



Welcome to the ACES James Scholar Honors Program!

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 and the Departmental Honors Advisors provide guidance to James Scholars as they achieve their professional goals within the Honors Program.

Benefits of the ACES James Scholar Honors Program

- **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 workshops, 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 your specific area of interest and have your research findings published in *i-ACES*, our online research journal.
- **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 your transcript.
- **Excellent preparation** for admission to graduate programs and professional schools (e.g., dentistry, law, medicine, optometry, and veterinary medicine).

Year-by-Year Program Overview

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 ≥ 3.50 during their first semester.

Milestones of Achievement:

1. Make satisfactory progress toward completion of the B.S. degree with an overall GPA ≥ 3.40 . (Scholars majoring in Agri-

2. cultural and Biological Engineering will need to maintain an overall GPA ≥ 3.50 .)
2. 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 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:

1. 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 .)
2. 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 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 eighteen (18) months before their expected graduation date.

Milestones of Achievement:

1. Scholars prepare and submit an Honors Completion Plan (HCP) by **the first Friday 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.

2. Make satisfactory progress toward completion of the B.S. degree with an overall GPA \geq 3.40.
3. 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 399: Honors Seminar**, or another approved activity that involves effort beyond normal academic requirements.
4. Fulfill the HCP and complete an undergraduate research project.
5. Present a poster display of the undergraduate research project results at the ACES Undergraduate Research Day, the Undergraduate Research Symposium, or another approved event.

The ACES Undergraduate Research Project

As your capstone experience in the Honors Program, the undergraduate research 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/or environmental sciences. The project is developed in conjunction with the ongoing or related research of your 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. A written abstract of project findings is also eligible to be considered for publication in *I-ACES*.

The ACES James Scholar Motto:
"Come build the future with us!"

For More Information

The Honors Desk is located in:

ACES Academic Programs
128 Mumford Hall, MC-710
1301 West Gregory Drive
Urbana, IL 61801

Office Hours: Weekdays 8:30 AM-12:00 N
and 1:00-5:00 PM

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ACES Honors Dean

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Please Visit Our Websites:

<http://academics.aces.illinois.edu/honors>

<http://twitter.com/ACESJSHP>

<http://theaceshonorsherald.blogspot.com>

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The ACES James Scholar Honors Program

Cultivating Opportunity and Achievement Since 1959

The College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



The Morrow Plots: The oldest agronomic experimental fields in the United States



Spurlock Museum Field Trip: Edmund J. James Exhibition – April 2015