

***ALMANACHUS HONORUM (THE HONORS ALMANAC):
A Reference Guide to the ACES James Scholar Honors Program for the
Academic Year 2019-2020***

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Introductory Overview

The ACES James Scholar Honors Program empowers exceptional undergraduates to enhance their academic experiences through a broad array of activities. Participation is open to all qualified students enrolled in any Bachelor of Science degree program within the College of ACES. James Scholars can take maximum advantage of the College's distinguished teaching talent and research facilities to expand their horizons and gain a competitive edge. The Honors Dean, the Assistant to the Honors Dean, and the Departmental Honors Advisors provide guidance to James Scholars as they achieve their professional goals within the Honors Program.

Advantages for students enrolled in the ACES James Scholar Honors Program include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Priority registration starting in November of the freshman year allows access to high-demand courses and sections.
- Co-curricular activities including the James Scholar Activities and Communications Team (JS-ACT) and two writing competitions each year.
- Special events throughout the academic year, including a welcome reception for new scholars in the fall, professional development and academic enrichment programs, and more.
- Individualized faculty advising in preparation of the Honors Completion Plan and during the development and implementation of the Undergraduate Research Project.
- The opportunity to conduct individual research in scholars' specific areas of interest and have their research presented as poster displays and/or journal articles.
- Scholarships and grants to assist with tuition and funding expenses for studying abroad and the Undergraduate Research Project.
- Graduation as an ACES James Scholar with a certificate of achievement, a bronze medallion, and the University James Scholar designation listed on the final transcript.
- Excellent preparation for admission to graduate programs and professional schools (e.g., dentistry, law, medicine, optometry, and veterinary medicine).

The ACES James Scholar Diamond Jubilee: 1959-2019

The ACES James Scholar Honors Program, which enrolls (on average) around 275 students each year, is currently celebrating the Diamond Jubilee anniversary of the establishment of the James Scholar Honors Programs on the Urbana campus in 1959. Celebrations began with a well-attended Holiday Reception in December 2018, which included a PowerPoint presentation about James Scholar history by Rob Chappell and his student worker, Megan Finfrock (ACES James Scholar Class of 2022). Additional special events took place during the spring 2019 semester, including a lecture on medieval animal sciences (given by Rob in January) and our Honors Program's first annual Undergraduate Research Day in April, which included both poster and oral presentations. Throughout the Diamond Jubilee Year (2019), a special logo created by Brianna Gregg has been used on our social media accounts to alert readers to our sixtieth anniversary (please see below).



Outline of the ACES James Scholar Honors Program: A Year-by-Year Synopsis

The following outline summarizes the “Milestones of Achievement” that all ACES James Scholars are expected to complete during each of the four years of the Honors Program.

The Freshman Year

Designation as an ACES James Scholar is offered to incoming freshmen who rank in the top 10%-15% of their entering class. Freshmen who do not accept or qualify upon admission may apply for ACES James Scholar status during the first six weeks of their second semester if they have achieved an overall GPA \geq **3.50** during their first semester.

Milestones of Achievement:

- Make satisfactory progress toward completion of the B.S. degree with an overall GPA ≥ 3.40 . (Scholars majoring in Agricultural and Biological Engineering will need to maintain an overall GPA ≥ 3.50 .)
- At least one honors activity is required during the freshman year. Completion of a course with an Honors Credit Learning Agreement (HCLA), an honors section of any course, a Campus Honors Program (CHP) course, **ACES 396: Honors Study Abroad Retrospective**, **ACES 399: Honors Seminar**, or another approved activity that involves effort beyond normal academic requirements.

The Sophomore Year

Participation is open to newly admitted and continuing ACES students who have sophomore status and an overall GPA ≥ 3.50 .

