

LAS HONORS

James Scholar Handbook

AY 2026-2027

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What is the LAS James Scholar Program?

The mission of the James Scholar Program (JSP) within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is to *empower* our students to be global citizens and global stewards; to *enlighten* them with deeper understanding of the diverse world in which they live; and to *engage* with the core values and responsibilities of moving toward a sustainable future.

The honors staff strives to assist James Scholars in defining their role as active learners, critical thinkers, and influential leaders. The LAS JSP provides the best of the liberal arts education tradition with the resources, facilities, and opportunities of a flagship state university. From studying abroad to working one-on-one with faculty members, LAS JSP provides and supports ways for our students to do more, go farther, and become their very best.

Benefits of the LAS JSP include:

- Priority registration
- LAS 122, a special course designed for incoming LAS JS students taught by upper-class James Scholars
- Unique courses and sections reserved for James Scholars
- LAS JS study away, abroad and experiential learning courses
- Opportunity to apply to live in the Honors LLC
- Opportunity to apply for the James Scholar Preble Research Scholarship
- Opportunity to graduate with James Scholar honors distinction
- Belonging to the LAS JS community

Responsibilities of belonging to the LAS JSP include:

- Maintain a 3.3 GPA
- Adhere to academic integrity standards in the Student Code of Conduct
- Full time enrollment unless otherwise approved by the College of LAS
- Maintain your portfolio (earn average of 4 points per academic year)
- Engage in academic and enrichment experiences
- A minimum of 2 years/4 semesters of participation in the LAS JSP

LAS James Scholar Mission: Empower, Enlighten, Engage

Being an LAS James Scholar does not mean that you are doing more work. It means that you are working differently – you’re going deeper into course content and materials, making connections between subject areas, engaging in more complex thinking, and connecting it with the world around you. Your JSP coursework will *enlighten* you through complex, deep-level thinking in smaller sections of students who share your intellectual curiosity and who are eager, like you, to learn how to solve problems and encounter new areas of knowledge. It is not just about taking tests and writing papers: it’s about hands-on work, exploring through discussion, and challenging yourself. Because we realize that you learn and prepare yourself for your professional future in all sorts of contexts, we also award academic points for individual honors projects and theses, participating in research, completing presentations at conferences, publishing, and for engaging in an array of other activities.

As a James Scholar, you’re asked to pursue enrichment activities because we learn from each other as much as we learn from classes. We ask you to *engage* with the world around you on campus and in the community because we know that you will develop some of your most important skills and identities outside the traditional classroom. This is why we recognize such high-impact activities as study abroad, internships, leadership, community service, campus engagement such as ROTC, and numerous other forms of engagement. Through this involvement, we forge connections with one another and find our voices within it. The LAS JS program recognizes the value of those pursuits in *empowering* the whole person.

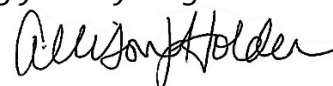
To be a James Scholar means that you are an academic achiever, but more importantly, it means that you are an inquisitive and engaged person. This program supports you as you deepen your knowledge, skills, and passions and as you seek out opportunities for growth and enrichment. You will do so as part of our JS community – a group of similarly talented and dedicated students. We are here to support you as you design your path to a career and your vision of a fulfilling and engaging life.

The pillars that support the LAS JSP mission are academics, leadership, and service. The program’s points model is built around these pillars, providing an *empowering, enlightened and engaging* experience during your time on campus. Students select academic and enrichment points that fit their interests and meet their goals while earning points in the LAS JSP to graduate with honors distinction.

Honors Staff

A Note from the Director:

Your great academic achievement has led you to the University of Illinois, and you have seized an opportunity to become a James Scholar on this campus for your own unique reason. Whatever your reason, this program encourages you to make the most of your short time on campus by being involved and engaged. My personal goal is to see you graduate with honors distinction. While you pick your own path to honors distinction, the honors staff is always here to guide, encourage and assist you. We look forward to celebrating you at your graduation!



Allison Holden, Director

Honors Staff:

Allison Holden is the Director of LAS Honors. She has a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and nearly ten years working with LAS Honors. Her favorite part of Honors is one-on-one advising, because she gets to meet with and learn from the amazing students in the program. She spends her free time planning her next travel destination, listening to podcasts, drinking coffee and/or playing with her family (preferably in the backyard).

David Mizell is the Senior Assistant Director of LAS Honors. He is an Illinois and JS alum and has a Master's Degree in Political Science. His favorite part of Honors is getting to work with all of you in advising, as an instructor, and excellent community-building programs such as the James Scholar Student Advisory Board and our peer mentor program. He spends his free time getting together with family and friends and attending sporting events (Go Illini!).

Allison Faust-Branson is the Office Administrator of LAS Honors. Her favorite part of Honors is y'all – the students and the team. She spends her free time with her family or walking around with a camera in her hand.

Honors Office:

The LAS Honors staff are part of the LAS Student Academic Affairs Office in 2002 Lincoln Hall. They can be contacted at lashonors@illinois.edu.

Honors walk-in advising is hosted in the LAS Hub on the first floor of Lincoln Hall, quad side. Look for times and dates in the Honorable Mentions e-newsletter.

James Scholar program requirements

Full-time Students

Students must be full-time (12 credit hours per semester) to retain eligibility in the James Scholar Program. One underload (semester below 12 hours) is allowed if approved by the College of LAS.

GPA Requirement

Students must have a University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign GPA of 3.30 at the end of every academic year (spring term) to meet the GPA requirement of the JSP in LAS. The Illinois GPA is reviewed, not the total GPA including the transfer GPA. At the completion of their first semester at Illinois, first-year LAS James Scholars who earn below a 3.30 GPA will be considered for a trial term for the spring to raise their GPA.

