The McBride Honors Program has the feel of a small liberal arts college—right here, in the heart of one of the foremost science and engineering universities. Nurturing the full potential of Mines students for over forty years, students get a well-rounded education that emboldens learning across disciplines and with diverse people by integrating the liberal arts with that of science and engineering.

Our close-knit community of creatively-minded and highly motivated individuals make McBride a place to call home and to enjoy a truly transformative educational experience.

- Engage in student-centered and collaborative learning in small, unique classes developed specifically for the program.

- Experience seminar discussions and innovative academic activities designed to encourage curiosity, dive deeply into our humanity, tether our socio-technical understanding, and explore our world in all of its complexity.

- Expand your mind with experiential education, global exploration, and student-driven experiences culminating in the practicum where students design their own learning adventure according to their passions and goals.

- Develop your leadership potential, hone your professional skills, and develop your critical and creative thinking abilities.

- Earn an Honors Minor in Public Affairs & join a global network of McBride alumni, many of whom are in leadership positions in industry and government in the U.S. and abroad.

Some things you should know:

- Typically, students begin the program during the first semester of their sophomore year.

- Students have to apply to the McBride Honors Program. Applications are accepted any time, but for full consideration you should apply by the application deadline (typically, the second week in February).

- The curriculum focuses on providing students with a well-rounded education, with innovative courses that focus on understanding the human condition, as explored through such topics as literature, ethics, cultural anthropology, international studies, and public policy.

- McBride offers generous Honors Enrichment Awards to help students pursue extraordinary educational opportunities—such as a study abroad program, foreign or local internship, volunteer program, research program such as an REU, or other deserving activities.

- McBride seminars meet all of CSM’s humanities & social science (HASS) requirements with the exceptions of HASS 100, Nature and Human Values, and EBG 201, Principles of Economics. Most students have no problem graduating “on time.”

mcbride.mines.edu
Sample McBride Course Descriptions

HNRS 315-Course Theme: Humormanity: Humor and the Narratives of Humanity
Perhaps the most underestimated yet most extraordinary component that shapes our experience of being human is humor. In its essence, humor is a vehicle for making sense of ourselves and our world which is present in all societies throughout place and time. Among the varied ways that it impacts our lives, humor provides us with pathways through tragedies, inroads to cultures, weapons for abuse of power, agents for change, provocations for dialogue, and mirrors for reflection. Using humor as a tool for exploration of the world and the human condition encourages us to ask: Does humor allow us to process and express ideas and information that we cannot in other forms of communication? How do we use humor to manipulate our perceptions of ourselves and others? Do we use humor as a dialectic to confirm and/or challenge our ideologies? If humor is “not serious,” how and why do we use it to determine our serious Truths? Where does its power come from? Overall, what does the universality of humor tell us about our shared humanity? We will investigate these questions as we seek out the ways that people use humor within their narrative constructions of their global, historical, political, and cultural dimensions. Our explorations will include a variety of mediums produced during the late 20th and 21st centuries—including literary texts, films, and performances—that express diverse views and voices, and integrate a mixture of lenses to discover how and why humor is interwoven into the very fabric of the human experience.

HNRS 435-Course Theme: Soul Food – Plating our Cultural Narratives
Cooking. Eating. Writing. Reading. Italy. More or less in that order. This course examines the ways in which food creates culture, culture creates identity, and identity is expressed through narrative. We’ll read narratives to help us understand how food underpins some of the most fundamental stories we tell ourselves. Was the American Revolution spurred by lofty ideals about freedom from tyranny, or was it because the colonies found financial independence through salted codfish? Does the CIA tell you what cereal to eat? What happens to our freedom of expression when free market economics dictate the types of food we produce? How have our taste buds turned our love of consumption into poetry and art? This class will be a mashup of the philosophical, analytical, creative, and practical. As we explore the relationship between food and cultural identity, we will also create it: our classes will take place in the context of the kitchen table. Students will prepare food to share and stories to tell. We will eat and listen and in so doing, reclaim and reaffirm the ways in which food literally and figuratively makes us who we are. Not an aspiring chef? No problem! We’ll explore some of the fundamental techniques of food preparation and presentation. Additionally, the class will culminate with an optional week-long trip to Spannocchia, a working farm outside of Sienna, Italy that specializes in preserving traditional methods of agriculture and animal husbandry.

HNRS 430-Course Theme: Science, Technology, and Confucian Ethics
The field science and technology ethics has been persistently dominated by Western ethical resources that are often derived from the idea of “autonomous individualism.” This class invites students to challenge such autonomous individualistic assumption in scientific and technological practices by employing the concepts, theories, and tools from Confucian ethics. This course leads students to experience a different way of defining, understanding, and analyzing scientific and technological problems. Today, the Communist Party in China frequently uses Confucian ideas to guide policymaking and justify the rationality of its policies. Confucianism still has significant influence in cultures beyond Mainland China. Among the top 15 trading partners with the United States, four are the Confucian heritage cultures (CHCs). This course contributes to the global STEM education program that prepares future leaders in applied science and engineering for effectively working with people from other cultures especially STEM professionals from these Confucian heritage cultures. Students in this class will be expected to read both classical Confucian texts such as Analects and Mencius and works by contemporary authors that examine the social, ethical, and political issues in scientific and technological domains such as biomedical science, robotics, information technology, and engineering through the lens of Confucian ethics.