

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA **UNK** KEARNEY

# Honors Program



Resource Guide

## The mission of the UNK Honors Program...

...is to provide a more rigorous and enriching undergraduate experience for students in the Honors Program. We deliver this experience through special classes, extra-curricular opportunities, and a community of Honors Students. We believe a strong Honors Program benefits the entire campus community.

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# Honors Admission:

Before joining the Honors Program, students must take certain steps to show their dedication toward academics.

## Incoming Freshman

Incoming freshman may apply to the Honors Program after being admitted to UNK. This should be done in the Fall or Spring of their Senior high school year. They should have an ACT score of 27 or higher, rank in the top 25% of their high school class, and complete the online application including an essay and a letter of recommendation. This should be completed by February 1 for scholarship consideration, although later applications are welcome.

### Students who do not meet the criteria above:

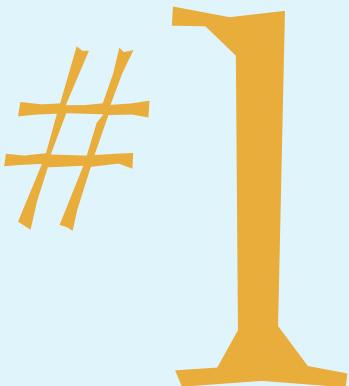
These students may apply to join the Honors Program after completing one semester at UNK (12 hours or more). This should be done in early Spring of their freshman year, prior to registering for fall classes. By February 15, these applicants should complete the online application, and must include a letter of recommendation from one of their first semester UNK instructors. Applicants must have a GPA of at least 3.5.

## Transfer Students

These students may apply, but should talk to the Director before completing the application. In cases where the student has completed a significant part of their general studies requirements, it may not be advisable to join the program. If they are still able to take 9 credit hours of Honors General Studies courses, it may indeed be a good fit for the student.

# Honors Curriculum:

Honors Students must complete a total of 18 credit hours in Honors courses, as described below. They must maintain a 3.25 cumulative grade point average and complete a Senior Study.



## Honors General Studies:

Students in the Honors Program must take 9 credit hours of general studies courses that are designated as Honors Sections. These courses have the same course number designation as the non-honors counterparts, but enrollment is limited to students in the Honors Program. With limited exceptions, these courses are numbered in the 100s and 200s. A rotating schedule of courses is posted by the Honors Program prior to registration periods each semester. Courses should be selected to fulfill general studies requirements.



Top: Outside view of Men's Hall.

Bottom: Honors Students enjoy each other's company at the Spring Honors Banquet.



## Keep the Honors tradition alive by living in Men's Hall!

The UNK Honors Program has offered Honors Residence Hall living since 1995. Men's Hall, built in 1932, was remodeled in the summer of 2010, and now houses nearly 140 Honors students (overflow can be found in Randal Hall). It is a co-educational hall, with women on floors one and three, and men on floor two.

Men's Hall is a great asset to the Honors students, as the development of a close-knit Honors community provides a network of academically-oriented students who both challenge and support one another. It is a lively community of students who are focused on getting the most out of their undergraduate education.

## Honor-Options (H-Options):

Honors Option Courses are “custom” classes in the student’s major (300 and 400 level). They are designed to accomplish a number of things:

- To allow the student to work closely with faculty in a chosen field;
- To allow the student to see how professionals in the field do their research and why;
- To encourage the student to pursue in-depth study in his/her chosen field or topic;
- To enhance the student’s confidence about the skills necessary to be successful in the chosen field.

Honors Students are required to take three (3) Honors Option courses of 300-400 level (usually a total of 9 hours). The process for arranging any Honors Option class is as follows:

