The Honors Program serves Missouri Southern State University by recruiting academically talented and motivated students and engaging them in enhanced educational opportunities and challenges designed to promote their development as scholars and citizens.

Beginning with the first semester of their freshman year, Honors students participate in specially-designated Honors classes. Because admission is selective and competitive, these classes are smaller and often involve more active learning than regular classes, permitting Honors students greater and more intensive interaction with their instructors and other outstanding students.

Honors students also enjoy intensive guidance and personal attention from the Honors directors and from distinguished faculty in their area of study.

Independent studies and the Senior Thesis project provide students and faculty with the flexibility they need to pursue scholarly interests and to design and implement innovative, creative approaches to learning.

Performance expectations are high. Honors students are held to the highest standards of academic performance, but are not in competition with one another. Instead, an atmosphere of openness, cooperation and intellectual adventure enables Honors students to inspire and challenge one another to the highest levels of achievement.

The Curriculum
While students will take courses offered in Southern’s regular curriculum, these five features are specifically designed for Honors students:

Honors Forum
This course is an open forum to provide an in-depth discussion of a specific topic, text or other matter of interest. Students engage in critical thinking as they participate in and lead classroom discussions and presentations.

Honors Courses
Special sections of required courses such as English composition are designated as Honors sections. There are a number of such courses offered each semester and Honors students select several from these, particularly during their freshman and sophomore years.

Senior Honors Thesis
Honors Scholars enhance a course in their major for Honors credit during the senior year. Working under the guidance of professors in their major field, they design and carry out independent projects investigating a topic in depth and utilizing original research methods. Each student makes a presentation of his or her research to an Honors Colloquium open to a campus-wide audience. The presentation is required of each student for completion of the Honors Program.

Honors Recognition
Missouri Southern is affiliated with the National Collegiate Honors Council, The Great Plains Regional Honors Council and the national honor societies Phi Eta Sigma and Alpha Chi. Most Honors students have the opportunity to participate in the activities of these organizations.

Every Honors course completed with a final grade of ‘A’ or ‘B’ is identified as an Honors course on the student’s transcript. Students who maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.3, complete the required 26 hours of Honors courses and who maintain acceptable progress in Honors will receive special recognition at commencement.

Honors and Evans Scholarships
All Honors Scholars must be eligible for an academic scholarship at Missouri Southern. In addition to competing for admission to the Honors Program, candidates are also competing for additional scholarships. The Honors and Walter and Fredrica Evans Scholarships will be awarded in varying amounts to the most highly qualified applicants as funds allow. The Evans is a four-year renewable scholarship applicable to both tuition and room and board, while the Honors Scholarship applies to tuition only. These scholarships are Southern’s most valuable institutional academic awards and are applicable to fall and spring semesters only.

Eligibility
All students who wish to participate in the Honors Program must first be admitted to Southern. Incoming freshmen with at least a composite score on the ACT of 28 or with at least a GPA of 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) in high school course work are invited to apply for admission to the program. To complete the application process the student must submit an application form, a transcript and two letters of recommendation mentioning the student’s strengths as a scholar. An essay may also be required. Outstanding candidates will be invited to an on-campus interview.

Students who have already completed one to four semesters of course work with a GPA of 3.5 at Southern or any other accredited college or university are also invited to apply for admission into the program, though they may not be eligible for the Honors or Evans Scholarships. Since a majority of the required 26 Honors credits must be earned in courses meeting the General Education Requirements, applicants who have previously earned more than 30 college credits will need to present a plan for completing these requirements in order to be considered for admission.

GEORGE A. SPIVA LIBRARY

Wendy McGrane, Library Director
Spiva Library 120, 417.625.9801

Spiva Library is the major information resource on campus, providing 282,222 print volumes including state and federal government documents. A 775,337 item microform collection, a law collection, print and electronic journal subscriptions, and electronic databases provide additional materials for student research. Collections housed in the archives include the Congressional Papers of Gene Taylor, a former member of the United States House of Representatives; Tri-State mining maps; the papers of Dr. Arrell Gibson, a noted Western historian; and MSSU archival material.

Mission
The George A. Spiva Library provides organization of and access to information essential to Missouri Southern State University’s commitment to a liberal arts education and lifelong learning, with a firm emphasis on international studies and quality classroom teaching. The library also serves as a resource for residents in the region.

Professional librarians and trained support staff expedite and enhance access to information through the sharing of expertise, participation in networks, the acquisition and maintenance of resources, creation of bibliographic tools and help guides, development of instruction programs and the availability of reference services. The curriculum and research needs of students, faculty and staff are met by providing timely access to information in the most beneficial format.

Spiva Library provides user-oriented services, introduces new technologies and build collections that contain diverse points of view. These initiatives demonstrate the central role played by the library in supporting the mission of the University and the educational needs of our constituents.
Building
The Cragin addition and renovation of Spiva Library took place in the fall of 2001. The new addition doubled the square footage of the library to 80,000. The changes provide a modern and up-to-date facility that is the center for campus study and research.

