

Rhodes Institute for Regional Studies



The Rhodes Institute for Regional Studies, founded in 2003, is an undergraduate program dedicated to furthering academic research on Memphis and the Mid-South region.

Recognized by the Council of Independent Colleges as an "Effective Practice" in American Higher Education

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Memphis and the Mid-South region afford unique opportunities for academic research. From the foothills of the Appalachians to the foothills of the Ozarks, from the cotton fields of West Tennessee to the battlefields of Vicksburg, the region encompassing an approximately two hundred mile radius from Memphis has figured prominently in the social, cultural, political, and economic life of the nation. The area's racial and cultural diversity, its significant contributions to literature and music, its pivotal role in the history of civil rights, the prominence of its national political leaders, and its growing importance as a commercial and distribution hub make it an ideal laboratory for research.

The Rhodes Institute is an innovative program that capitalizes on the liberal arts tradition of the College, the research expertise of its faculty, and its location in one of America's great cities. All Rhodes Institute fellows receive housing, research expenses, and \$3,000 stipends while they pursue their academic work. Over the course of the program, Institute fellows spend their first week together engaged in an intensive regional studies seminar; six weeks working on their own projects, interspersed with weekly group meetings; and a final week presenting and discussing their research. By the end of the program, all fellows submit research papers and reports on their work.

In addition, Rhodes Institute fellows will be encouraged to continue their research beyond the summer by enrolling in a directed inquiry, pursuing an honors research project, or preparing their research for publication.

Rhodes Institute fellows do not earn academic credit for their work, but participation in the Institute does fulfill Foundation requirement 11 (connections) under the Foundations Curriculum.

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