

The Ohio State Scholars Experience: Debunking the Scholars Seminar and First-Year Student Expectations



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Our Mission



The University Honors & Scholars Center at The Ohio State University serves high-performing, motivated undergraduate students. While embracing diversity in both ideas and people, the Center fosters purposeful learning communities that enhance students' academic and social experiences. The Center facilitates impactful, rigorous, and unique opportunities that further student success and involvement in our G.O.A.L.S.:

Global Awareness

Original Inquiry

Academic Enrichment

Leadership Development

Service Engagement



What is Scholars?



17 distinct residential learning communities, tailored to engage peers with common interest on a particular theme, open to students (including commuters) in any discipline

- Advocates for Children and Education
- Architecture
- Arts
- Biological Sciences
- Business
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Green Engineering
- Health Sciences
- Humanitarian Engineering
- Humanities
- Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship
- International Affairs
- Media, Marketing and Communication
- Mount Leadership Society
- Politics, Society and Law
- Sport and Wellness
- STEM Exploration and Engagement

Who Are Our Scholars Students?



2013-14

Demographics

- Total: 4,293
 - First Year: 1,340
- Residency
 - Ohio: 75%
 - Non-resident: 25%
- Gender
 - Female: 55%
 - Male: 45%
- Other
 - Under-represented minority: 22%
 - First generation: 18%



Maintaining Scholars Affiliation



2 year commitment

- First year and second year expectations differ
- Some programs have expectations for juniors and seniors

Meet specific requirements for your program

- Participation in learning experiences, community events, etc.

Enroll in Scholars Seminar

- Must pass the course

Maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA

- GPA is monitored each semester



What's New in Scholars?

ACADEMIC OVERVIEW



- **SCHOLARS 1100 SEMINAR**
- **CLUSTERED COURSES**
- **FACULTY INTERACTION**

Seminar: Scholars 1100



- What is it?
 - ✦ Graded, one (1) credit hour seminar
 - ✦ Taught by Scholars Coordinator
 - ✦ Combination of presentations, activities, and discussions

- Why take it?
 - ✦ Introduce Scholars to their program and its requirements
 - ✦ Cover topics related to H&S G.O.A.L.S.
 - ✦ Explore areas specifically related to theme of the Scholars program
 - ✦ Expose students to opportunities both on and off campus

- When do students take it?
 - ✦ Autumn semester of first year only

- Who takes it?
 - ✦ Required for ALL first-year Scholars

Scholars 1100 Sample Topics



Health Sciences

- (G) Introduction to global health issues
- (O) Intro to undergraduate research at Ohio State with student panel
- (A) Career development with self-assessment
- (L) Discussion of health literacy awareness
- (S) Introduction to service, what it means to serve

Green Engineering

- (G) Study abroad opportunities within engineering
- (O) Mini research project on green engineering topic of choice
- (A) Presentation by Director of Center for Automotive Research (C.A.R.)
- (L) True Colors Workshop by Student Leadership Advocates
- (S) Discussion of community service and how to apply it to engineering

Clustered Courses



- **What is a clustered course?**
 - ✦ Class reserved for Scholars students in a specific Scholars group
 - ✦ Not more challenging or different material
 - ✦ Related to the theme of the Scholars Program
 - ✦ Often required for the major most popular in that Scholars Program
 - ✦ Examples:
 - GES: Take ENGR 1181 (AU of Year 1) and ENGR 1182 (SP of year 1); required for ALL engineering majors
 - HSS: Take Chemistry 1210 (AU of Year 1); required for most majors in HSS
 - ✦ Self-clustering courses
- **Why do Scholars take clustered courses?**
 - ✦ Makes it easier to form study groups and work on team projects with students from your residence hall
 - ✦ Taught by select instructors
 - ✦ Provides further opportunity to develop community and support each other
 - ✦ Reserved spots/time ensure placement in the class