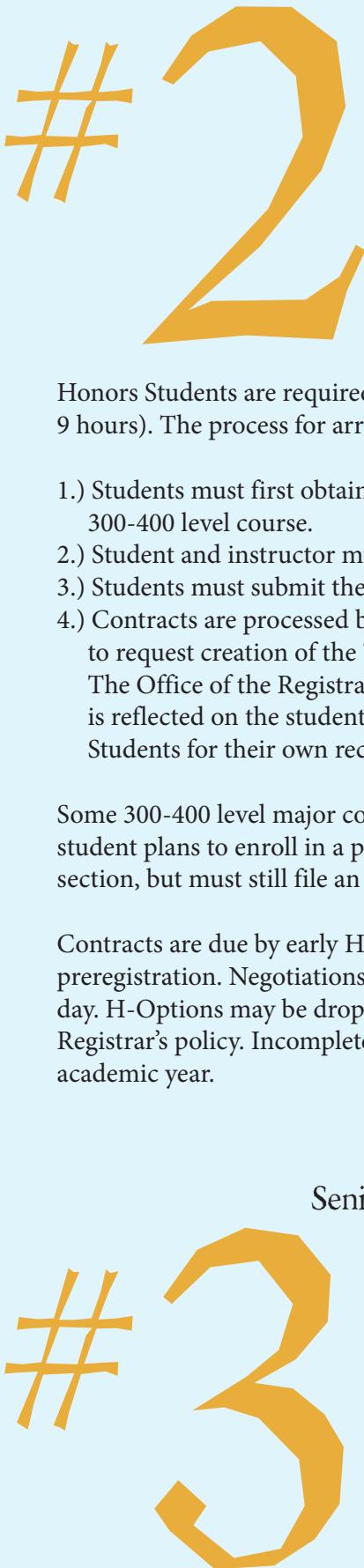
- 1.) Students must first obtain permission from the instructor to pursue any Honors Option in a 300-400 level course.
- 2.) Student and instructor must agree on the Honors work to be completed.
- 3.) Students must submit the online H-Option contract (found on the Honors web page).
- 4.) Contracts are processed by the Associate Director, who then sends them to Department Chairs to request creation of the “H” sections of the courses (if they have not already been created). The Office of the Registrar documents the new “H” course numbers to ensure the Honors credit is reflected on the student’s transcript, with copies sent to the instructors and the Honors Students for their own records.

Some 300-400 level major courses are already listed in the schedule as both non-“H” and “H.” If the student plans to enroll in a particular class already available as “H,” he/she should enroll in that “H” section, but must still file an Honors Option Contract after discussion with the professor.

Contracts are due by early Honors Registration day, the first Wednesday of the first week of preregistration. Negotiations for H-Options should begin about a month before Honors Registration day. H-Options may be dropped until the end of the 10th week of the semester, in accordance with the Registrar’s policy. Incompletes may be awarded for H-Option courses, and must be completed within one academic year.

## Senior Study:

Each Honors Student must submit a Senior Study prior to graduation. This is a scholarly work that demonstrates knowledge of issues in their major, writing skills, and original creativity or analysis. The Senior Study is not an additional paper, but is a work the student completed for an independent research project, a paper for an H-Option class, or a reflective work based on an internship or student teaching experience in completion of major requirements. Examples of past Senior Studies are available in the Honors Office for review. Style guidelines are available at [www.unk.edu/honors](http://www.unk.edu/honors).



# Independent Research:

Students can work with professors to design, conduct, and disseminate original scholarly projects similar to what experts in their field do. These can be short term or long term projects, but they should allow the students to apply their knowledge from classes to projects of their interest. Students who participate in mentored research perform better in classes, improve written and oral communication skills, and create tangible evidence of their high-quality work which enhances graduate school and job applications in the future.

**Undergraduate Research Fellows** receive \$1,000 stipends to conduct mentored scholarly projects tailored to their academic major. Students work about five hours per week to conduct their projects, and present their work at the annual Student Research Day.

## Eligibility:

- be a full-time UNK undergraduate student with a minimum GPA of 3.0
- be able to commit up to 5 hours per week on their research program
- be eligible to work in the United States
- plan to present their work at UNK's Student Research Day in the spring

## Application:

- The first step in the application process is to talk to faculty in your area of interest and find a faculty member willing to be your mentor. Once you arrange this mentor, work with them to complete the application form (found on the UNK Honors Program page).
- The application package will include the completed application form, your personal essay, plan summary, and faculty (mentor) support statement.

**The Undergraduate Research Journal** publishes selected examples of student scholarly writing. Any paper written by a UNK undergraduate student is eligible. Submissions will be requested through the faculty in late November. Students should submit their papers to the chair of the appropriate department early in January.

## Criteria are as follows:

- Submissions should be 8-15 pages in length, double-spaced.
- Any good scholarly writing, past or present, is eligible for submission as long as the student wrote it while an undergraduate student at UNK.
- Written in a format appropriate for the discipline.
- Initial submissions must be made in hard copy only. Electronic format will be requested for those selected for publication.
- Please include student name, phone number, e-mail and sponsoring faculty name on the title page only.

**The Summer Student Research Program (SSRP)** supports independent student research and scholarly activity each summer. The program is open to students from all disciplines, and is structured to enrich the educational experience in several ways. Students are paid \$3,250 for the summer.

