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About the University Scholars Program

Established in

Mission

The Norbert O. Schedler Honors College identifies highly motivated students, immerses them in a learning community where they can examine who they are and practice who they want to become, invites (challenges) them into (with) opportunities for growth, and develops them as conscientious citizen-scholars prepared to make a difference. The College creates a space where the community tries out ideas and practices that contribute to human flourishing.

Guiding Principles

Inclusion Statement: The University Scholars Program upholds that diversity fuels the scholarly advancement of knowledge. In order to foster excellence and prepare culturally competent leaders, we seek to create an environment of inclusiveness and respect for the similarities and differences in our community. Through thoughtful conversation about ethnicity, race, socio-economic class, gender, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, age, and ability, we expand our minds and move beyond raising awareness toward creating sustainable social change.

Leadership Statement: The University Scholars Program provides a constructive forum that fosters the cultivation of knowledge, skills, and behaviors that develop capacity to effectively communicate and interact with others in order to accomplish a goal in a manner that is as free as possible from prejudice and presupposition and that reflects high ethical standards and disciplinary expertise.

Goals for Student Development

The goal of the University Scholars Program is to develop socially responsible leaders, capable of carrying out research, and collaborating with others in order to be prepared to take action in their profession and community.

The following goals for student development guide this process:

Social Responsibility—addressing social and environmental challenges and finding ethical solutions, a process that culminates in individual and collective interventions;

Expertise—practicing communication and inquiry, a process that culminates in academic research, writing, and oral presentation; and

Leadership—engaging as citizen-scholars exercising informed judgment and an ability to collaborate, a process that culminates in the capacity to guide social change for the common good.

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Learning Objectives

The University Scholars Program is a learning laboratory, furthering our institutional mission by developing talented students with developmental yet challenging instructional techniques. Student success in contemplating important questions and in acquiring the fundâ1

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Information Literacy: The ability to communicate, organize, and synthesize information from diverse and appropriate sources to form a clear and articulate argument.

Disciplinary Expertise: The ability to articulate a relevant research or creative agenda, to develop clear research questions or goals, and identify and demonstrate appropriate methodologies in a project of one's own design.

Leadership Objectives

Collaboration: The ability to develop and present ideas logically and effectively in order to enhance collaboration with diverse individuals and groups.

Written and Oral Communication: The ability to develop and present ideas logically and effectively in order to enhance communication with diverse individuals and groups.

University Scholars Program Course Descriptions

The curriculum for the University Scholars Program was developed by a team of faculty from across all academic colleges at UCA. University Scholars participate in a specially designed curriculum that focuses on developing skills in the areas of personal and social responsibility as well as disciplinary expertise and leadership. The University Scholars Program embraces both interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches to delivery of its curriculum. All students will participate in small-group classes that

Integrate the best practices used within a

Leading with Expertise (USCH 1300)

Taken in the fall semester of the freshman year, "Leading with Expertise" is a gateway course to the University Scholars Program. The goal of the course is to explore areas of leadership, social responsibility, and disciplinary expertise. Through an interdisciplinary approach, students learn how to read, write, and engage in intellectual discourse. Students will learn to identify and evaluate sources of information, and they develop a base of knowledge essential for engaging in conversations about contemporary social issues. This course draws on material from a variety of traditions and requires students to engage with challenging readings, frame arguments and provide evidence during in-class discussions, and participate in critical communication about current issues within and across disciplinary areas. Students may count the course as fulfilling the Responsible Living (RL) requirement for the lower division core. The course also satisfies the Freshmen Year Seminar (FYS) requirement and the Humanities (H) requirement.

University Scholars Seminars

For the completion of the University Scholars Core Program, students must complete three additional m

Research Methods, USCH 3320

Research Methods fulfills the first of two required courses for completion of the Honors Capstone Project. It is designed to help students look critically at evidence, understand research ethics, develop research questions, try out arguments, and learn processes of scholarly inquiry. Research Methods should help students to not only synthesize information and respond critically to their sources, but also to master the facts and evidence upon which their responses are based. The course goal is for each student to develop a proposal and plan for their Capstone Project and to complete a substantial portion of the literature review before the end of the term. The student will identify a Capstone mentor with whom the student will meet weekly until the project is completed. Research Methods is taken in the spring semester of either the sophomore or junior year.

Research Methods satisfies both the Communication (C) and Critical Inquiry (I) requirements for the Upper Division (UD) Core.

Scholars Capstone, USCH 4320

Scholars Capstone is designed to support students as they develop, write, and present the Honors Capstone Project. Its most important function is to ensure that each student contributes new knowledge through completion of the project. The heart of the course will be the workshop, which will consist of writing, sharing, reading, and commenting on one another's work. By the conclusion of this course, students should demonstrate proficiency in integrative scholarship, written and oral communication, and critical inquiry and analysis. Scholars Capstone may be taken in fall or spring of the senior year.

Scholars Capstone satisfies the UD Core Capstone (Z) requirement.

Learning Environment

Student Commitments

As a participant in the University Scholars Program, you are asked to commit to:

Co-creating a learning community that supports its members in their growth and action;

Openly examining values, beliefs, and assumptions you hold about yourself and others;

Engaging as a scholar, expanding your imagination by conversing with others and integrating diverse knowledge, perspectives, and skills;

Participating in reflective civic action, gaining skills to solve real-world problems; and

Growing as a responsible leader, working with others for the common good.