Academic Integrity

James Scholars and nominees are held responsible for adherence to the rules for [Academic Integrity at Illinois](#) (Code of Policies and Regulations Applying to all Students, Article 1, Part 4). Students who are found to have been penalized within the scope of Article 1, Part 4 will automatically forfeit their LAS James Scholar membership and privileges.

Honors Points

Students must earn honors points each year they are an LAS James Scholar. Additional details about the honors point system are provided in the following pages.

Self-Nomination Students

You must participate in the LAS James Scholar Honors program for 2 years or 4 semester to be eligible for college honors distinction at graduation.

*Students are required to complete at least two years or four semesters as a James Scholar honors student in order to graduate with honors distinction.

The points system

James Scholars must earn at least 4 points for each academic year they are an LAS James Scholar. The number of years you are an LAS James Scholar before graduation will determine the number of honors points you need to earn overall, as well as how many should be academic (A) points and enrichment (E) points. The academic versus enrichment point breakdown is only a factor the semester you graduate.

Annual James Scholar certification is completed at the end of spring semester each academic year. To retain their standing as a James Scholar, students must follow the requirements listed previously and meet the required 4-point benchmark for their year.

- ☐ End of first year as LAS James Scholar: 4 points
- ☐ End of second year as LAS James Scholar: 8 points
- ☐ End of third year as LAS James Scholar: 12 points
- ☐ End of fourth year as LAS James Scholar: 16 points

There is no specific academic or enrichment point requirement for the annual certification.

For James Scholar Graduation Honors

As indicated above, the number of years you are an LAS James Scholar before graduation will determine the number of honors points you need to earn overall, as well as how many should be academic (A) points and enrichment (E) points.

By the term you graduate, you need the following for James Scholar Graduation Honors:

- 4 years as LAS James Scholar: 16 honors points – 10 academic and 6 enrichment
- ☐ 3.5 years as LAS James Scholar: 14 honors points - 9 academic and 5 enrichment
- 3 years as LAS James Scholar: 12 honors points – 8 academic and 4 enrichment
- ☐ 2.5 years as LAS James Scholar: 10 honors points - consult LAS Honors staff
- 2 years as LAS James Scholar: 8 honors points – 5 academic and 3 enrichment
- 1.5 years as LAS James Scholar: 6 honors points – 4 academic and 2 enrichment
- 1 year as LAS James Scholar: 4 honors points – 3 academic and 1 enrichment

The specific academic and enrichment point requirements are not required until the term you graduate (It's important to note only students who transfer into LAS from another college can earn James Scholar Graduation Honors with less than two years in the program). James Scholars are strongly encouraged to schedule a James Scholar Graduation Review meeting with LAS Honors staff during their senior year to review remaining requirements. With these milestones in mind, students should plan ahead.

Summer Experiences

Summer experiences are eligible for honors points in limited categories (see pages 15-31 for details). Summer experiences will only count toward point requirements for the academic year following the summer in which the experience was completed (they cannot be used for certification at the conclusion of the spring semester just prior to the summer experience).

How to plan ahead

Using this points system, you can be proactive. You can “bank” points, but you cannot borrow them. This means that if you earn points early in your college career, you can save them to complete the point requirements you must reach later in your college career.

EXAMPLE:

Barghav earned 6 honors points during his freshman year as a James Scholar.

Year in LAS Honors	Honors points required	Points earned this year	Total points earned	
Year 1	4	6	6	

Barghav then earned 2 honors points during his sophomore year as a James Scholar.

Year in LAS Honors	Honors points required	Points earned this year	Total points earned	
Year 1	4	6	6	
Year 2	8	2	8	

However, you **cannot** borrow. If you fail to earn the necessary points in any particular year to stay on track with 4 honors points required per year, you may be at risk of being dropped from the honors program.

EXAMPLE:

Faith earned 4 honors points during her freshman year as a James Scholar.

Year in LAS	Honors	Points	Total	
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Honors	points required	earned this year	points earned	
Year 1	4	4	4	

Faith then earned just 2 honors points during her sophomore year as a James Scholar and planned to earn 6 honors points during her junior year. But because she did not reach the required points by the end of her sophomore year, she was not certified as a James Scholar.

Year in LAS Honors	Honors points required	Points earned this year	Total points earned	
Year 1	4	4	4	
Year 2	8	2	6	

To earn your required points and remain a James Scholar, you will submit a “James Scholar Plan” to the online portfolio system every semester. This James Scholar Plan details everything you intend to do for honors points **each semester**. However, you are **not** required to earn honors points every semester. You are simply required to **earn an average number** of points by the end of each year. Banking points allows you to not earn points in a semester, and still maintain your status.

EXAMPLE:

Toni was eager to earn all her required honors points during first semester of her freshman year, and so she decided not to submit a James Scholar Plan for her second semester. When she reached fall semester of her senior year, she was too busy applying for graduate school, and decided not to submit a James Scholar Plan until spring semester as she knew she could earn the rest of her required points in time to graduate.

Year in LAS Honors	Honors points required	Fall semester	Spring semester	Total points earned	
Year 1	4	5	0	5	

Year 2	8	1	2	8	✓
Year 3	12	2	3	13	✓
Year 4	16	0	3	16	✓

EXAMPLE:

Jared kept up with submitting his James Scholar Plans each semester until he studied abroad his junior year and forgot the fall deadline. Luckily, he had banked enough points to keep him in good standing. But when he forgot to submit a James Scholar Plan for fall semester of his senior year, he was thrown off-track and lost James Scholar status.

