***The ACES Honors Almanac***

**Academic Year 2022-2023**

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**A Reference Guide to the ACES James Scholar Honors Program**

**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 Departmental Honors Advisors provide guidance to James Scholars as they work toward achieving their professional goals within the Honors Program.

**Benefits of the ACES James Scholar Honors Program**

* **Priority registration** (starting in November for first-year students) allows access to high-demand courses and sections.
* **Individualized faculty advising** in preparation of the Honors Completion Plan (HCP) and during the development and implementation of the Capstone Experiential Learning Project.
* The opportunity to **conduct individual research or a scholarly project** in your specific area of interest and have your findings presented as a poster display and/or a journal article.
* **Scholarships and grants** to assist with tuition and funding expenses for studying abroad and the Capstone Experiential Learning Project.
* Graduation as an **ACES James Scholar** with a certificate of achievement, a bronze medallion, and the **University James Scholar** designation listed on your transcript.
* **Excellent preparation** for admission to graduate programs and professional schools (e.g., dentistry, law, medicine, optometry, and veterinary medicine).

**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 First Year**

Designation as an ACES James Scholar is offered to incoming first-year students who rank in the top 10%-15% of their entering class. First-year students who do not accept or qualify upon admission may apply for ACES James Scholar status during the spring semester (up until **the last Friday in February**) if they have achieved an overall GPA **> 3.50** during their first semester.

***Milestones of Achievement:***

* Make satisfactory progress toward completion of the B.S. degree, earning a total of at least 30 credit hours by the end of the academic year, 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 first 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***, 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**. Applications are accepted during the fall semester (up until **the last Friday in September**) and the spring semester (up until **the last Friday in February**).

***Milestones of Achievement:***

* Make satisfactory progress toward completion of the B.S. degree, earning a total of at least 60 credit hours by the end of the academic year, 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***, or another approved activity that involves effort beyond normal academic requirements.
* Scholars prepare and submit an Honors Completion Plan (HCP) by **the last Friday in April** of their sophomore year. The HCP has curricular rigor that exceeds the minimum requirements of their major and includes a Capstone Experiential Learning Project.

**The Junior Year**

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 last Friday in September** of their junior year.

***Milestones of Achievement:***

* Make satisfactory progress toward completion of the B.S. degree: earning a total of at least 90 credit hours by the end of the academic year, with an overall GPA **> 3.40**.
* At least one honors activity is required during the junior year. Completion of a course with an HCLA, an honors section of any course, a CHP course, **ACES 396: *Honors Study Abroad Retrospective***, or another approved activity that involves effort beyond normal academic requirements.
* Start fulfilling the components of the HCP and begin work on the Capstone Experiential Learning Project.

**The Senior Year**

* Complete the B.S. degree by the end of the academic year, with an overall GPA **> 3.40**.
* At least one honors activity is required during the senior year. Completion of a course with an HCLA, an honors section of any course, a CHP course, **ACES 396: *Honors Study Abroad Retrospective***, or another approved activity that involves effort beyond normal academic requirements.
* Finish fulfilling **all** the components of the HCP and complete work on the Capstone Experiential Learning Project.
* Present a poster display of the Capstone Experiential Learning Project results at the Undergraduate Research Symposium, a departmental meeting/seminar, or a professional/scientific conference.

**The Capstone Experiential Learning Project**

The Capstone Experiential Learning Project will acquaint you with the current literature in your discipline, develop your investigative skills and techniques, and prepare you for a professional career in the agricultural, consumer, and environmental sciences. The project is developed and conducted under the guidance of your Faculty Mentor. **Interdisciplinary projects are encouraged.**

Upon completion of the Capstone Experiential Learning Project, the results are presented as a poster display at the Undergraduate Research Symposium, a departmental meeting/seminar, or a professional/scientific conference. The Faculty Mentor will also need to certify in writing that the project has been completed successfully.

**Departmental Honors Advisors**

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 find an appropriate Faculty Mentor for their Capstone Experiential Learning 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. Here is a directory of this year’s Departmental Honors Advisors.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Anne Marie** | **Boone** | **ABE Honors Advisor** | [***aboone@illinois.edu***](mailto:aboone@illinois.edu) |
| **Lisa** | **Gundersen** | **ACE Honors Advisor** | ***lcgunder@illinois.edu*** |
| **Jennifer** | **Hardesty** | **HDFS Honors Advisor** | [***hardesty@illinois.edu***](mailto:hardesty@illinois.edu) |
| **Logan** | **Honegger** | **ACES Undeclared Honors Advisor** | [***lhonegg2@illinois.edu***](mailto:lhonegg2@illinois.edu) |
| **Piper** | **Hodson** | **NRES Honors Advisor** | [***phodson@illinois.edu***](mailto:phodson@illinois.edu) |
| **Travis** | **Johnson** | **ETMAS Honors Advisor** | **travisj2@illinois.edu** |
| **Yuan-Xiang** | **Pan** | **FSHN Honors Advisor** | [***yxpan@illinois.edu***](mailto:yxpan@illinois.edu) |
| **Alicia** | **Schneider** | **ANSC Honors Advisor** | ***schneid6@illinois.edu*** |
| **Patrick** | **Tranel** | **CPSC Honors Advisor** | ***tranel@illinois.edu*** |

**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 submitted via** [***aces-jshp@illinois.edu***](mailto:aces-jshp@illinois.edu) **by the last Friday in April of the 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.