Guidelines for Class Discussions

Our primary commitment is to learn from each other. We acknowledge differences amongst us in backgrounds, skills, interests, and values, but we realize that these differences will increase our awareness and understanding. To facilitate discussion in the small group setting, we observe the following guidelines:

1. Be courteous. Don't interrupt or engage in private conversations while others are speaking. Keep confidential any personal information that comes up in class. Be aware of the fact that tone of voice and body language are powerful communicators. While some postures or facial expressions (e.g., crossed arms, eye rolls, loud sighs) can silence, provoke, or intimidate, others

4. Support your statements. Use evidence and provide a rationale for your points. Share briefly from your own experiences when appropriate, rather than simply your positions.
5. Step Up, Step Back. Allow everyone the chance to talk. If you have much to say, try to hold back a bit; if you are hesitant to speak, look for opportunities to contribute to the discussion and empower yourself to speak up.
6. Speak your discomfort. If you are offended by something or think someone else might be, speak up and don't leave it for someone else to respond to it.

Co-Curricular Programming

First Year Student Summer Reader

The purpose of the summer reader is to create a common intellectual experience for incoming honors students and introduce them to the academic values, expectations, and learning outcomes of the University Scholars Program. Traditionally non-fiction, the summer reader also serves to connect the values and learning outcomes to the University Scholars Program directly to Challenge Week in an effort to strengthen the connections between curricular and co-curricular activities..

Community Service Hours

All University Scholars are required to dedicate three hours each semester to service projects organized by the University Scholars Program. These service projects are intentionally chosen to advance the Program objectives related to Social Responsibility:

Ethics: The ability to address real-world problems and find ethical solutions for individuals and society.

Personal and Social Responsibility: The ability to take informed and responsible action to address ethical, social, and environmental challenges and evaluate the local and broader consequences of individual and collective interventions.

One hour each semester may be earned through supporting the Bear Essentials Food Pantry by donating ten (10) items or \$10 for the pasta/pasta sauce shelf, which the University Scholars Program has committed to sponsoring. Students must provide documentation of their donation.

Other service projects will vary from semester to semester, but will always include a variety of options – inside and outside, as well as different days and times – to accommodate student schedules. Students will document their service hours in GivePulse.

Failure to complete the required service hours will result in being placed on probation for the next semester. Failure to complete the required service hours during the probation semester will result in dismissal from the University Scholars Program.

Challenge Week

Challenge Week is a weeklong event each Fall that brings to campus nationally known thinkers to engage the community in a reflective interchange of ideas. Speakers present compelling arguments to UCA students, faculty and staff, and to the broader community, in an effort to inform, educate,

Schedler Scholars in Residence

The Norbert and Carol Schedler Scholars in Residence program supports bringing noted scholars to the UCA campus to provide a public lecture and spend time with students in formal and informal settings. This program is co-hosted by the Schedler Honors College and the Department of Philosophy and Religion.

Soapboxes

Soapbox is an informal Honors student, faculty, and alumni forum for the dissemination and exchange of ideas on a wide variety of topics. Most soapboxes take place on Friday afternoons at 3 PM in the Honors Forum in Farris Hall. Digital projectors are provided to those who want to utilize visual aids. And of course there are snacks -- lots

Application

In order to apply for funding, students complete an application that is available within the Honors student portal at <http://honors.uca.edu/student>. The application requires the student to write a proposal that includes a rationale stating the educational benefits, a budget, an itinerary or study plans, and whether course credit is sought. Winter and Spring proposals must be submitted by October 15th, and Summer proposals by November 15th. Fall proposals are available as needed.

Travel Abroad Grants (TAG)

The NOS Honors College supports students who seek to study abroad. Scholarships are awarded under the auspices

Living and Learning Community

Jefferson D. Farris, Jr. Honors Hall

Since 1993 the Honors College has maintained residential space, and today it is located in Jefferson D. Farris Jr. Honors Hall. Students there form a unique living-and-learning community, housed in private rooms arranged in two-, three-, or four-bedroom suites. Suite-style living features private rooms, a shared bathroom, access to a community kitchen and a community area on the first floor for student activities. The University Scholars Program awards a private-room upgrade scholarship to pay for the additional cost of single rooms for its eligible students residing in Farris Honors Hall. Additional private bedroom honors housing options are available to upper-class honors students.

Honors students are highly encouraged to live in Farris Honors Hall during their freshman year, and residing in one place makes possible significant first-year enrichment programs. These programs include Freshman Mentors, Peer Coaches, and Pedagogical Assistants.

Citizenship Contract

programs

an application in order to be eligible to serve. PAs are selected by the
in the spring semester for the following fall. PAs will meet weekly with their
instructor, who will provide them ongoing development, and they must also attend
class meetings.

University Scholars Advisory Council

The Advisory Council is the elected student council of the University Scholars Program and holds Recognized Student Organization (RSO) status on the UCA campus. The purposes and objectives of the Advisory Council are:

to organize and promote curricular and co-curricular activities among members,
to work with the Honors College faculty and staff in the organization and
implementation of University Scholars events,
to coordinate with faculty and staff in the development and the enforcement of
policies regarding the use of the McAlister Honors Center and other Honors
community facilities,
and to work with the Honors College administration, faculty and staff in advising
curricular development and the borrowing of exceptional faculty from other
departments.

Honors Ambassador Program

The UCA Honors Ambassador Program's goal is to recruit prospective students for the Schedler Honors College and University Scholars Program and assist these students with their interests in the programs of the Honors College.

The program consists of members from the Schedler Honors College and University Scholars Program who complete the Honors Ambassador application and are selected by the Honors Administration Team.

Ambassadors assist with recruiting prospective students through the following ways:

Send letters and Honors College brochures to the high schools throughout the state, including those from which they graduated.

Attend College Fairs hosted around the state.

Attend Distinguished Scholars Day and Bear Facts days.

of the support resources available to them both within the NOS Honors College and across the university