Year in LAS Honors	Honors points required	Fall semester	Spring semester	Total points earned	
Year 1	4	3	1	4	
Year 2	8	3	3	10	
Year 3	12	0	2	12	
Year 4	16	0	1	13	

EXAMPLE:

Cassandra **self-nominated** as a James Scholar after her first year at the University of Illinois and plans to graduate after only three years in the James Scholar program. She banked a lot of points during her second year in the program, so she didn't need to submit her James Scholar Plan during spring of her senior year.

Year in LAS Honors	Honors points required	Fall semester	Spring semester	Total points earned	
Year 1	4	1	3	4	
Year 2	8	3	5	12	
Year 3	12	2	0	14	

EXAMPLE:

Seojun **transferred** to the University of Illinois from another university, so he entered the James Scholar program his sophomore year. Because he only had three years as a James Scholar before graduation, he had to earn 4 points by the end of his sophomore year, 8 points by the end of his junior year, and 12 points by the end of his senior year. He was able to graduate as a certified James Scholar with a total of 13 points.

Year in LAS Honors	Honors points required	Fall semester	Spring semester	Total points earned	
Year 1	4	2	2	4	
Year 2	8	2	3	9	
Year 3	12	4	0	13	

You can log in to create and edit your “James Scholar Plan” for the current semester through the James Scholar Portfolio system online here: <https://my.atlas.illinois.edu/james-scholar/>

James Scholar Portfolio

The [James Scholar Portfolio system](#) allows you to submit a James Scholar Plan each semester. After logging in with your NetID and password, you can see your James Scholar Semester History, any Student Notes, and your previous semester James Scholar Plans. You can view old plans as well as edit your current plan.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

By the last day of classes (Wednesday) of each fall and spring semester:

- **Must submit EHCLA, REACT for Chemistry, Honors Thesis or Senior Project materials by the end (Friday) of the sixth week of each fall and spring semester*:**

1. Add your new James Scholar Plan, detailing how you will earn honors points this semester, and which honors points you will earn. If you will not earn any honors points that semester, you do not need to add anything to your plan.

*Summer deadlines is July 1 each year.

Action	Term code	Academic points	Enrichment points	
[edit]	Spring 2025		1/3	Add a plan for Spring 2025
Action	Term code	Academic points	Enrichment points	
[edit]	Fall 2024	2/2	2/4	Add a plan for Fall 2024

2. When you select an honors experience from the drop-down options, any preapproval materials necessary will be detailed for you *before* you add the experience to your plan. Please read these instructions carefully. **All EHCLA, REACT for Chemistry or Honors Thesis/Senior Project materials need to be submitted by the end of Friday of the sixth week of the term.**

Select an honors option

***** 1-point options *****

2 credit hour honors course with B- or better (Academic)

Applying for nationally competitive scholarship or fellowship through the office of NISP (Academic)

Short-term study abroad (Academic)

Induction into a departmental or professional Honors Society (Academic)

50 hours of PREAPPROVED faculty-directed independent study or research (Academic)

Publication in refereed undergraduate journal or website (Academic)

Presentation at a PREAPPROVED regional conference (Academic)

Completing LAS 122 with B- or better (Academic)

Complete second major (Academic)

Honors LLC course (Academic)

Complete a PREAPPROVED 50 hour internship (Academic)

Complete an entrance exam or professional program exam (Academic)

Serve as an undergraduate teaching assistant (Enrichment)

Other Leadership Activities (ie: leadership position in RSO, organized peer mentoring) (Enrichment)

Full participation in day-long leadership program (i-Program, for example) (Enrichment)

Complete 20 hours of PREAPPROVED community service (Enrichment)

Perform in a university-sponsored concert, play, or recital (Enrichment)

Having a piece of art displayed in a university gallery or exhibit (Enrichment)

Select an honors option

50 hours of PREAPPROVED faculty-directed independent study or research (Academic)

Conducting mentored research on your own original project or as a part of a larger project led by a faculty member, researcher, or graduate student is eligible in this category. This experience requires you to submit an [Honors Experience Request Form](#). To add this option to your plan, answer the question below.

Did you complete all associated forms for this option?

Add to plan

Please be sure to complete these additional resources when signing up for this option:
https://apps.atlas.illinois.edu/FormBuilderSurvey/Survey/LAS_Administration/Honors/Honors_Experience_Request_Form/

By the end of the fall, spring and summer term* (last day of instruction):

1. Log in to your James Scholar Portfolio and review your current plan.
2. Click “edit” on your current plan to review what you need to do “At the end of the semester” for each honors experience.

*Summer deadlines will be provided early in the summer term.

Action	Term code	Academic points	Enrichment points	
[edit]	Spring 2025		1/3	Add a plan for Spring 2025
Action	Term code	Academic points	Enrichment points	
[edit]	Fall 2024	2/2	2/4	Add a plan for Fall 2024

[X]	Complete an entrance exam or professional program exam (Academic)	1/1	Dental Admission Test: DAT Confirmation.pdf
At the end of the semester In order to earn an honors point(s) for this experience, you MUST complete the following steps by the last day of instruction on the Illinois campus this semester. You must complete the Honors Experience Survey for every experience you intend to use for honors points this semester: https://surveys.illinois.edu/sec/5720196 You must submit verification or receipt of your exam completion. You may omit exam scores/results, as only the verification of completion is required. Upload your documentation DAT Completion: Dental Admission Test Completion.pdf			

3. Submit any required final documentation by the end of the semester to earn your honors points for that semester.

Academic points

James Scholars must earn both academic (A) and enrichment (E) points by graduation. The number of points required is determined by the number of years in LAS Honors.

