Capital Scholars Honors Program

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A Unique UIS Baccalaureate Experience

The Capital Scholars Honors Program (CSHP) is a four-year baccalaureate experience open to a small number of highly qualified college students. The CSHP curriculum includes an integrated core of honors-level lower- and upper-division courses, UIS general education requirements, and any of the undergraduate majors offered by UIS. Academically well-prepared and motivated students in the program have a unique opportunity to develop creative thinking, problem-solving, global awareness, and leadership skills through a high-quality educational experience grounded in the liberal arts. Focusing on the student's total growth in the personal, academic, social, and civic arenas, the CSHP features interdisciplinary and collaborative learning and is designed to develop student talents through small classes that encourage lively exchange between students and professors. Students learn actively, applying their skills to real community concerns. Critical-thinking and research skills are emphasized throughout the program.

At the heart of the Capital Scholars Honors Program is an understanding that the problems facing today's world are complex, and often cannot be adequately understood or resolved from narrow disciplinary perspectives. Instead, a broad perspective and the application and integration of knowledge from multiple disciplines are needed. For that reason, the program focuses on teaching and learning of interdisciplinary research and writing strategies. Development of leadership skills, collaborative learning, global awareness, and cultural competency are also major emphases in the CSHP. Skills learned in UIS Honors courses can be applied via numerous internship opportunities in community agencies and organizations.

Lincoln Residence Hall is the focal point for a living-learning community during the first year, where students, faculty, and community members come together for enrichment activities. Founders Residence Hall contains the Honors living-learning community during the second year and continues with the student developmental process. Students have opportunities for travel to cultural and educational events in St. Louis and throughout central Illinois. A wide range of campus social events and entertainment enliven the hours students spend away from their studies.

Admission

Admission is selective, but open to students who demonstrate high academic achievement and a potential for creativity and leadership. Students admitted to the Capital Scholars Honors Program are expected to have English proficiency, excellent written and oral communication skills, and a desire for a challenging intellectual experience in their college education. To be considered for admission as a Capital Scholars Honors student, applicants must meet the minimum academic course work requirements for general admission. Additional course work is recommended in the following areas:

- Mathematics (four years recommended, preferably up to calculus)
- Laboratory science (four years recommended with chemistry, biology, and physics included)
- Foreign language (two years recommended, but other fine arts can be substituted)

Generally speaking, students should have a strong college preparatory curriculum which may include Honors, Advanced Placement (AP), and/or International Baccalaureate (IB) course work.

Students with these qualifications are selected based on an overall evaluation of the following: unweighted grade point average, class rank, essay, creative/leadership potential, and any letter(s) of recommendation. ACT and/or SAT scores may be submitted but there is no penalty for non-submission and are waived for international students who meet other specific criteria related to language proficiency. Applicants wishing to express an interest in the Capital Scholars Honors Program must check the appropriate box on the student's admission application (the Common App or the UIS Institutional Application for Admission). This will facilitate a review by the Capital Scholars Honors Program. Once the student is admitted to UIS, consideration can begin. A personal telephone or e-mail outreach by a Capital Scholars Honors Program staff member may also be a component of the overall selection process.

Requirements

To graduate from the Capital Scholars Honors Program at UIS, students must complete 120 hours of course work, which includes the CSHP Integrated Core curriculum; Honors Global Awareness requirement; UIS ECCE and general education requirements; a major; and electives or a minor.

The student's final, overall, UIS cumulative GPA at the time of graduation must be a minimum of 3.0 to be eligible to graduate with the Capital Scholars Honors designation.

CSHP Integrated Core Curriculum

CAP 102	Introduction to Honors	2
CAP 111	Honors Composition	3
CAP 115	Interdisciplinary Writing	3
CAP 141 & CAP 142	Biology and Chemistry of the Environment I and Biology and Chemistry of the Environment II [1]	8
The "Question" Courses (Interdisciplinary humanities and social sciences)		12
CAP 122	Who Am I? Exploring Identity and Community	
CAP 123	How Do You Know? Exploring Human Knowledge	
CAP 225	What Is Good? Exploring Values and Tradeoffs	
CAP 226	What Is Power? Exploring Control, Cooperation, and Self-Determination	
CAP 402	Senior Seminar	1
Honors Global Awareness Requirement		**14-16**

The Honors Global Awareness Requirement is met through various courses, such as Modern Languages, Study Abroad, and ECCE Global Awareness courses. One of the CAP Global Awareness courses must be taken to meet three hours of the Honors Global Awareness Requirement. Students may take multiple CAP Global Awareness courses, but may not repeat the same course for additional credit. Course work for the Honors Global Awareness Requirement is determined in consultation with the CSHP advisor and must be approved by the CSHP Director. Electives are determined in consultation with the CSHP advisor, approved by the Director, and submitted by student petition to the Office of Records and Registration.

Examples of CAP global awareness courses from which students should select to fulfill at least three hours of Honors Global Awareness Requirement include the following:		3
CAP 253	ECCE: For Better and For Worse	
CAP 257	ECCE: Arts and Identity in Pacific Island Cultures	
CAP 352	ECCE: Colonial and Post Colonial Identity in South Asia	
CAP 355	ECCE: The Pacific War: World War II in East Asia	
CAP 356	ECCE: Nationalism and Identity in Vietnam	
Other CSHP advisor-approved electives		11-13
General Education Requirements in CSHP Integrated Core Curriculum		
Oral Communication		3
Mathematics		3-4
Social Science		3
Visual/Creative/Performing Arts		3
Total Hours		**55-58**

[1] CAP 141 & CAP 142 are waived for science majors who take and pass other science courses (such as BIO 141 and CHE 141).