Milestones of Achievement:

- Make satisfactory progress toward completion of the B.S. degree with an overall GPA ≥ 3.40 . (Scholars majoring in Agricultural and Biological Engineering will need to maintain an overall GPA ≥ 3.50 .)
- At least one honors activity is required during the sophomore year. Completion of a course with an HCLA, an honors section of any course, a CHP course, **ACES 396: Honors Study Abroad Retrospective**, **ACES 399: Honors Seminar**, or another approved activity that involves effort beyond normal academic requirements.

The Junior and Senior Years

Participation is open to newly admitted and continuing ACES students maintaining an overall GPA ≥ 3.50 . Students may apply for admission to the ACES James Scholar Honors Program no later than the sixth week of the fall semester of their junior year.

Milestones of Achievement:

- Scholars prepare and submit an Honors Completion Plan (HCP) by the third Monday in November of their junior year. The HCP has curricular rigor that exceeds the minimum requirements of their major and includes an Undergraduate Research Project as the capstone experience.
- Make satisfactory progress toward completion of the B.S. degree with an overall GPA ≥ 3.40 .
- At least one honors activity is required during each academic year. Completion of a course with an HCLA, an honors section of any course, a CHP course, **ACES 396: Honors Study Abroad Retrospective**, **ACES 399: Honors Seminar**, or another approved activity that involves effort beyond normal academic requirements.
- Fulfill all the components of the HCP and complete an Undergraduate Research Project.
- Present a poster display of the Undergraduate Research Project results at the ACES Undergraduate Research Day, the Undergraduate Research Symposium, or another approved event.

Capstone Experience: The ACES Undergraduate Research Project

As the capstone experience in the Honors Program, the Undergraduate Research Project is designed to acquaint James Scholars with the current literature in their discipline, develop their investigative skills and techniques, and prepare them for a professional career in the agricultural, consumer, and/or environmental sciences. The project is developed in conjunction with the ongoing or related research of a Faculty Research Mentor. (Interdisciplinary projects are encouraged.) Upon completion of the research project, results are presented as a poster display at the ACES Undergraduate Research Day, the Undergraduate Research Symposium, or another professional venue.

Graduation from the College of ACES with James Scholar Distinction

The Honors Completion Plan (HCP) is a roadmap for successful completion of the ACES James Scholar Honors Program. The HCP needs to be received at the Honors Desk by the third Monday in November of the junior year. James Scholars who are planning to study abroad or do an off-campus internship during the fall semester of their junior year should submit their HCP to the Honors Desk by the third Monday in April of their sophomore year.

By preparing and signing their HCP, scholars declare their intention to graduate from the College of ACES with James Scholar Distinction. Scholars will need to fulfill all the Milestones of Achievement listed on the HCP, along with maintaining an overall GPA ≥ 3.40 , in order to graduate from the College of ACES with James Scholar Distinction. Scholars can modify their HCP, with the approval and signature of their Departmental Honors Advisor, at any time before they graduate. Scholars may resign from the ACES James Scholar Honors Program at any time without academic penalty; their resignation will not be noted on their transcript. **James Scholars' status within the Honors Program will be subject to review if they do not make satisfactory progress toward fulfilling the Milestones of Achievement during their junior and senior years.**

The required Milestones of Achievement are as follows:

1. The capstone experience for **all** ACES James Scholars is conducting an Undergraduate Research Project – such as a bachelor's thesis, laboratory project, or design project – with a Faculty Research Mentor in the College of ACES. (Enrollment in a 300-level Undergraduate Research course is optional but highly recommended.)
2. Present a poster display based on item #1 at the ACES Undergraduate Research Day (in mid-April), the Undergraduate Research Symposium (in late April), or a professional conference approved in advance by the Honors Dean.
3. Complete four courses with honors credit (i.e., with an **H** following the standard letter grade) before graduation. A grade of **B-** or higher is needed to earn honors credit in any course. **Undergraduate Research courses with honors credit (i.e., 396 or 398) can only be used once to complete this requirement.**
4. Complete four 400-level courses with a standard letter grade of **B-** or higher. These courses may be taken in any department on campus.
5. Complete one 500-level course (or a specially designated 400-level course approved by a Departmental Honors Advisor) with a standard letter grade of **B-** or higher. This course may be taken in any department on campus. **Please note that this course cannot be identical with any of the courses listed above in fulfillment of item #4.**

Special Course Offerings

The Honors Program offers two special courses for ACES James Scholars and Chancellor's Scholars enrolled in the College of ACES. Each course carries automatic honors credit if completed with a letter grade of \geq B-.