The program begins in Mid-May, when the students go on an overnight field trip. By late May, they have begun work in earnest, meeting with their mentor on a regular basis and participating in weekly meetings with other student scholars. These discussions are meant to foster awareness of research issues outside their major, and may include topics like research ethics, the use of statistics, or the creative process in the arts. Research ends by August 1, and students must complete a research paper before the beginning of the new academic year. In September or October, students present their work on posters and in oral presentations in a Fall Symposium.

**Eligibility:**

- be a full-time UNK undergraduate student
- be eligible to work in the United States
- be able to participate in field trips (late May); weekly meetings every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and the Fall Student Research Symposium
- must be able to commit 20 hours per week in June, July, and August to conduct their research and complete their research paper

**Application:**

- The first step in the application process is to talk to faculty in your area of interest and find a faculty member willing to be your mentor. Once you arrange this mentor, work with them to complete the application form found on UNK's Undergraduate Research page.

Students are allowed to hold outside jobs and take summer classes, provided they do not interfere with research work or participation in the Wednesday meetings.



SSRP participants tour Central's hydro-irrigation project (and canoe) as part of the yearly field trip to kick off their summer studies.



**Student Research Day** is an annual event held each spring for students to present their scholarly work. All disciplines can participate. There is a poster session with over 100 entries, oral presentations, musical performances, and art exhibitions. Prizes are awarded for top oral and poster presentations, which are announced during the reception to follow the day's events.

# Study Abroad:

Students at the University of Nebraska at Kearney can study in various countries around the world. Programs range in length from several weeks to a full year. Regardless of the field you choose to study, a program is available for you, and class credit can transfer to the UNK curriculum if you plan carefully with your academic advisor prior to departure. The Study Abroad Office is ready to help you choose a program that is just right!



Contact Information:  
Ann Marie Park,  
Study Abroad & Exchange Programs Coordinator  
2504 19th Avenue, Welch Hall #114

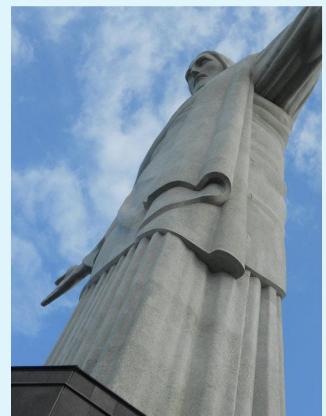
E-mail  
[parkam@unk.edu](mailto:parkam@unk.edu) OR  
[unkstudyabroad@unk.edu](mailto:unkstudyabroad@unk.edu)  
Phone  
308.865.8944  
Fax  
308.865.8947



## Join UNK's Study Abroad Organization!

Membership in this organization is open to all UNK students who have conducted or who are interested in pursuing a study abroad program outside the United States.

Like "UNK Study Abroad" on Facebook for more information!



## Netherlands, The University College of Roosevelt

The UNK Honors Program has an exchange program with the Roosevelt Academy in Middelburg, Netherlands. University College Roosevelt (UCR) is the new International Honors College in the Netherlands. Founded in 2004 by Utrecht University, UCR is a small Liberal Arts College that keeps their enrollment at 600 students (400 from the Netherlands and 200 from other countries in Europe and around the world). The faculty is renowned with degrees from the most prestigious schools in Europe. The exchange is one semester in duration and each student takes four classes or a total of 12 credit hours. All UCR classes are taught in English and all professors and students are fluent in the English language.

Students attending UCR have their own room and live in one of two residential halls. In one hall, there is a kitchen in each room and in the other there is a shared kitchen area. UNK students selected to attend UCR for a semester pay their tuition to UNK. Expenses not paid to UNK include travel, housing, visa, books, food and entertainment.

## Ireland - UNK Spring Semester Abroad

15-22 UNK students participate in a Spring Semester in Ireland program. The purpose of the program is to offer all students the possibility to study abroad and travel in Ireland. This group program is led by a UNK Faculty member and taught in combination with professors from the University of Galway. Students will reside and study in the township of Spiddal, Ireland which has a population of about 1,500 and is located about 12 miles west of Galway City.

## Peru - UNK Semester Abroad

The UNK Semester Abroad Program is the most affordable option for studying abroad as an undergraduate. The program cost is comparable to 12 credits of UNK (resident/on-campus) tuition and fees, one double-occupancy UNK dorm room, and a meal plan at UNK Dining Services. This program consists of a group of UNK students led by a UNK Program Director. Students will earn 12 UNK credit hours at Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas (UPC) in the capital city of Lima. Field trips are included in the semester at no extra cost. This will allow you to explore several exciting destinations in your host country. It is expected that you have successfully complete Spanish 204 prior to participation.