The required Milestones of Achievement are as follows:

1. The Capstone Experiential Learning Project (e.g., a bachelor’s thesis, laboratory project, design project, or research internship) is conducted under the guidance of a Faculty Mentor. (Enrollment in a 300-level Undergraduate Research course is optional but highly recommended.) At the conclusion of the project, the Faculty Mentor will certify in writing that the project has been completed successfully.
2. Present a poster display based on item #1 at the Undergraduate Research Symposium (in April), a departmental meeting/seminar, or a professional/scientific conference.
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 graduate-credit 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 taken in fulfillment of item #4.**

Please note that James Scholars’ status within the Honors Program will be subject to reevaluation if they do not make satisfactory progress toward fulfilling the Milestones of Achievement. James Scholars may also be discontinued from the Honors Program if they have committed one or more acts of academic misconduct, as defined and explained in the ***Student Code*** (Article 1, Section 4) at [***https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1/part4/1-401/***](https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1/part4/1-401/).

**Special Course Offering**

The Honors Program offers a special course for ACES James Scholars (and Chancellor’s Scholars enrolled in the College of ACES). The course carries automatic honors credit if it is completed with a letter grade of > **B-**.

**ACES 396: *Honors Study Abroad Retrospective***

Scholars who will be spending a summer, a semester, or a year overseas are encouraged to confer with their Departmental Honors Advisor 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.

**Important Dates and Deadlines**

**Friday, September 30, 2022 5:00 PM**

Deadline for qualified sophomores and juniors to apply for ACES James Scholar status in fall 2022.

**Friday, October 28, 2022 5:00 PM**

Deadline to submit electronic Honors Credit Learning Agreements (eHCLAs) for fall 2022 courses via [***https://go.aces.illinois.edu/HCLA***](https://go.aces.illinois.edu/HCLA)***.***

**Friday, November 11, 2022 5:00 PM**

Deadline for all junior ACES James Scholars to submit their Honors Completion Plans (HCPs) to the Honors Program via [***aces-jshp@illinois.edu***](mailto:aces-jshp@illinois.edu).

**Wednesday, November 30, 2022 5:00 PM**

Deadline to cancel or modify a fall 2022 eHCLA already in progress by emailing notification to [***aces-jshp@illinois.edu***](mailto:aces-jshp@illinois.edu) and to the instructor of the course.

**Friday, February 24, 2023 5:00 PM**

Deadline for qualified first-year students and sophomores to apply for ACES James Scholar status in spring 2023.

**Friday, March 31, 2023 5:00 PM**

Deadline to submit electronic Honors Credit Learning Agreements (eHCLAs) for spring 2023 courses via [***https://go.aces.illinois.edu/HCLA***](https://go.aces.illinois.edu/HCLA)***.***

**Wednesday, April 26, 2023 5:00 PM**

Deadline to cancel or modify a spring 2023 eHCLA already in progress by emailing notification to [***aces-jshp@illinois.edu***](mailto:aces-jshp@illinois.edu) and to the instructor of the course.

**Friday, April 28, 2023 5:00 PM**

Deadline for all sophomore ACES James Scholars to submit their Honors Completion Plans (HCPs) to the Honors Program via [***aces-jshp@illinois.edu***](mailto:aces-jshp@illinois.edu).

**Friday, June 30, 2023 5:00 PM**

Deadline to submit electronic Honors Credit Learning Agreements (HCLAs) for summer 2023 courses via [***https://go.aces.illinois.edu/HCLA***](https://go.aces.illinois.edu/HCLA).

**Thursday, July 27, 2023 12:00 PM**

Deadline to cancel or modify a summer 2023 eHCLA already in progress by emailing notification to [***aces-jshp@illinois.edu***](mailto:aces-jshp@illinois.edu) and to the instructor of the course.

**Contact Information**

**The ACES James Scholar Honors Program**

**1301 West Gregory Drive**

**128 Mumford Hall, MC-710**

**Urbana, IL 61801**

**(217) 333-3380**

[***aces-jshp@illinois.edu***](mailto:aces-jshp@illinois.edu)

[***https://aces.illinois.edu/academics/current-students/honors***](https://aces.illinois.edu/academics/current-students/honors)

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