Honors lecture series in their first year. A special initiation will be held each fall for new students in the program.

The Honors College will extend special consideration to Honors Transfer Fellows for funding for study abroad and for participation in scholarly conferences. All students in the program will have early registration privileges. Students who are not accepted for Honors Transfer Fellowships may be eligible for other scholarships through Financial Aid.

Are students who transfer to MTSU after their freshman year eligible for this fellowship? Yes, all Transfer Fellows will participate in an upper-division research seminar in the first semester and in one of two lecture series offered during the first year. The primary focus of this scholarship will be for those who are transferring to MTSU after graduating from a two-year community college, but students who transfer to MTSU before the junior year are eligible once they have completed 60 hours by the fall of the year they apply.

How much does the fellowship pay? $3,500 a semester for up to four semesters. Students who qualify for in-state tuition will receive $3,500 per semester (up to four semesters). Up to six scholarships of $7,000 per semester will be available each year to students applying from out of state or from foreign countries.

What GPA must an Honors Transfer Fellow maintain? Fellows must maintain a 3.25 GPA.

What are the advantages of being an Honors Transfer Fellow? Being part of a select group of 30 incoming students is prestigious in its own right. In addition, Honors Fellows are eligible for special consideration for funding for study abroad and other research opportunities.

What is the minimum grade point average for a Transfer Fellow? 3.5

What are the responsibilities of an Honors Transfer Fellow? Maintain an appropriate GPA; participate in a common seminar and in the Honors Lecture Series; and stay on track to graduate with Honors or earn an Honors minor.

Must Transfer Fellows have previously participated in Honors classes? No, but preference will be given to students who have so participated, especially in cases where their colleges or universities offered such opportunities.

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What is the application deadline? Feb. 15

What does an application require? Students must complete an application form, submit an essay, secure two letters of recommendation, and send official transcripts.

The Fellowship Committee seeks a diverse class and is especially interested in students who plan to attend graduate or professional schools after graduation.

What are the responsibilities of an Honors Transfer Fellow? Maintain an appropriate GPA; participate in a common seminar and in the Honors Lecture Series; and stay on track to graduate with Honors or earn an Honors minor.

Must Honors Transfer Fellows live on campus? No, but they are eligible to stay in Honors housing in Lyon Hall and are encouraged to do so.

Can I graduate from the Honors College? Students may be able to count their Honors classes from other universities and community colleges toward the 29 hours required to graduate from MTSU’s University Honors College. Up to 21 hours of other Honors transfer credit may be counted.

To graduate from the Honors College, students must have 18 hours of upper-division Honors classes and 11 hours of upper-division classes including a thesis (UH 4900 and UH 4950), an interdisciplinary seminar class, and one Honors elective that is at least 3 hours.