## Czech Republic - Nebraska Semester Abroad

The Nebraska Study Abroad was created by the Nebraska Consortium (The University of Nebraska at Kearney, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nebraska-Omaha, and Wayne State College). A 3 month exchange was developed in Olomouc, Czech Republic. The purpose of the program was to offer all students the possibility to study abroad in a program led by a Nebraska professor and taught by professors from the hosting institution. UNK credits can be completed through this program, and the cost includes some field trips throughout surrounding countries in Europe.

## Spain - UNK Summer Abroad

The UNK Summer Abroad Program is a six-week program in Valladolid, Spain. Students will attend the Universitas Castellae (UC). The cost of the program includes a home-stay and six UNK credit hours selected from advanced Spanish options. Fieldtrips to Salamanca and Segovia are integrated into the program at no extra cost. This program is similar to the UNK Semester Abroad Programs, but designed for the summer.

Are you a freshman?

Look for the chance to win an all-expense paid trip to Vancouver, Canada over Spring Break!

# Leadership Development:

Honors students are the future leaders of our communities. UNK offers programs to help students develop the skills to work in groups and accomplish their goals.

Not sure where to start? Here are some ideas:

- 1.) **Take a leadership course!** Contact Student Affairs to find out about the seminars and classes we offer to help students develop leadership ability.

## Chancellor's Leadership Class (CLC):

Established in 2005, the Chancellor's Leadership Class (CLC) is an opportunity for first-year students who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to achieving their leadership potential.

## Emerging Leaders Program:

Sponsored by the Office of Residence Life and Office of Student Life, student participants learn and develop leadership skills, meet new people and are shown how to become engaged in the campus community.

## Discover Leadership Workshop Series:

This series includes 9 unique workshops over the course of the school year that will examine leadership from different viewpoints. Those who attend multiple sessions will receive a certificate!

- 2.) **Be a Resident Advisor in your residence hall.** You'll learn how to work with a team, mediate conflicts, build community, and help people in need.

## Join UNK's Residence Hall Association (RHA)

The governing body over all campus residence halls, this group plans and hosts events and works to resolve problems or concerns held by residents. Such events include...

### Move-in Crew



### Project Clean Plate



### Trick or Treat Street



- 3.) **Run for student government.** You don't have to run for student body president to make a difference on your campus - or learn some important leadership skills. Consider running for something smaller, like a representative for your Greek house, residence hall, or cultural organization.

**4.) Take on a leadership role in a club or organization.** Sometimes, the smaller jobs can often help you learn the most. If you'd like to get some college leadership experience but don't want to do something campus-wide, consider running for a leadership role in a club you're involved with.

**5.) Find an on-campus job that helps with student leadership.** Are you interested in student leadership but want to learn more about it from the sidelines? Consider working on campus in an office that promotes student leadership, like the Residence Life Office. Working with the full-time staff there can help you see what leadership looks like behind the scenes as well as how to develop leaders in a formal, structured way.

## Become a Student Diplomat

Help in the recruitment process by showing the campus to potential students!



**6.) Help organize a community service project.** You may not have the time to assume a leadership role for the entirety of the academic year. That doesn't mean that you can't do anything! Consider organizing some kind of community service project that is a one-time gig, perhaps in honor of a holiday (like Martin Luther King Jr. Day). You'll get the experience of planning, organizing, and implementing a major event without having it take over your entire semester.

## Take part in the BIG Event



University students, faculty and staff participate in the effort to say "thanks" to the Kearney community by volunteering to complete service projects. These projects benefit organizations, churches and individuals throughout the area.



# Community Involvement:

Communities depend on their members to work together to achieve common goals, help those in need, and create better futures. Honors students participate in community projects on- and off-campus to help address issues that are important to them. From the Honors Program perspective, this helps our students develop their own set of values and develop the habit of volunteering.

Below are some places in the Kearney community to volunteer:

## Crossroads Center for Homeless People

Volunteers perform reception duties, play and participate in activities with kids, Bible studies, help out in the kitchen, clean, talk with the guests, etc. Flexible with hours. Contact Ashley Pick at [ashley@crossroadsmision.com](mailto:ashley@crossroadsmision.com) or call (308) 236-5688.

