



University Scholars Program

A distinctive and enriching educational experience for emerging leaders

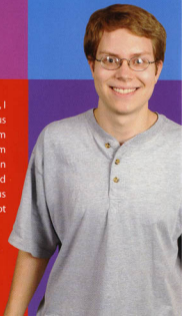
Scholarship

Intellectual growth, undergraduate research, global understanding, and academic excellence are enthusiastically embraced by scholars. Scholars are energized by knowledge development and work to prepare for life in a global community.



"The moment I was introduced to University Scholar students, I knew Mason was the place for me. Aside from the tremendous benefits of being in the top academic and leadership program at the university, the unity of the students within the program is a warmth not seen at any other institution. In addition, Mason faculty provide much support for the Scholar students and they have gone out of their way a number of times to help us experience an intellectual education that many students do not realize can exist for them."

—Amanda U.
Class of 2009



Service

Scholars are encouraged to be actively engaged in the world around them and are deeply committed to making a difference in people's lives. The university and the metropolitan Washington, D.C., area offer innumerable service opportunities.

"I plan to attend seminary after I graduate from George Mason, with the eventual goal of becoming a pastor. The University Scholars Program has exposed me to so many other rich traditions and spiritual/social backgrounds, and my understanding of who I am and the world itself has already matured. Without this program I would not have met some of the people I'm most excited about getting to know now. It's been an enormous blessing."

—Josh O.
Class of 2009

Leadership

Making constructive changes, realizing problems are very important values motivated and empowered by these an invaluable example of what it means contributions to the community.



"We have so many opportunities the people around us. I'm not follow after graduation, possibly rights attorney. Other career broadcasting or politics. I think come along with being a University advantages in whatever lies in s

—Shannon M.
Class of 2008

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Community

Scholars participate in many intellectual, cultural, and social activities that allow them to build lifelong friendships in a variety of communities and to serve as a source of support to their peers. Being actively engaged in the community is central to the scholars' experiences. During their first year, scholars share a special living and learning community and have an upper-class scholar mentor who supports their transition to Mason.

"I lived with all University Scholars my freshman year on a scholar-designated floor, which was amazing. I made tons of friends and really bonded with the group. My favorite memory was a day where our Freshman Seminar class went into Washington, D.C., to the National Gallery. Our professor gave us an amazing tour of Renaissance art, we walked around the city, and just had a generally great time. Having scholars around is wonderful, because I have been able to find people of my own ilk, those who like to work hard and play harder. We had and continue to have incredibly fun times all while maintaining some of the highest GPAs at Mason."

—Kyle M.
Class of 2007



Overview and Mission

The University Scholars Community is a carefully crafted educational program that brings together gifted students from around the world. Our mission is to provide enriched intellectual, cultural, and social experiences, and support each scholar in his or her aspirations for life and work. These exceptional students are committed to academic and personal excellence and receive tremendous support from university faculty, staff, and administrators.

The central feature of the program is a vibrant learning and living community in which scholars come together to share their experiences, ideas, diverse perspectives, knowledge, and interests with faculty, university leaders, and a supportive group of peers. The four pillars for the program are scholarship, service, community, and leadership. These pillars represent the essential values that drive our community. They are structured to encourage excellence in all areas of life, which in turn will lead to the development of a well-rounded individual who will be prepared for today's competitive world.



Admittance to the University Scholars Program is highly competitive. Each year, the program enrolls 25 outstanding students. To be considered for this unique educational experience, students must possess a record of excellence in academics, leadership, and community service.

Application Criteria

A strong candidate for the program will have

- Submitted an application for admission to George Mason University as a full-time freshman. (Priority consideration is given to those who apply by December 1.)
- Maintained a superior academic record in a competitive curriculum.
- Achieved outstanding scores on the SAT and/or the ACT.
- Compiled a record of demonstrated commitment to leadership and community service.

Contact Information

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More information about the program can be found on the web at www.gmu.edu/departments/usp