ACES 396: Honors Study Abroad Retrospective (Launched in Spring 2019)

Scholars who will be spending a summer, a semester, or a year overseas are encouraged to confer with the Assistant to the Honors Dean before their departure from campus to explore the possibility of earning honors credit for studying abroad through taking **ACES 396** upon their return to campus. This course, which is overseen by the Honors Dean, gives scholars an opportunity to earn one hour of honors credit by undertaking a specific honors assignment that is agreed upon by the Honors Dean and the scholar, using a Memorandum of Understanding to define the type and scope of the honors assignment to be undertaken. The honors assignment needs to be completed by the end of the semester immediately following the scholar's return from overseas.

ACES 399: Honors Seminar (Launched in Spring 2006)

Taught by Dr. Jason Emmert, a longtime friend and supporter of honors programming in the College of ACES, this one-hour course presents an exciting opportunity for scholars to earn honors credit during the spring semester. The course features presentations by faculty members and notable experts on various ACES-related topics of current interest, with a focus on the grand challenges facing humanity in the 21st century. **ACES 399** carries one hour of honors credit if it is completed successfully. Enrollment is limited to the first 25 ACES James Scholars and/or Chancellor's Scholars who sign up for it online via *UI-Integrate Self-Service*.

Planned Activities and Events for the Academic Year 2019-2020

Each year, the Honors Program hosts professional development and/or academic enrichment activities to foster a greater sense of community among ACES James Scholars, to provide learning experiences beyond the classroom and laboratory, and to recognize the accomplishments of our students. The following activities and events have been scheduled for the upcoming academic year.

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

5:00 -- 6:30 PM

Welcome Dinner for Freshmen and Other New ACES James Scholars in the Heritage Room of the ACES Library

Friday, October 25, 2019

2:30 -- 4:30 PM

Diamond Jubilee Walking Tour of Historic Campus Landmarks Related to President Edmund J. James and the Early Years of the James Scholar Honors Program (Details TBA)

Wednesday, November 6, 2019
2:15 -- 3:30 PM

“Expanding Your Horizons with Popular Science Books” -- Presentation by Professor Joanne Manaster (School of Integrative Biology) in the Heritage Room of the ACES Library

Tuesday, December 10, 2019
3:15 -- 4:30 PM

Holiday Reception for all ACES honors students, celebrating the conclusion of the ACES James Scholar Honors Program's Diamond Jubilee Year (2019), in the Heritage Room of the ACES Library. December graduates will be recognized, and the Carol Andreae Haynes Sophomore Achievement Award will also be presented.

Thursday, February 20, 2020
3:15 -- 4:30 PM

Rob Chappell's Presentation on a Science-and-Humanities-Related Topic (TBD) for ACES honors students in the Heritage Room of the ACES Library

Tuesday, April 28, 2020
Morning and Afternoon (TBA)

The 2nd annual ACES Undergraduate Research Day will take place in the Heritage Room of the ACES Library.

Friday, May 8, 2020
3:00 -- 4:00 PM

Annual Spring Awards Assembly for ACES James Scholars in the Heritage Room of the ACES Library. May graduates will be recognized, and the Orville G. Bentley Awards and the Leander J. M. Haynes Humanities Book Prize will also be presented.

Important Dates and Deadlines

This schedule of important dates and deadlines has been devised to help scholars stay on track with completing their Milestones of Achievement each year.

