

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.

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.

WHEN AND WHERE

It will be held on three university campuses, Centre College, Morehead State University, and Murray State University: First session from June 13 to July 17; Second session from June 14 to July 18; and Third session from June 21 to July 25. 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 in late March to exchange ideas and develop curriculum.

There will be 19-20 faculty members for approximately 350 Scholars at each campus, plus residential advisors 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 residence halls 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 2026 session will start at \$6,200 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 1,020 of Kentucky's brightest rising high school seniors will be conducted this summer on three college campuses: Centre College in Danville, Morehead State University in Morehead, and Murray State University in Murray.

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 has three components. In addition, the academic curriculum is 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.

FOCUS AREAS

Students will indicate their top three choices from among a variety of interest areas (see list below for descriptions). GSP staff will assign students to one of the top three choices. Focus Areas meet weekly for approximately 12 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 will vary from 18-22 students, with most around 19.

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 study in its new age of development. Some emphasis may be placed on sustainability.

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

BUSINESS, ACCOUNTING, & 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 & SOCIAL THEORY (Media, Sociology, etc.): This course explores social and communication systems, considering them as forces that affect nations and individuals.

COMPUTER SCIENCE & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: This course explores the role of technology in today's society with special attention to the role of artificial intelligence. Classes may include an introduction to coding and/or computer engineering.

CREATIVE WRITING & 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.

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 from which 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 focuses 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 & MASS MEDIA: This course explores the many different means through which news and information are spread around the world. Students will acquire hands-on experience in 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 and less traditional aspects of 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 & PERFORMANCE: This course explores various aspects of creative expression through both practice and the 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 chemistry and physics to one another and to wider intellectual and social concerns.

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

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

PUBLIC POLICY & ADMINISTRATION: This course explores public policy and administration, at all levels of government in not-for-profit organizations, and in the public-service related activities of profit-seeking companies.

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

THEATRE ARTS: 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.

GENERAL STUDIES

Each scholar will be assigned to a General Studies group, which will meet for approximately 8 hours a week to explore the topic(s) presented by the instructor. GSP makes an effort to diversify these groups as much as possible, and topics covered are often interdisciplinary. 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 many cases, civic engagement through community projects is part of the General Studies class. This component will help students further develop their leadership potential.

LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Each student will participate in a class designed to develop leadership skills. Scholars will be encouraged to think through their ideas, be able to articulate them clearly, and develop the ability to engage in mature and civil discussions of differing opinions. Each group will meet twice weekly for approximately three hours. Topics include values exploration, interpersonal communication, college/career choices, and the responsibilities of academically talented students to society. Each Leadership Seminar is co-facilitated by a resident advisor with a faculty partner.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application materials are available on the GSP website: gsp.ky.gov.