Points for <u>Annual Certification</u> to Maintain Status (may be any combination of A or E categories):	Points <u>by Graduation</u> for James Scholar Graduation Honors:
▪ First year as LAS James Scholar: 4 pts ▪ Second year as LAS James Scholar: 8 pts ▪ Third year as LAS James Scholar: 12 pts ▪ Fourth year as LAS James Scholar: 16 pts	▪ 4 years as LAS James Scholar = 10 (A) + 6 (E) ▪ 3 years as LAS James Scholar = 8 (A) + 4 (E) ▪ 2 years as LAS James Scholar = 5 (A) + 3 (E) ▪ 1 year as LAS James Scholar = 3 (A) + 1 (E)

Academic points develop critical thinking skills, broad intellectual curiosity, and deep understanding of a discipline or disciplines. Academic points are earned through challenging yourself in honors courses or honors credit learning agreements, deepening your understanding of your discipline through undergraduate research activities, and earning recognition of your academic accomplishments.

Academic points can be earned through approved:

- Honors courses
- Research experiences
- Academic accomplishments
- Study abroad
- Academic leadership

Listed on the following pages are the areas where academic points can be earned, as well as how many points each experience is worth, how many total points you can earn using that experience, and what documentation is required at the beginning and the end of the semester to earn points for that experience.

Preapproval: Experiences below that require preapproval must be submitted to the portfolio system online along with any additional forms, like an EHCLA or Honors Experience Request Form, by the specified date. Preapproval forms are found within the Honors portfolio. The final date for EHCLA, REACT for Chemistry, Honors Thesis or Senior Project is the end of the sixth week of class for fall and spring semesters. Note that these experiences may still require documentation of completion be submitted by the end of the semester in order to receive honors points.

Denotes that this category is eligible to be used for a summer experience.

Honors courses are available either through taking an Honors Integrated Course or working on projects with faculty. Any course in which the student is currently enrolled can potentially be turned into an Honors Course with the agreement of the faculty member. This agreement is called an Electronic Honors Credit Learning Agreement (EHCLA) and outlines *all requirements and expectations for the Honors project*. The student must submit the EHCLA by the end of the sixth week of the semester. Instructor can approve the form after the six-week deadline.

Experience	Description	Point value per experience	Total points possible	Preapproval required	Final documentation required
LAS 122	All incoming first-year, first-semester James Scholars will enroll in LAS 122, our first year seminar course. Students who earn a B- or higher in the course are eligible to earn an honors grade.	1	1	None, just add the course to your semester James Scholar Plan	None, earn a B- or higher in the course to be eligible for an honors grade
2 credit-hour honors course	These courses may be integrated honors courses or EHCLA courses. Whether the course is an integrated honors course or an EHCLA course, students must earn a B- or higher in the course to earn an honors grade. An honors or "H" grade must be reflected on the student's record before honors points will be awarded for this experience.	1	2	Submit an EHCLA <i>if not</i> an integrated honors course (see page 28)	None, earn a B- or higher in the course to be eligible for an honors grade
3 credit-hour honors course	These courses may be integrated honors courses or EHCLA courses. Whether the course is an integrated honors course or an EHCLA course, students must earn a B- or higher in the course to earn an honors grade. An honors or "H" grade must be	2	8	Submit an EHCLA <i>if not</i> an integrated honors course (see page 28)	None, earn a B- or higher in the course to be eligible for an honors grade

	reflected on the student's record before honors points will be awarded for this experience.				
2-3 credit-hour honors course	The same category as the 2 credit-hour and 3 credit-hour course options, but ONLY when you have maximized your points. This will allow you to continue to earn honors credits beyond what you are required to earn for this program. Select the zero (0) point option from the bottom of the portfolio drop down.	0	none	Submit an EHCLA <i>if not</i> an integrated honors course (see page 28)	None, earn a B- or higher in the course to be eligible for an honors grade
REACT for Chemistry	This acts the same way as a 3 credit-hour honors course. In eligible chemistry courses, students may use REACT as an honors project to make their chemistry course eligible for an honors grade. Students must still earn a B- or higher in the course to earn an honors grade and the honors or "H" grade must be reflected on the student's record before honors points will be awarded.	2	8 (for all 3 credit-hour honors courses)	Just add the REACT category to your plan and be sure to register with REACT	None, earn a B- or higher in the course to be eligible for an honors grade
500-level course	Students may not earn an honors grade in a 500-level or graduate-level course, but successful completion of the course is eligible for honors points. The course must be taken for a letter grade to be eligible for honors points. Students must be enrolled in the 500 level section, not the cross listed undergraduate section.	2	6	None, just add the course to your semester James Scholar Plan	None, your final grade in the course will be reviewed for point consideration
Honors LLC course	Only Honors Living Learning Community (LLC) members are eligible to enroll in these courses. Please consult with the Honors LLC for additional information on this course.	1	1	None, just add the course to your semester James Scholar Plan	None, earn a B- or higher in the course to be eligible for an honors grade

Research experiences are encouraged and available for academic honors points as well. Want to learn more about getting involved in research at U of I? Starting to think about presenting or publishing your work? Check out the resources available through the [Illinois Office of Undergraduate Research](#).

Experience	Description	Point value per experience	Total points possible	Preapproval required	Final documentation required
#Faculty-directed independent study or research	Students who are conducting research or independent study under the supervision of a faculty member, staff member, or graduate student are eligible to use that experience for honors points. Complete at least <i>50-99 hours of research</i> in a single semester <i>to earn 1 academic point</i> , and at least <i>100+ hours</i> or more of research in a single semester <i>to earn 2 academic points</i> .	1-2	6	Submit an Honors Experience Request Form (see pages 29-32)	Documentation from your research supervisor verifying the number of research hours completed.
#Presentation at a regional conference	Presentations must have an academic purpose or focus. The Undergraduate Research Symposium on campus each spring is eligible in this category. The regional conference must be preapproved	1	2	Submit an Honors Experience Request Form (see pages 29-32)	Submit a copy of the conference program.