Friday, October 4, 2019
5:00 PM

Deadline for qualified sophomores and juniors to apply for ACES James Scholar status in fall 2019.

Friday, November 1, 2019
11:59 PM

Deadline to submit electronic Honors Credit Learning Agreements (eHCLAs) for fall 2019 courses via https://go.illinois.edu/ACES_HCLA.

Monday, November 4, 2019**11:59 PM**

Deadline for sophomore women (who are ACES James Scholars, Chancellor's Scholars, and/or JBT Scholars) to submit essays for the 16th annual Carol Andreae Haynes Sophomore Achievement Award writing competition. (This award will be presented at the annual Holiday Reception in December.)

Monday, November 18, 2019**5:00 PM**

Deadline for all junior ACES James Scholars to submit their Honors Completion Plans (HCPs) to the Honors Desk in 128 Mumford Hall.

Wednesday, December 11, 2019**5:00 PM**

Deadline to cancel or modify a fall 2019 eHCLA already in progress.

Friday, February 28, 2020**5:00 PM**

Deadline for qualified freshmen and sophomores to apply for ACES James Scholar status in spring 2020.

Friday, April 3, 2020**11:59 PM**

Deadline to submit electronic Honors Credit Learning Agreements (eHCLAs) for spring 2020 courses via https://go.illinois.edu/ACES_HCLA.

Monday, April 6, 2020**11:59 PM**

Deadline for ACES James Scholars, Chancellor's Scholars, and/or JBT Scholars to submit essays for the 17th annual Leander J. M. Haynes Humanities Book Prize writing competition. (This award will be presented at the annual Spring Awards Assembly in May.)

Monday, April 20, 2020**5:00 PM**

Deadline for sophomore ACES James Scholars who will be off-campus in fall 2020 to submit their Honors Completion Plans (HCPs) to the Honors Desk in 128 Mumford Hall.

Wednesday, April 29, 2020**5:00 PM**

Deadline to cancel or modify a spring 2020 eHCLA already in progress.

Friday, July 17, 2020**11:59 PM**

Deadline to submit electronic Honors Credit Learning Agreements (HCLAs) for summer 2020 courses via https://go.illinois.edu/ACES_HCLA.

Thursday, July 30, 2020
12:00 N

Deadline to cancel or modify a summer 2020 eHCLA already in progress.

Resources for James Scholar Success

Rob Chappell maintains three websites on behalf of the Honors Program, which disseminate news, information, and announcements to current and prospective ACES James Scholars.

- <https://publish.illinois.edu/aces-james-scholars> → This is our primary website, which contains documents, forms, and links related to the Honors Program and Undergraduate Research activities within the College of ACES.
- <http://theaceshonorsherald.blogspot.com> → This is our official news blog, which contains announcements, opportunities, information, and special features for ACES James Scholars. It also serves as an archive for newsletters from previous years and will be serving as a repository for issues of the *Fortnightly Flyer*, the soon-to-be-launched email announcement sheet that will be sent to all ACES James Scholars every other week.
- <http://twitter.com/ACESJSHP> → This is the official Twitter account of the ACES James Scholar Honors Program, updated every weekday with news, information, and announcements of interest to Honors Program students and their advisors.

Original content for these outlets is provided by the James Scholar Activities and Communications Team (JS-ACT), a registered student organization founded by Rob Chappell and a dozen enthusiastic scholars in February 2006. Members contribute articles, photos, and links of interest throughout the academic year and also assist with hosting Honors Program events.

In addition to these resources, each academic unit in the College of ACES has a designated Departmental Honors Advisor who provides advice and assistance to James Scholars enrolled in their particular unit. The Honors Advisor's signature of approval is required on all Honors Completion Plans emanating from their academic unit. In addition, the Honors Advisor can help scholars to find an appropriate Faculty Research Mentor for their Undergraduate Research Project. Honors Advisors may also host meetings and events for James Scholars enrolled in their department and address any questions or problems that scholars might encounter. A list of this year's Departmental Honors Advisors is forthcoming.