## Campus Kitchen

Campus Kitchen is a student-directed and student-driven initiative in which students collect food donations and recover un-served food from dining services, then use dining services cafeterias to prepare meals, and deliver those meals to low-income youth, seniors, families and community-based agencies. For more information, to coordinate a meal delivery or to donate to Campus Kitchen contact Jon Watts at (308) 865-8448 or [wattsjc@unk.edu](mailto:wattsjc@unk.edu).



UNK students deliver a Thanksgiving meal to a Kearney resident during their annual TurkeyPalooza.



UNK students often take their "Little Friends" to one of the multiple parks in town.

## FRIENDS Program

Big Friends are high school, college and adult volunteers from the community who agree to spend at least one hour a week with a Little Friend. The mission of the program is to promote personal development of youths through positive one-on-one role modeling. Friends Coordinator April Roggasch matches Little Friends with Big Friends, as well as weekly meeting times. Call Roggasch at (308) 236-2036, e-mail [friendsprogram@msn.com](mailto:friendsprogram@msn.com), or stop at the office inside Campus Lutheran at 2715 Ninth Ave.

## Kearney Area Animal Shelter

Seeks volunteers to assist with animal care and community outreach. Positions include walking dogs, socializing cats, bathing/grooming, grounds keeping, special events and more. An application and attendance at an orientation class is required; visit [www.kearneyhumane.com](http://www.kearneyhumane.com), call 308-237-PETS (7387), or e-mail Aubrey Browleit at [volunteer@kearneyanimalshelter.com](mailto:volunteer@kearneyanimalshelter.com) for more information.

## Kearney Learning Center

Central Community College seeks volunteer tutors for adult basic education at the college at 3519 Second Ave. in Kearney. Tutors help one-on-one with GED classes in basic math, reading and writing, and English as a second language classes with reading, writing and conversation. Mornings are preferred, but hours are flexible. Call Laurel Volpe at (308) 338-4009 or e-mail lvolpe@cccneb.edu.

## Join UNK's Honors Student Advisory Board (HSAB)!

This group works together with the Honors Director and Associate Director to ensure that the needs of Honors students are being met. HSAB also plans and coordinates many of the social activities for the Honors Program as a whole. Any Honors student in good standing with the Program (holding at least a 3.25 cumulative grade point average) may apply for membership; this requires an application and interview.



HSAB members cook pancakes for the Finals Honors Student Pancake Feed tradition.



Honors Students sing Christmas Carols throughout nursing homes to bring holiday cheer.

## Kearney Habitat for Humanity

Seeks volunteers of all skill levels to help build houses. Volunteers also are needed to help with duties such as family selection, family nurture, public relations, fundraising and other tasks. Saturday work site information is available at [www.habitat.kearney.net](http://www.habitat.kearney.net). Call (308) 234-6030.

## Museum of Nebraska Art (MONA)

Seeks volunteers to work at the museum in two- or three-hour shifts. Members are also sought for the MONA Guild, a volunteer organization that supports MONA through fundraisers, social events, promotional work and educational program assistance. The guild meets at 4 p.m. on selected Wednesdays at the museum. Call (308) 865-8559 or e-mail [mona@unk.edu](mailto:mona@unk.edu).

## The Arc of Buffalo County

Seeks volunteers who are in high school or college to assist with programs for Teens in Action. Arc provides programming for youths with developmental disabilities to interact with their peers through sports, recreation and other activities. Call (308) 237-4343 or e-mail [arcbuffalocounty@frontiernet.net](mailto:arcbuffalocounty@frontiernet.net).

## The S.A.FE Center

Seeks volunteers to assist with on-call response, children's group and outreach. Volunteers must have a violence-free lifestyle and be committed to the well-being of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. A background check is conducted. Training is provided. Call (308) 237-2599.

## Trails and Rails Museum/Buffalo County Historical Society

Seeks volunteers to serve in several areas, including greeters, tour guides and office support and to help with grounds keeping and maintenance, preservation, cataloging, housekeeping, development, exhibit creation and maintenance, and archival research. Call (308) 234-3041, send an e-mail to [bchs.us@hotmail.com](mailto:bchs.us@hotmail.com), or visit the museum at 710 W. 11th St.

# Fellowship Programs:

There are a number of national competitions that support graduate study for certain fields, and a few that support undergraduate study. Below you will find brief statements on selected programs. Students who are interested should contact the identified campus representative. If none are listed, contact John Falconer, Director of the Honors Program.

## Truman Scholarship

PURPOSE: These scholarships of \$30,000 each are awarded to students who wish to attend graduate school in preparation for careers in government or elsewhere in public service.