#Presentation at a national conference	Presentations must have an academic purpose or focus. The national conference must be preapproved with an Honors Experience Request Form.	2	4	Submit an Honors Experience Request Form (see pages 29-32)	Submit a copy of the conference program.
#Publication in an undergraduate journal or website	Publications should be directly related to research. To count in this category, your work should be selected for publication through a peer review process. Check out these undergraduate research journals on campus . Don't forget to submit proof to the online portfolio system by the required deadline.	1	1	None, just add the proposed experience to your semester James Scholar Plan	Letter/email of acceptance or URL of publication.
#Publication in a professional journal or website	Publications should be directly related to research. To count in this category, your work should be selected for publication through a peer review process. Don't forget to submit proof to the online portfolio system by the required deadline.	2	4	Add the proposed experience to your semester James Scholar Plan	Letter/email of acceptance or URL of publication.
Honors Thesis or Senior Project	In order to use this experience for points, students must be enrolled in a thesis course or senior capstone-based course. If the course isn't already an honors course, you'll need to complete an EHCLA to earn an honors grade.	2	4	Submit an EHCLA if not an integrated honors course (see page 28)	None, earn a B- or higher in the course to be eligible for an honors grade.

Academic accomplishments that you may complete during your college career can also be used as academic honors points.

Experience	Description	Point value per experience	Total points possible	Preapproval required	Final documentation required
Applying for a nationally competitive scholarship or fellowship	Scholarships eligible for this category are limited to those administered by the National and International Scholarships Program . You must work with that office on your application in order to be eligible to receive an honors point for your experience. They will verify your application once you add it to your James Scholar Plan.	1	2	Just add the experience to your semester James Scholar Plan, and your application will be verified by the NISP office staff	None. Completion is verified by the NISP office staff later in the term.
Induction into a departmental or professional Honors Society	Any department or professional honors society (eg Phi Beta Kappa, Tau Beta Pi or Sigma Tau Delta) are eligible. Upload verification of your induction once you add it to your James Scholar Plan.	1	2	Submit the name and <i>invitation</i> of your honors society	Submit documentation that shows verification of your <i>induction</i> , such as a certificate or receipt.
#Complete second major	You can earn 1 academic honors point during the semester that you are completing the second major (typically your final semester).	1	1	Submit the name of your second major	None. Completion of your last semester provides necessary verification.
#Complete dual degree	You can earn 2 academic points during the semester that you are completing your dual degree (typically your final semester). Find the instructions here for applying for a second degree in LAS.	2	2	Submit documentation that shows approval of dual degree	None. Completion of your last semester provides necessary verification.

#Complete an entrance or professional program exam	You can earn 1 academic honors point during the semester that you are completing the exam (eg GRE, MCAT, LSAT. This exam is to meet professional program or licensure requirements.	1	2	Submit documentation that shows registration of exam.	Submit verification or receipt of exam completion (no scores are necessary).
Student teach/complete secondary education requirements	<i>Restricted to students completing the secondary education minor.</i> You can earn 2 academic points for student teaching/completing your secondary education program requirements.	2	2	Submit an Honors Experience Request Form (see pages 29-32)	None.

Internships are experiences for academic or enrichment points that allow you to gain skills and explore areas related to your future career goals. They may be paid or unpaid and may also be taken for credit or not. Take a look at [Handshake @ Illinois](#) for some available internship opportunities, and explore additional resources by talking with [LAS Career Services](#).

Experience	Description	Point value per experience	Total points possible	Preapproval required	Final documentation required
#Internship	In order for your internship to be eligible for honors points, you must be able to indicate how your experience is relevant to your discipline and/or future career goals. Complete 50-99 hours of internship in a single semester to earn 1 academic point, and a 100+ hour or more internship in a single semester to earn 2 academic points.	1-2	4	Submit an Honors Experience Request Form (see pages 30-33)	Documentation from your internship supervisor verifying the number of hours completed

Study abroad experiences can be used as academic points or enrichment points. Check out the [Illinois Education Abroad](#) website and [LAS International Programs](#) for more information on study abroad opportunities. Not sure how study abroad can help you achieve your academic and professional goals? Visit [LAS Career Services](#) to investigate and explore.

Experience	Description	Point value per experience	Total points possible	Preapproval required	Final documentation required
#Short-term study abroad	Short-term studies abroad must be university sponsored experiences. There are a lot of short-term LAS Abroad opportunities, including over Winter Break and Spring Break.	1	2	Just add the course to your semester James Scholar Plan	None. Points are awarded when final grades are available, and you notify the honors staff of the grade change.
Semester-long study abroad	Students must be studying on university-sanctioned programs to count for honors points.	2	4	Submit proof of acceptance to your study abroad program	None. Points are awarded when final grades are available, and you notify the honors staff of the grade change.

Academic leadership experiences can be used as academic points or enrichment points.

Experience	Description	Point value per experience	Total points possible	Preapproval required	Final documentation required
Serve as an LAS 100/101/102/122 Intern	Rising juniors and seniors are eligible to apply. Applications are available annually beginning in January for the following academic year. Complete 50-99 hours of internship in a single semester to earn 1 academic point, and a 100+ hour or more internship in a single semester to earn 2 academic points.	1-2	4	Just add the intern course to your semester James Scholar Plan in the semester in which you are serving as an intern (not eligible in your training semester)	Documentation from your internship supervisor verifying the number of hours completed.

