

GOVERNOR'S SCHOLARS PROGRAM: INFORMATION FOR FACULTY APPLICANTS

WHAT IT IS

The Governor's Scholars Program is an intense five-week intellectual program for outstanding Kentucky students who are rising seniors in high school. The Program has received much attention since its first session in 1983. It does not have a permanent faculty, so an open application process is conducted each year. It is offered free of charge to the students.

WHEN AND WHERE

It will be held on three university campuses, Morehead State University, Murray State University, and Northern Kentucky University: First session from June 17 to July 21; Second session from June 23 to July 27; and Third session from June 24 to July 28. The host campus for each session will be announced at a later date. Faculty members will report to their assigned campus one week prior to the opening of the Program. They will also be expected to spend an expense-paid weekend at the Spring Retreat to exchange ideas and develop curriculum.

There will be 20 faculty members for approximately 360 Scholars at each campus, plus residential counselors and office staff. Faculty will be selected from among the ranks of the GSP alumni as well as from Kentucky's public and private high schools, colleges, and universities.

QUALIFICATIONS

The Kentucky Governor's Scholars Program seeks applications from gifted and creative faculty who are well-versed in their subjects and have a broad range of interests and experiences. Faculty members will expand the intellectual horizons of the Governor's Scholars by providing leadership in integrating subject matter in the humanities, the sciences, and the arts. Faculty must be willing and able to use non-traditional and participatory methods with little or no lecturing. They must relate well and communicate effectively with bright students of high school age. They should be enthusiastic and flexible enough to keep pace with this intensive, ever-changing Program.

Some faculty find that they change their plans and direction for their course a week into the session. Emphasis will be placed on the conceptual, historical, and philosophical foundations of learning and the interdisciplinary approach to teaching. Faculty will help students examine their roles as young Kentuckians with outstanding potential and are also expected to participate fully in a living/learning/working situation which will require long hours, including evenings and weekends.

CONDITIONS AND COMPENSATION

Most faculty members will live in apartments or dormitories on campus during the six weeks of their commitment. Exceptions may be made for those who live year-round in the city where the campus is located. At each location, housing is expected to be available for families who wish to accompany faculty members. Compensation for the 2018 session will start at \$5,800 plus free room and board on the campus to which the faculty member is assigned.

STATEMENT OF CURRICULUM

INTRODUCTION

The Governor's Scholars Program is predicated upon the belief that one of the Commonwealth's greatest resources is its academically talented young people. Consequently, a five-week summer program for over 1,060 of Kentucky's brightest rising high school seniors will be conducted this summer on three college campuses: Morehead State University in Morehead, Murray State University in Murray, and Northern Kentucky University in Highland Heights.

The emphasis of the Governor's Scholars Program is on the students' development of critical thinking, adaptability, creativity, widened horizons, future-orientation, and constructive responses to the ambiguities of life. The curriculum of the Governor's Scholars Program has been built with the recognition that talented students have a wide variety of interests and concerns. The three-tiered curriculum provides opportunities to develop both general and specific intellectual skills and talents.

THE CURRICULUM

The curriculum for the Governor's Scholars Program is composed of three levels. All students will be participants in courses or seminars at each level. In addition, a speaker and concert series, field trips, and evening and weekend events will provide enrichment to the GSP community.

FOCUS AREAS

Students choose one course from among a variety of interest areas, which allow a student to pursue a topic in-depth as a member of a small group. Focus Areas meet regularly, Monday through Friday, for a minimum of twelve hours per week. Emphasis will be placed on individual and/or group projects, the development of ideas within the particular discipline, identification of significant themes, and on the interrelatedness of the discipline to other content areas. Class size generally varies from 17-19 students.

The Focus Areas are not designed to prepare students for any high school or college course or to equip them to score higher on the ACT or SAT. The GSP Focus Area courses are meant to provide broad, interdisciplinary intellectual exposure and enrichment, rather than narrow, disciplinary training. Students are encouraged to try a Focus Area in which they have little prior experience.

Focus Area Content Descriptions Are As Follows:

AGRIBUSINESS/BIOTECHNOLOGY: This course explores the diverse components of agriculture and emphasizes the contemporary methods and technology – including biotechnology – that are applied to this traditional field of studies in its new age of development.

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN: This course features orientation to the historical perspectives of design from an architectural point of view, focusing on such aspects as landscape, interior, and historic preservation.

ASTRONOMY: This course provides a hands-on introduction to theoretical and observational astronomy. It combines late night observing sessions with regular classroom experiences. The course emphasizes the techniques of science and how they apply to the discipline of astronomy.

BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: This course stresses contemporary issues in and interrelationships between the various biological sciences. Classes may focus on environmental issues that impact our lives and communities.

BUSINESS, ACCOUNTING, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: This course explores a wide-range of economic forces and systems that have shaped and will impact societies, individuals, and bring about change. It will include exposure to real situations in the business world as well as introductory accounting techniques.

COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL THEORY: (Media, Sociology, Gender Studies, etc.) This course explores social and communication systems, considering them as forces that affect nations and individuals.

CREATIVE WRITING AND LITERARY STUDIES: This course emphasizes the tactics and strategies in written texts – including those the Scholars write – and the human values those texts articulate.

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY: This course is a study of various societies and ways of life, including sub-cultures within our own civilization. Students will differentiate universal aspects of human behavior from those that are socially determined. It may also include archaeological activities.

DRAMATIC EXPRESSION: This course explores creative expression through both practice and theoretical study of the dramatic arts. Students may be exposed to the various aspects of this art form including movement, literature, history, performance, and technical elements.

ENGINEERING: This course is an orientation to the historical and ethical perspective of engineering. It demonstrates the application of mathematics and science to the solution of “real-world” problems, and helps scholars understand the role of the engineer in today’s world.

FILM STUDIES: This course explores the history and development of film, emphasizing techniques used to produce a movie, as well as perspectives to read and interpret film.

FORENSIC SCIENCE: This course focuses on the role of forensics as a tool for scientists and law enforcement agencies in criminal justice processes and investigations.

HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY: This course will focus on the various fields of study dealing with health issues from a broad range of perspectives, e.g. medicine, insurance, disabilities, physical therapy, etc.

HISTORICAL ANALYSIS: This course stresses concepts and movements – cultural, social, and intellectual – rather than historical “facts.”

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: This course focuses on the importance of seeing the world from a global perspective with emphasis on the relationships among nations and cultures.

JOURNALISM AND MASS MEDIA: This course will explore the many different means through which news and information are spread around the world. Students will acquire hands-on experience broadcasting through various media as they consider the practical and ethical implications of modern journalism.

MODES OF MATHEMATICAL THINKING: This course explores some of the more exciting, less traditional mathematics, rather than focusing on the acquisition of new or specific skills. It emphasizes interrelationships of mathematical ideas and creative problem solving and applications.

MUSIC THEORY AND PERFORMANCE: This course explores various aspects of creative expression through both practice and theoretical study of music. Students may be exposed to various components of the art form including history, performance, and theory.

PHILOSOPHY: This course emphasizes the history of ideas, the process of logic, and the influence of ethics and aesthetics on the individual and society.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE (Chemistry, Geology, Physics): This course emphasizes the interrelatedness of such traditional areas as physics and chemistry to one another and to wider intellectual and social concerns.

POLITICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES: This course studies various political and legal systems and forces that impact societies, individuals, and bring about change.

PSYCHOLOGY AND BEHAVIORAL STUDIES: This course emphasizes the importance of psychological processes in driving behavior and shaping individuals as well as their societies.

SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE: This course offers intensive exposure to Spanish as a foreign language and to the Hispanic culture. Students should have studied the language for at least one school year.

VISUAL ARTS: This course explores various aspects of creative expression through both practice and theoretical study of the visual arts. Students are exposed to various mediums that may include, but are not limited to, painting, ceramics, glass, plaster, mosaics, photography, and drawing.

GENERAL STUDIES

Each scholar will be assigned to a General Studies group, which will meet about 6 – 8 hours a week to explore the topic(s) presented by the instructor. GSP makes an effort to assign students whose focus area is in the sciences or mathematics to a general studies group led by an instructor in the humanities or social sciences and vice versa. The emphasis will be on helping students develop their problem solving skills, and strengthening their creative thinking abilities, which leads to seeking solutions collectively that are both innovative and practical. Students will be encouraged and guided to develop leadership skills through the general studies classes, as well.

As a natural outgrowth of a program that nurtures self-confidence and personal responsibility, an interest in community service emerges. Scholars will receive guidance at GSP in planning for their future school or community service involvement. In most cases, civic engagement through community projects is part of the General Studies class. This component will help students further develop their leadership potential.

GOVERNOR'S SCHOLARS SEMINAR

Each student will participate in a discussion group concerned with issues and problems of interest to the group and the lives of students in contemporary society. Each group will meet twice weekly for a total of three hours. Topics such as interpersonal communication, family and peer relationships, college choice, and the responsibilities of academically talented students to society will be among issues to be considered for discussion.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The academic curriculum will be supplemented by a rich, diverse range of recreational opportunities, cultural and artistic events, outstanding field experiences, and distinguished convocation speakers and classroom guests. Sufficient free time is available for reading, socializing, and independent creative endeavors. Faculty members and resident advisors participate in co-curricular enrichment activities with students.

The program offers a unique opportunity for outstanding students to work with each other and with an exceptional faculty to build a community of Scholars and to experience the internal rewards of learning in an atmosphere that encourages intellectual growth, free from concerns about grades or credits.