University Java coffee shop on the 1st floor of the library allows students to study and enjoy a beverage or snacks. They may also surf the web on nearby computers or checkout and return materials at a secondary Circulation desk. The lounge area near the coffee shop is a popular place for faculty to meet with classes or conduct office hours. Archives and Technical Services are also located on the 1st floor. The 2nd floor of the library houses the main collection, private study rooms, a small computer lab, the Career Services department, and the ITS help desk. The 3rd floor is considered the “research floor” of the library and it’s where Circulation, Reference, reserves materials, periodicals, and the Resource Center are located. A large computer lab enables students to conduct research and prepare papers or presentations. Cell phone usage is prohibited on the 3rd floor.

The Belk Faculty Reading Room on the 4th floor recognizes retired faculty and provides a unique space for meetings or grading papers. The adjacent Quiet Room is beautifully furnished and maintains the enforced quiet that many people desire in the library. Also located on the 4th floor are the audio visual collection, curriculum materials, juvenile and young adult books, government documents and microforms.

Computers and wireless access are available throughout the library. Students may connect their own laptops to the campus backbone in the library. Other open areas with comfortable lounge furniture or tables and chairs provide students with places to relax and study. Study rooms are available for students wanting privacy or to work in groups without disturbing others.

Online Catalog
SWAN (SouthWest Academic Network) is the public catalog which is available online at http://swan.missouri.edu. The catalog allows a search of Missouri Southern’s materials and/or those held by other SWAN institutions. SWAN has grown to include: Missouri Southern State University, Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Baptist Bible College, Cottey College, Crowder College, Drury University, Forest Institute of Professional Psychology, Missouri State University, Ozarks Technical Community College and Southwest Baptist University.

SWAN is one of eleven clusters forming MOBIUS, a consortium linking academic, public, and special libraries. MOBIUS enables students, faculty, and staff to borrow books from member libraries and receive them within an average of 48-72 hours. The requests are delivered Monday through Friday by an independent courier. This system eliminates tedious forms and provides rapid service. The book resources available through MOBIUS number in the millions and may be borrowed free of charge.

Research
Major electronic databases in business, education, social science, history, psychology, English, biology, nursing and many other disciplines are available online, many in a full text format. Access to these resources is available through the library’s web page http://www.mssu.edu/library. Students and faculty may access these resources from off-campus through the proxy server using their Missouri Southern credentials. Spiva Library maintains print periodicals and microforms of back issues.

Interlibrary loan requests for materials that are unavailable in-house or through MOBIUS are sent and received through an international computer network of libraries called OCLC. Periodical articles are rapidly sent and received via fax and email.

Instruction
The teaching function of the library is important, as it should be in a university that prizes teaching excellence and contact with students. Every effort is made to ensure that students learn how to conduct effective research and to use information resources knowledgeably.

Librarians provide tours of the library, workshops, class lectures and individual assistance. An ‘Ask a Librarian’ feature is available from the library’s webpage for students to email reference questions and receive a timely response from a professional librarian. If extensive research assistance is required, please call 417.625.9342 to schedule an appointment.

Equipment
Computer labs containing workstations and scanners, connected to black and white and/or color network printers are available in the library. Additional workstations are available for quick searching. Digital and analog microform readers and printers are available for viewing and printing periodical back files. Black & white and color photocopiers are located throughout Spiva Library. LCD projectors and laptops are used to provide instruction.

AVC, Curriculum and Government Documents
Located on the 4th floor of the Spiva Library is the Audio Visual Center. This area includes video and audio cassettes, filmstrips, slides, kits and miscellaneous instructional materials. The AVC provides appropriate playback equipment for the materials. Curriculum textbooks, curriculum guides on microfiche as well as young adult and juvenile books that support the teacher education curriculum are housed in this area. Spiva Library is a selective depository for federal documents; they are also located on the 4th floor.

The staff provides limited production services such as overhead transparencies, laminating. There is a small inventory of slide projectors, videocassette and DVD players, televisions, audiocassette recorders and filmstrip projectors. Equipment is housed in each campus department; therefore, the equipment is limited to basic items.

Staff & Hours
Helpful staff members are stationed throughout the library to support all materials and services. The staff is composed of seven librarians, thirteen full-time and part-time support staff members and many student workers who serve in all areas of the library.

Spiva Library hours are as follows:

- 7:30 a.m. - 11 P.M. Monday through Thursday
- 7:30 a.m. - 5 P.M. Friday
- 9 a.m. - 5 P.M. Saturday
- 1 P.M. - 11 P.M. Sunday

*Library hours differ during holidays, breaks and summer session.

Accessibility
Spiva Library works closely with the campus Disability Services Coordinator to ensure that the library is accessible to patrons with disabilities. Patrons with a disability may contact any library staff member for assistance.