BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR

CHANCELLOR’S SCHOLARS

Illinois
Campus Honors Program
MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Campus Honors Program is to provide opportunities, support, and community to high-ability and engaged undergraduate students of all majors and backgrounds, for a broad-based experience that fosters interpersonal development in addition to a challenging educational experience. Opportunities and resources for these students consist of academic and co-curricular programming designed to create pathways for success and breadth of knowledge, small grants that support research and study abroad, and a community that provides a physical location as well as overlaps with other campus resources.
SUMMARY

The Campus Honors Program (CHP) offers opportunities to a selected number of academically talented and highly motivated undergraduate students. The CHP fosters collaborative relationships between students and distinguished faculty through small intensive classes and informal gatherings that encourage breadth and excellence from the outset of the student’s college career through interaction with scholars at the cutting edge of their disciplines. Approximately 125 students are admitted to the CHP each year as first-year students. High-achieving students may apply for admission at the end of the first semester of their freshman year. Designated as “Chancellor’s Scholars,” students in the CHP may be enrolled in any undergraduate curriculum.

OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

- Inspiring limited-enrollment courses designed for Chancellor’s Scholars (approximately 20 per class section)
- Support through the Summer Research and Travel Grant Program
- Co-curricular activities, including seminars and cultural events
- Transcript notation of Chancellor’s Scholar status and graduation cords upon completion of requirements
- Access to computer and printing facilities in the Honors House
- Orientation programs for incoming students
- The Honors House, which provides study space, socializing, and relaxation
- Priority registration for classes
- Interaction with an outstanding group of peers
- Engagement and leadership opportunities with the Honors Student Council (HSC)

CAMPUS HONORS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

- 4 CHP Courses
- 1 CHP 395 or 396 Capstone Course
- 8 Scholar Adventurers Series (SAS) Programs
- 1 Krannert Dress Rehearsal (KDR)
- 1 Keith L. Kelroy Convocation Memorial Lecture
- Maintain 3.30 (or above) UIUC Cumulative Grade Point Average
To receive course credit for CHP requirements, students must earn a grade of “B-” or better in a CHP course. James Scholar courses do not meet CHP course requirements, but CHP courses typically meet James Scholar requirements. Chancellor’s Scholars may not take CHP courses on a credit/no credit basis.

To remain in good standing in the CHP, students must maintain a minimum cumulative institutional/UIUC Grade Point Average of 3.30. In addition, they generally take one CHP course per semester during their first two years (unless they are approved to defer a semester). In the third or fourth year, students take one upper-level CHP interdisciplinary honors seminar (CHP 395 or 395), unless a request is approved to substitute another substantive activity, such as study abroad.

Chancellor’s Scholars who have successfully completed all CHP requirements may wear the traditional silver and orange braided graduation cords as part of their formal academic attire during the UIUC Commencement ceremony. There is also an opportunity for highly engaged students to be recognized as
a Distinguished Chancellor’s Scholar, which is notated on the transcript and recognized at Commencement with a Medallion by completing additional leadership, service, and/or research activities.

Chancellor’s Scholars enroll in small, innovative CHP courses, the majority of which fulfill general education requirements. CHP courses cover a wide range of topics, and are taught by many of the most outstanding faculty on campus, with approximately 20 students in each class. CHP seminars provide an interdisciplinary experience in a dynamic seminar setting.

CHP courses provide opportunities for academically gifted and adventurous students to discover connections between their own and other disciplines. The CHP does not replace or conflict with college or departmental honors programs. In consultation with departmental academic advisors, Chancellor’s Scholars develop their own combination of regular and CHP courses. CHP courses often include field trips, experiential learning, and group projects.
CO-CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

KRANNERT DRESS REHEARSALS

Krannert Dress Rehearsals (KDR) are a unique opportunity for Chancellor’s Scholars to experience amazing arts performances offered at UIUC. Only one KDR is required over a student’s career, but many students take advantage of this program multiple times. Chancellor’s Scholars may attend a dress rehearsal at no charge for specified performances at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, including a pre-performance talk by an expert connected to the show, such as a director, conductor, or dramaturge.