Enrichment points

James Scholars must earn both academic (A) and enrichment (E) points by graduation. The number of points required is determined by the number of years in LAS Honors.

Points for Annual Certification to Maintain Status (may be any combination of A or E categories):	Points by Graduation for James Scholar Graduation Honors:
▪ First year as LAS James Scholar: 4 pts ▪ Second year as LAS James Scholar: 8 pts ▪ Third year as LAS James Scholar: 12 pts ▪ Fourth year as LAS James Scholar: 16 pts	▪ 4 years as LAS James Scholar = 10 (A) + 6 (E) ▪ 3 years as LAS James Scholar = 8 (A) + 4 (E) ▪ 2 years as LAS James Scholar = 5 (A) + 3 (E) ▪ 1 year as LAS James Scholar = 3 (A) + 1 (E)

Enrichment points develop and strengthen citizenship skills through involvement on campus, in the Champaign-Urbana community, and in the global community. They also invite you to explore and develop skills for your future profession.

Enrichment points can be earned through approved:

- Volunteer service
- Leadership experiences
- Campus involvement
- Internships
- Study abroad
- Academic leadership

Listed on the following pages are the areas where enrichment points can be earned, as well as how many points each experience is worth, how many total points you can earn using that experience, and what documentation is required at the beginning and the end of the semester to earn points for that experience.

Preapproval: Experiences that require preapproval must be submitted to the portfolio system online along with any additional forms, like an Honors Experience Request Form, before the specified date. This final date is the end of the sixth week of class. Note that these experiences may still require documentation of completion to be submitted by the end of the semester in order to receive honors points.

Denotes that this category is eligible to be used for a summer experience.

Volunteer service opportunities in the local community are eligible for enrichment points. Just don't forget to submit the required documentation. Check out the [Office of Civic Life](#) website or the [United Way of Champaign County](#). Look for an email early each semester with information about additional community service opportunities.

Experience	Description	Point value per experience	Total points possible	Preapproval required	Final documentation required
#Community Service	All hours must be completed in a single semester and benefitting a single organization. Complete at least 20 hours of service in a single semester to earn 1 enrichment point, and at least 40 hours or more of service in a single semester to earn 2 enrichment points.	1-2	4	Submit an Honors Experience Request Form (see pages 30-33)	Log of completed service hours signed by service supervisor
#Participate in a day-long service project	Participation in a day-long service project can earn you 1 enrichment point. Examples include: IlliniThon Dance Marathon, One Winter Night, and more.	1	2	Just add the experience to your semester James Scholar Plan.	Upload documentation of your participation to your portfolio.
Illini Alternative Breaks (IAB)	Participation in an Illini Alternative Break opportunity through the Office of Civic Life can earn you 1 enrichment point. Contact the Office of Civic Life (https://civiclifellinois.edu/) and civiclifellinois.edu for more information.	1	2	Submit an Honors Experience Request Form (see pages 30-33)	Upload documentation of your participation to your portfolio.

Leadership experiences on campus are also eligible for enrichment honors points.

Experience	Description	Point value per experience	Total points possible	Preapproval required	Final documentation required
Participate in a day-long leadership program (Leadership Labs, for example)	Participation in a day-long leadership program hosted by the Illinois Leadership Center can earn you 1 point. Please see the Leadership Labs website for more information. We encourage you to register early as these programs fill up quickly.	1	2	Just add the experience to your semester James Scholar Plan.	Completion certificate from the program or email verification of participation from the department or organizer
Full participation in The LeaderShape Institute	The application for The LeaderShape Institute is available each fall semester through the LAS Honors Office. Please see the LEADERSHAPE website for more information.	2	2	Just add the experience to your semester James Scholar Plan.	Completion certificate or group photo from the program
Hold an office on the JSSAB	Information about getting involved with the James Scholars Student Advisory Board will be made available via email each semester.	1	4	Just add it to your semester James Scholar Plan.	Verified by the JSSAB President and awarded by LAS Honors by end of term
Serve as an LAS Honors Peer Mentor	Information about getting involved with the LAS Honors peer mentor program will be available via email each spring for participation during the fall term.	2	4	Just add it to your semester James Scholar Plan.	Verified by the Peer Mentor Coordinators and awarded by LAS Honors at the end of the fall term
#Hold a leadership position in Employment	Students who hold leadership positions in the employment setting, such as shift leader or assistant manager, can earn 1 point for 50-99 hours and 2 points for 100+ hours	1-2	4	Upload verification of your offer of employment	Documentation from employment supervisor verifying your role and how many hours were worked

#Campus or Housing Parapro in Leadership Employed Role	Students who hold on-campus leadership positions in the employment setting, such as housing parapro or counseling center parapro, can earn 1 point for 50-99 hours and 2 points for 100+ hours	1-2	4	Upload verification of your offer of employment	Documentation from employment supervisor verifying your role and how many hours were worked
#Other leadership activities	You can earn 1 point for serving in a leadership position in an organization or formal peer mentoring. Meant for elected/executive/appointed roles.##	1	4	Just add it to your semester James Scholar Plan	Documentation that indicates your role with the group as stated in portfolio
##To be eligible for summer points, your leadership role must be directly impacting Illinois students and you must be active in this role during the summer (preparations for the upcoming academic year are not eligible). You must be able to demonstrate that you were actively leading Illinois peers for a significant part of the summer.					
Serve as an undergraduate teaching assistant	Earn 1 enrichment point per semester serving as an undergraduate teaching assistant for a University of Illinois course.	1	2	Add the course to your plan, the professor will verify your role	Documentation from TA supervisor verifying you completed the role

Campus involvement in these approved experiences can earn you enrichment honors points as well.