WHO: Students begin the application process during the fall semester of their junior year. Nominations are submitted during the spring semester of the student's junior year. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, with a GPA in the top 25% of their class (about 3.6 or higher). Applicants should also demonstrate extensive participation in two or more activities related to school or public service.

<http://truman.gov/home>

Campus Representative: Kenya Taylor

Deadline: First Tuesday in February (Application Due)

## Carnegie Junior Fellows Program

PURPOSE: The Carnegie Endowment offers 1 year fellowships to graduating seniors to work as research assistants to the Endowment's senior associates following graduation. Positions are paid, full-time positions. Junior Fellows are currently paid \$2,583 per month and receive a full benefits package.

WHO: Students begin the application process during the fall semester of their senior year. Applicants must be eligible to work in the United States. Candidates should have a strong background in international affairs, political science, economics, history, or Russian studies.

<http://carnegieendowment.org/about/?fa=jrFellows>

Campus Representative: None

Deadline: January 15 (Application must be received by Carnegie)

## Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship

PURPOSE: The Foundation's Graduate Arts Award is for up to \$50,000 per year for up to three years to college seniors and recent graduates with financial need who will pursue a graduate or professional degree in the visual arts, performing arts, or creative writing. To be eligible, candidates must be nominated by the faculty representative at their undergraduate institution.

WHO: Students begin the application process during the fall semester of their senior year. Nominations to the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation during the spring semester of the student's senior year. You must have a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or better and demonstrate significant financial need. You also must be accepted into a full-time graduate degree program to begin your first graduate or professional degree program in the subsequent fall semester.

<http://www.jkcf.org/scholarships/graduate-scholarships/graduate-arts-award/>

Campus Representative: None

Deadlines: Late November (Phase 1); Late February (Phase 2)

## Marshall Scholarship:

PURPOSE: Marshall Scholarships finance graduating seniors of high ability to study for a graduate degree in any subject in the United Kingdom. Each scholarship is held for one or two years and includes tuition and living expenses. Scholarships are awarded to students interested in attending one of a large number of universities in England, Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ireland. The scholarship covers university fees, cost of living expenses, an annual book grant, a thesis grant, research and daily travel grants, and fares to and from the United States. Approximately 40 American students are awarded a Marshall Scholarship annually.

WHO: Students begin the application process during their junior year. Nominations are submitted during the fall semester of the student's senior year. You must be a U.S. citizen to apply, and must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.7. Additionally, "Preference will be given to candidates who display a potential to make a significant contribution to their own society. Selectors will also look for strong motivation and seriousness of purpose, including the presentation of a specific and realistic academic program."

<http://www.marshallscholarship.org/>

Campus Representative: Mary Sommers

Deadlines: October 1

## Mitchell Scholarship:

The Mitchell Scholarship Program is designed to introduce and connect generations of future American leaders to the island of Ireland, while recognizing and fostering intellectual achievement, leadership, and a commitment to community and public service.

Up to 12 Mitchell Scholars between the ages of 18 and 30 are chosen annually for one year of postgraduate study in any discipline offered by institutions of higher learning in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

PURPOSE: The Mitchell Scholarship provides tuition, housing, a \$12,000 living expenses stipend, and international travel expenses for one year for graduate study in any subject at any eligible university in Ireland.

WHO: Students begin the application process during their junior year. Nominations are submitted during the fall semester of the student's senior year. Candidates must be U.S. citizens under the age of 30.

<http://www.us-irelandalliance.org/content/44/en/Application%20Process.html>

Campus Representative: None

Deadlines: October 1

## Udall Scholarship:

PURPOSE: The Udall Foundation offers \$5,000 to university students whose course of study focuses on the environment and to Native American university students who study in the fields of health care or tribal policy.

WHO: Students begin the application process during the fall semester of their sophomore or junior year.

Nominations are submitted during the spring semester of the student's sophomore or junior year. To apply, you must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and have a GPA of at least 3.0.

<http://www.udall.gov/>

Campus Representative: Peter Longo

Deadlines: First week in March

## Goldwater Scholarship:

PURPOSE: The Barry Goldwater Foundation offers \$7,500 to rising sophomores and juniors who intend a career in research. They need to be majoring in natural science, math, or engineering.

WHO: Students begin the application process during the fall semester of their sophomore or junior year.

Nominations are submitted during early spring semester of the student's sophomore or junior year. To apply, you must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and have a GPA of at least 3.0.

<http://www.act.org/goldwater/>

Campus Representative: John La Duke

Deadlines: Last week in January

# Contact

# Information

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