SCHOLAR ADVENTURERS SERIES

Scholar Adventurers Series (SAS) programs consist of lectures, tours, and other activities presented by faculty members and others from a variety of disciplines who are engaged in interesting projects or special educational endeavors. Programs may include learning about the origins of certain foods, tours of buildings related to science and/or art, educational programming, and presentations related to study abroad, research, and national and international scholarships.
CHP CONVOCATION

Convocation is a lecture with a thought-provoking guest speaker who addresses questions of broad contemporary. An opportunity for informal interaction with the speaker is provided, which may include a dinner for Chancellor’s Scholars. Recent examples include Chaz Ebert, who spoke about Roger Ebert’s autobiography, Life Itself, and Sonia Manzano, who talked about her book Becoming Maria: Love and Chaos in the South Bronx and her multi-decade television career as Maria on Sesame Street. This event is in memory of Keith L. Kelroy, a former Chancellor’s Scholar, and is supported by gifts in his memory.
SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

COURSE OPPORTUNITIES

CHP courses may include field trips, publication opportunities, and research collaborations. Faculty-led field trips have included tours of water treatment plants, art museums, cultural sites, and national parks.
INTERCULTURAL STUDY TOURS (ICSTS)

The CHP often sponsors an intensive national and international two-week cultural and/or research study abroad experience for up to 20 high-achieving and adventurous students. Recent trips have been to Peru, Rome, and Japan. The CHP covers part of the expense for each student selected, assuring that the cost of participation is reasonable. Participants attend pre-trip meetings, often resulting in CHP class credit, and present about an aspect of their experience to other Chancellor’s Scholars.
The Campus Honors Program provides advising about CHP courses, study abroad, research, and careers. While CHP advisors do not replace college or departmental advisors, they are available to discuss CHP classes and other opportunities. The CHP provides letters of recommendation for those students who are highly engaged in the Program.

Financial support may be available from the CHP through modest yearly tuition scholarships, the CHP Summer Research and Travel Grant Program, the Yanai Ambassadorship, and the Outstanding Senior Awards Program. Each year, one or more graduating seniors are awarded the Calvin Ke Memorial Student Leadership Award at the CHP Graduation Reception.

The Honors House provides a warm and welcoming environment to study, socialize, and learn. Comfortably decorated and adorned with student artwork, it provides multiple student spaces including lounges, a computer and printing room, a library, study rooms, and a classroom where many of the CHP courses are held. The CHP staff members are available for advising and support during work hours, and student workers staff the Honors House on weeknights.
CHP SUMMER RESEARCH AND TRAVEL GRANTS

The CHP provides a limited number of awards each summer to support Chancellor’s Scholars who elect to engage in research and travel. Students have used these awards for study and research abroad, and for international project development. Participants write a proposal, final report, and present about their experiences to other Chancellor’s Scholars.

In partnership with the Yanai and Champaign Rotary Clubs, Chancellor’s Scholars have the opportunity to apply annually to be the Yanai Goodwill Ambassador and travel to Japan for a four-week homestay exchange. The CHP also welcomes a Yanai Ambassador from Japan each year.

DISTINGUISHED CHANCELLOR’S SCHOLAR OPTION

In order to be eligible to graduate as a Distinguished Chancellor’s Scholar, a student must earn ten points in addition to fulfilling the CHP program requirements from options that include additional classes, participation in cocurricular and Honors Student Council (HSC) events, service, research, public engagement, and leadership in CHP, HSC and/or on campus.
CHP alumni achieve great things in Illinois, around the country, and throughout the world. Many of their accomplishments are featured in the CHP’s yearly newsletter, *CHP Annual*. CHP alumni often share their expertise with Chancellor’s Scholars at Power Lunches or through Scholar Adventurers Series programs. They also publicize job openings and other opportunities throughout the academic year, and visit the Honors House. Every five years, the CHP hosts an Anniversary Celebration for all CHP alumni, faculty and friends.
The Honors Student Council (HSC) is a student organization that provides advice and ideas to the CHP Director; plans social events and other activities for Chancellor’s Scholars; and participates in philanthropic activities. Weekly HSC meetings and events are held at the Honors House. All students are encouraged to run for Executive Board membership or participate in committees. These include Academic Engagement, Social Engagement, Community Engagement, Publications, and Arts. Committees plan events that include Pumpkin Carving, Bob Ross Painting nights, Gingerbread House Decorating, Power Lunches, field trips, an annual semi-formal, community service projects, games and sports, film viewings, and more.
Chancellor’s Scholars receive many national honors and awards, and the Campus Honors Program supports students through editing assistance with applications, writing recommendations, publicizing all National and International Scholarships (NIS) Program announcements, and facilitating an annual Scholar Adventurers Series program with NIS staff members and past student award recipients. Examples of awards that Chancellor’s Scholars have recently received include Fulbright Grants and Fulbright U.K. Summer Institutes, the Goldwater Scholarship, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships, and the Udall Foundation Scholarship.
The Campus Honors Program collaborates with the Honors Living-Learning Community (LLC) which was introduced in 2016. Designed specifically for James Scholars and Chancellor’s Scholars, this community provides special interdisciplinary courses that offer residents additional interaction with Honors students and faculty. Curricular and co-curricular aspects of the LLC are designed around the LLC’s three pillars: Inquiry, Civic Engagement and Leadership. Program features include research opportunities, trips, special speakers, and in-depth dialogue with others about various topics.
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