Experience	Description	Point value per experience	Total points possible	Preapproval required	Final documentation required
Participate in JSSAB	Earn an enrichment point through attending James Scholars Student Advisory Board events. Information will be made available via email each term.	1	4	Just add the experience to your semester James Scholar Plan	Will be verified with JSSAB executive board
Perform in a university-sponsored concert, play, or recital	Orchestra, Marching Illini, student organizations that perform, etc. are all eligible in this category.	1	4	Just add the experience to your semester James Scholar Plan	Documentation of you as a performer such as a program from the event

Having a piece of art displayed at a university gallery or exhibit	Artwork on display in a university sponsored gallery or exhibit can earn you 1 point per gallery or exhibit, for up to 4 points total. Honorable Mentions newsletter also counts.	1	4	Just add the experience to your semester James Scholar Plan	Documentation of your participation such as a program from the event
Full season of intramural, club, or varsity sport	Participation in a full season sponsored by the University of Illinois can earn you 1 enrichment honors point.	1	4	Just add it to your semester James Scholar Plan	A team roster or similar item
#ROTC	Participation in a full semester of Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) on the Illinois campus.	1	4	Just add the experience to your semester James Scholar Plan	Signed letter from your ROTC supervisor verifying involvement through this term
Complete an iBox	iBox is a collection of experiences that encourage you to explore traditions and resources around campus. If you complete a certain number of those experiences within a semester, collectively, they are worth one honors point.	1	2	Add it to your semester James Scholar Plan and download the iBox instructions from the portfolio	Submit your completed iBox document
Complete Wellness Initiative	The Wellness Initiative is a collection of experiences that encourage you to explore a variety of wellness opportunities. If you complete a certain number of those experiences within a semester, collectively, they are worth one honors point.	1	2	Add it to your semester James Scholar Plan and download the Wellness Initiative instructions from the portfolio	Submit your completed Wellness Initiative document

Internships are experiences for academic or enrichment points that allow you to gain skills and explore areas related to your future career goals. They may be paid or unpaid and may also be taken for credit or not. Take a look at [Handshake @ Illinois](#) for some available internship opportunities, and explore additional resources by talking with [LAS Career Services](#).

Experience	Description	Point value per experience	Total points possible	Preapproval required	Final documentation required
#Internship	In order for your internship to be eligible for honors points, you must be able to indicate how your experience is relevant to your discipline and/or future career goals. Complete 50-99 hours of internship in a single semester to earn 1 enrichment point, and a 100+ hour or more internship in a single semester to earn 2 enrichment points.	1-2	4	Submit an Honors Experience Request Form (see pages 30-33)	Documentation from your internship supervisor verifying the number of hours completed

Study abroad experiences can be used as academic points *or* enrichment points. Check out the [Illinois Education Abroad](#) website and [LAS International Programs](#) for more information on study abroad opportunities. Not sure how study abroad can help you achieve your academic and professional goals? Visit [LAS Career Services](#) to investigate and explore.

Experience	Description	Point value per experience	Total points possible	Preapproval required	Final documentation required
#Short-term study abroad	Short-term studies abroad must be university sponsored experiences. There are a lot of short-term LAS Abroad opportunities, including over Winter Break and Spring Break	1	2	Just add the course to your semester James Scholar Plan	None. Points are awarded when final grades are available, and you notify the honors staff of the grade change.
Semester-long study abroad	Students must be studying on university- sanctioned programs to count for honors points.	2	4	Submit proof of acceptance to your study abroad program	None. Points are awarded when final grades are available, and you notify the honors staff of the grade change.

Academic leadership experiences can be used as academic points or enrichment points.

Experience	Description	Point value per experience	Total points possible	Preapproval required	Final documentation required
Serve as an LAS 100/101/102/122 Intern	Rising juniors and seniors are eligible to apply. Applications are available annually beginning in January for the following academic year. Complete 50-99 hours of internship in a single semester to earn 1 academic point, and a 100+ hour or more internship in a single semester to earn 2 academic points.	1-2	4	Just add the intern course to your semester James Scholar Plan in the semester in which you are serving as an intern (not eligible in your training semester)	Documentation from your internship supervisor verifying the number of hours completed.

Electronic Honors Credit Learning Agreement(EHCLA)

The EHCLA is embedded in the James Scholar Portfolio system. When you enter your course number and section into your portfolio in the 2-credit hour honors course, 3+ credit hour honors course, or honors thesis categories the system will recognize whether the section is an integrated honors section or a standard section.

If the course is an **integrated honors course**, no additional information is required, and the course should simply be added to your plan:

It has been detected that this section is marked as an honors section, therefore no EHCLA is required.

Fall 2025 James Scholar options Monique chose in the beginning of the semester.

	Honors option	Point value	Plan details
[X]	2 credit hour honors course with B- or better (Academic)	0/1	PSYC 100 JS - No EHCLA required

If the course is a **standard course**, the system will prompt you to “Describe your project”. This is where you will enter the details of the honors project you are adding to the class to make it eligible for an honors grade. You should include all relevant details of your project.

Subject Code
LAS ▼

Course Number
399 ▼

Section Number
A ▼

Describe your project

Add Course

Once you submit the description of your project, the instructor(s) of record for the course you have selected will be emailed, requesting they review and approve, approve with revisions, or deny your submission. Once your instructor approves your submission, it will come to LAS Honors staff for our review and approval. If your instructor approves your submission with revisions, you will receive an email asking you to review your instructor’s revisions and accept or deny their revisions. You will be notified via email of your instructor’s decision.