Awards Presented by the ACES James Scholar Honors Program

The Orville G. Bentley Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Research

Scholars conducting their ACES Undergraduate Research Projects are encouraged to enter the Orville G. Bentley Award competition each spring. Named in honor of Dr. Orville G. Bentley, who was Dean of the College of Agriculture from 1965 to 1982, this competition was developed in the late 1990s (under the leadership of Associate Dean Dr. R. Kirby Barrick and Honors Dean Dr.

Wayne Banwart) to identify and reward the best poster displays presented at the annual ACES Undergraduate Research Day in April. The poster is prepared by the Undergraduate Researcher involved with the project and follows the general requirements for research posters in the scholar's area of study. It contains a summary of the research project, including the subject of inquiry, how the research was conducted, what results were produced, interpretations of those results, and a summarizing conclusion. Photos, tables, and figures may be included in the poster display, along with a short biography of the Undergraduate Researcher.

As a general rule, several Orville G. Bentley awards are presented annually, with each winner receiving a scholarship prize and a certificate of achievement. The winners of this competition are announced at the annual Spring Awards Assembly in May.

The Haynes Family Awards: Building Bridges Between the Sciences and the Humanities

The Haynes Family Awards were initiated by Rob Chappell's family, in collaboration with Dr. Charles Olson (then Assistant Dean of ACES Student Development and Career Services), to encourage ACES James Scholars to "think outside the box" and reflect in a meaningful way upon their experiences both within and beyond their academic disciplines. Two writing competitions are held each year: the Carol Andreae Haynes Sophomore Achievement Award (in the fall) and the Leander J. M. Haynes Humanities Book Prize (in the spring).

Named after Rob's maternal grandmother, the Carol Andreae Haynes Sophomore Achievement Award, which celebrates the academic achievements of women in higher education, is conferred during the fall semester of each academic year. Eligible candidates for the award are James Scholars, Chancellor's Scholars, and JBT Scholars who are sophomore women enrolled in the College of ACES during the fall semester in which this literary competition takes place.

PDF files of candidates' original essays on the theme of "The Most Important Things That I Learned During My Freshman Year" are submitted via email to a designated Secret-Keeper by **11:59 PM on the first Monday in November**. The essays are rendered anonymous before being emailed to members of the Selection Committee for review. The winner of the essay competition receives a **\$150** scholarship prize, a commemorative certificate, and a special book prize from Rob's family. The presentation of the award to the recipient takes place in December at our annual Holiday Reception.

Named after Rob's maternal grandfather, the Leander J. M. Haynes Humanities Book Prize is awarded to one scholar each spring semester. The purpose of this award is to encourage scholars to build intellectual bridges between the humanities and their own scientific fields of study. Eligible candidates include all JBT Scholars, all ACES James Scholars, and all Chancellor's Scholars enrolled in the College of ACES during the spring semester in which this literary competition takes place.

Scholars who enter the competition are asked to write an essay of 500-1000 words in length about the most influential book that they read during their formative years (i.e., during el-

ementary, middle, or high school). The essay includes an exploration of how and why the book had a positive impact on the writer's life and explain why it should be read by a wider audience. All essays are submitted via email to a designated Secret-Keeper by **11:59 PM on the first Monday in April**. The essays are rendered anonymous before being emailed to members of the Selection Committee for review. The winner of the competition will receive a **\$150** scholarship prize, a commemorative certificate of achievement, and a special book prize from Rob's family. The award presentation takes place in May at our annual Spring Awards Assembly.

Contact Information

The ACES Honors Desk is located in 128 Mumford Hall, and office hours are 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM weekdays (excluding all-campus holidays). Please contact Rob Chappell (244-1684 and/or rchappel@illinois.edu) for additional information.