

Humanities Engagement Scholars Program

AIM OF THE PROGRAM

The Humanities Engagement Scholars (HES) program enables undergraduate students to participate in the humanities across campus and in different communities.

ELIGIBILITY

The program, offered by the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere, is open to undergraduate students from all majors as well as undecided, exploratory, or transfer students.

WHAT ARE THE HUMANITIES?

The humanities allow us to explore the question: what does it mean to be human? This include efforts to understand, evaluate, and communicate human experiences, values, and aspirations to improve the human condition. Traditionally, the humanities have flourished in the disciplines of history, philosophy, literatures, and languages—they inform every inquisitive endeavor.

REQUIREMENTS

Students participating in the program will receive the designation of Humanities Engagement Scholar when they graduate and have completed the following requirements during their undergraduate career:

1. A minimum of 12 credit-hours of course work in the humanities at the University of Florida in three different units (departments, centers, or programs). Study abroad courses may count, while Quest 1 does not count toward the designation. All courses from the following units are eligible: Departments of Classics; English; History; Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; Philosophy; Spanish and Portuguese; and Religion. Humanities courses from the following units are eligible: Art and Art History; Linguistics; Centers for African Studies, European Studies, Jewish Studies, Latin American Studies, and Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies; and African American Studies Program. For questions about whether a course fulfills the requirement toward the Humanities Engagement Scholars program, please contact Alison Walsh, Program Coordinator, by email at alison.walsh@ufl.edu.

2. Attendance of a minimum of two in-person events per semester at UF or in Gainesville or virtual events with a minimum of six events by the time of graduation. If a student enters the program in their first semester at UF, they must attend two events per semester until graduation. If they enter the program for their last two semesters at UF, they must attend three events per semester. All events listed in the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere's Weekly Agenda's e-newsletter or on the Center's calendar on its website may count toward credit for this program. For any other events, students need prior permission from Alison Walsh. Contact: alison.walsh@ufl.edu.
3. At least one active contribution to a humanities event at UF or in the community per academic year and a minimum of two by the time that the student graduates. This includes helping with setting up events, including support on Zoom, providing virtual assistance with PR, e.g., advertising events on social media, or writing about a humanities topic for a blog (please email Alison Walsh at alison.walsh@ufl.edu to approve the blog before publishing). Projects that are part of a class or for which a student receives credit in a different program, for example, the Honors Program or International Studies, do not count toward the Humanities Engagement Scholars Program.

FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE

If students do not fulfill the requirements for two consecutive semesters, they will be removed from the program and will be unable to sign up again during the undergraduate career at UF. Examples include students who only attend one event per semester for two semesters in a row or students who do not assist in an event for two semesters in a row.

ADDITIONAL GET-TOGETHERS

In addition, the Center offers optional informal get-togethers for Humanities Engagement Scholars so that they can socialize with each other while discussing scholarly and professional issues, for example opportunities with the Office of Undergraduate Research or workshops about writing personal statements for graduate school.

DOCUMENTATION OF PARTICIPATION

It is the student's responsibility to document the completion of each requirement within the designated time period in Canvas.

GRADUATING AS HUMANITIES ENGAGEMENT SCHOLAR

Students must complete all requirements in order to be designated HES at graduation. There are three deadlines per year when students apply for graduation with the designation of Humanities Engagement Scholar and when they must have completed all requirements: November 15, April 15, and July 15.

At the beginning of their final semester, they are responsible for informing the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere of their intention to graduate by emailing Alison Walsh at alison.walsh@ufl.edu. The Humanities Center will celebrate Humanities Engagement Scholars with special cords for graduation, a lunch or a reception in their honor, and certificates of recognition.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Students who intend to participate in the program must complete the application form on the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere's website, including a 150-200 word statement about why they are interested in becoming a Humanities Engagement Scholar. They should address the following three points: What are the humanities? Why do they matter in the world and to the student? What is their personal interest in engaging with the humanities?

Students accepted into the program will receive a welcome email, which includes directions for getting started in the HES Canvas site where they will complete a Statement of Commitment and continue to document their participation in the process. Students are invited to attend future social events in the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere, Room 0016 Keene-Flint Hall.