Clustered Courses



- ENGR 1181, 1182



Career Preparation



- *Assist students by providing available resources to guide them successfully in their search for internships, co-ops, graduate school, and future career goals*
- **Workshops to develop the following skills:**
 - ✦ Resume building
 - ✦ Personal statement writing
 - ✦ Networking
 - ✦ Interviewing
- **Panels of upperclassmen or graduate students**
- **Bring in the experts!**
 - ✦ Alumni
 - ✦ Professionals
 - ✦ Career Services
- *Some Scholars Programs have more of a career focus than others**
 - ✦ *GES, HES, HSS, PSL, Business, Architecture



Faculty Interaction



- *Introduce students to Ohio State faculty members to provide a valuable connection, learn about their course offerings and/or their research area, or to provide additional knowledge within the theme of the program*



Dr. Schlosser

○ GES Examples:

- ✦ Dr. Blaine Lilly from Mechanical Engineering on “*Sustainable Product Design*”
- ✦ Dr. Betty Lise Anderson from Electrical Engineering on “*Secrets to a Terrific Technical Talk*”
- ✦ Dr. Phil Schlosser, Scholars ENGR 1181/1182 Instructor, discusses his pathway to success

○ HSS Examples:

- ✦ Dine with the Department Series (Athletic Training, Radiological Sciences, Respiratory Therapy)
- ✦ Dr. Kroner from Chemistry on General Chemistry course in Park-Stradley

What's New in Scholars?

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW



- **CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMMING**
- **TRIPS & TOURS**
- **LEADERSHIP COUNCILS**
- **MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS**
- **COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**
- **INVOLVEMENT EXPECTATIONS OVERVIEW**

Co-curricular Programming



Health Sciences

- Monthly community meetings during spring semester
- Sample topics:
 - Health-related TED Talks and discussion groups
 - Panel on changing majors
 - Graduate/professional school panel
- Co-sponsored Scholars events:
 - Ex. Politics of Healthcare with Politics, Society, and Law Scholars
- Dine with the Department Series

Green Engineering

- Bi-weekly community meetings
- Sample topics:
 - Faculty speakers
 - REACH training (suicide prevention)
 - Alumni presentation: Transition to Industry
 - Multicultural Center workshop
- Co-sponsored events:
 - Service with Environment and Natural Resources Scholars

Trips & Tours



Health Sciences

- Overnight trip to Atlanta, visited Center for Disease Control
- Day trip to Case Western Reserve University, research lab tour and conversation with molecular geneticist
- Local trips/tours: COSI for BODIES exhibit, The Wilds, Columbus Clippers games

Green Engineering

- Overnight trip to Chicago, visit Chicago Center for Green Technology
- Day trips to Detroit Auto Show, King's Island, Cedar Point
- Local trips/tours: Center for Automotive Research (CAR), Columbus Zoo for sustainability tour

Leadership Councils



- Consist of student volunteers from the program
- Application process
- Different roles: chairs, service, social, athletic, diversity, academic
- Opportunity to plan programming and engage in leadership development opportunities including StrengthsFinder workshops and networking with alumni

Mentorship Programs



- Provide support structure for first-year students during summer and through first year at Ohio State
- May be paired one-on-one or in family-style groups with multiple upperclassmen and first-years
- Experienced mentors in good academic standing
- Specialized programming: Welcome Week events, scavenger hunt of the Short North, football tailgates, pumpkin carving
- Leadership development for upperclassmen

Community Service Opportunities



Health Sciences

- Community Commitment (Welcome Week)
- BuckeyeThon
- Relay for Life
- Unverferth House
- HSS Service Fair (coordinated by Leadership Council)

Green Engineering

- FLOW (Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed), removing honey-suckle and tree planting
- Tailgate recycling
- Girls/Boys Discover Engineering at COSI
- Toy adaptation workshops

Involvement Expectations Overview



- Vary by Scholars program
- HSS:
 - Engage in three (3) HSS events per semester, one (1) non-HSS event per semester
 - 20 hours of service per semester, 40+ per year total
- GES:
 - Engage in six (6) events per semester
 - ✦ One (1) from H&S House; maximum of two (2) by Lane Avenue Residence Hall
 - Eight (8) hours of service per semester



Questions?



**Thank You
for Your Time!**