If an EHCLA is required for your honors experience, you must submit it by the end of the sixth week of the semester. Your accompanying instructor or faculty member may submit his or her portion after the deadline, but you must submit your portion before the required due date. You cannot submit an EHCLA for a summer term course.

Honors Experience Feedback Form

Listed below are a series of example images to preview what you need to complete an Honors Experience Feedback Form.

Students enter basic information at the top of the form, include selecting their experience from the drop-down.

Additional information is required depending on the experience selected.

The screenshot shows the LAS Honors Experience Feedback Form. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the LAS Honors logo on the left and the words "EMPOWER", "ENLIGHTEN", and "ENGAGE" stacked vertically on the right. Below the header, the title "Honors Experience Feedback" is centered. Underneath the title, the form is titled "Honors Experience Feedback Form". A paragraph explains that LAS Honors recognizes honors experiences as a valuable part of education at Illinois and asks students to use the assessment to reflect on the impact of their experiences. The form contains three numbered questions, each with a red asterisk. Question 1 asks for the semester completed, with a dropdown menu. Question 2 asks for the current year in college, with radio button options for First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth or more, and Other, followed by a text input field. Question 3 asks for the number of semesters participated in the LAS James Scholar Program, with radio button options for 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8.

LAS Honors

EMPOWER
ENLIGHTEN
ENGAGE

Honors Experience Feedback

Honors Experience Feedback Form

LAS Honors recognizes your honors experiences as a valuable part of your education at Illinois. Please use the assessment below to reflect on the ways in which your honors experience(s) this semester have been impactful on your current education and future path (personal or professional). Your feedback will also allow LAS Honors to assess the overall impact of eligible honors experiences.

* 1. Please indicate the semester in which you completed this honors experience.

* 2. Please select your current year in college.

☐ First
☐ Second
☐ Third
☐ Fourth
☐ Fifth or more
☐ Other

* 3. Please select the number of semesters you have participated in the LAS James Scholar Program.

☐ 1-2
☐ 3-4
☐ 5-6
☐ 7-8

Research/Independent Study:

Research/Independent Study

All fields are required.

At the end of the semester you must upload a signed letter from your research/independent study supervisor to your James Scholar Portfolio that verifies the number of hours you completed this term. The supervisor's name, title, and contact information must be clear.

Who will supervise your research/independent study?

Please enter the name of the professor, staff member or graduate student who will supervise your work.

Supervisor Email*

Please enter the email address for the professor, staff member or graduate student who will supervise your work.

Enter the proposed number of hours you will spend conducting research/independent study.

Provide a brief description of what your project will entail.

SUBMIT

Community Service:

Community Service

All fields are required.

Organization you're working with

What's the project you are working on?

Gives us a brief description of your work schedule

We should be able to see from your description that you will be able to complete all of your service hours in this semester. (ex. M-W-F 12pm to 2 pm)

Organization Contact Person Name

Organization Contact Person Email Address*

SUBMIT

Conference Presentation:

Conference Presentation

All fields are required.

Conference Title*

Is this a regional or national conference?*

Regional



Conference Location*

Conference Dates*

Upload documentation of your acceptance to the conference.* No file chosen

This may be an email/letter of acceptance or similar document that clearly indicates you have been accepted to present.

SUBMIT

Internship:

Internship

All fields are required.

Organization Name*

The organization with which you will be completing your internship.

Hours*

Approximately how many hours during the semester will you spend on your internship?

How will this internship experience further your academic or career goals?*

Please upload documentation of your internship offer.* No file chosen

This may be an email offer letter or similar documentation that indicates you have been invited to intern with this organization.

SUBMIT

Students receive email notification of their approved forms.

Completed Internship Form:

Student NetId	Coron.Wardlaw2@uillinois.edu
UIN	
Honors Experience	
Honors Experience	Internship
Internship	
<i>All fields are required.</i>	
Organization Name	
Hours	50
How will this internship experience further your academic or career goals?	
My duties for my environmental communications internship include writing a weekly environmental newsletter, answering employee's questions regarding the environment, and conduct a semi-annual educational presentation on-site in Chicago. My internship is part of the firm's ESG (environmental, social, and governance) initiative. For the environmental newsletter, I am completely responsible for doing the research and choosing what subjects to write about. For each month, I choose a certain theme for the emails, such as environmentalists in American history and deforestation. Although I come up with some themes on my own, I also take suggestions for themes from the company's employees if they express interest in learning more about a particular topic. By interacting with the company's employees and introducing environmental issues to them on a regular basis, I am able to encourage discussions about environmentalism in general at the firm, and I myself am able to understand where common misconceptions about environmental science may come from. Some of the questions I receive are in response to the weekly environmental newsletter; some employees want me to clarify something or to provide additional information on the subject of the newsletter. Other times, the recipients of the newsletter want to discuss a recent news event or ask for my opinion on sustainable products and living. Answering questions helps me find better ways to engage people in conversations about the health of our planet and how our behavior affects it. The internship requires two presentations a year: one in summer and one in winter. Similar to the environmental newsletter, I am free to choose whatever topic I want to discuss during my presentation. Each presentation takes several months of preparation to research and plan, and the target time for each presentation is 45 minutes of speaking followed by time for questions. The presentations occur at the company headquarters in Chicago, and members of other Chicago-based firms often attend as well. The presentations are delivered as "lunch and learns," where food is catered in, often from a vegan restaurant, during the speaking session. The presentation is meant to develop interns' public speaking skills and ability to put together material appropriate for a professional setting.	
Please upload documentation of your internship offer.	
Instructor Approval	
Approval Status	
Instructor Comments	
Honors Director Approval	
Approval Status	Not Approved

Completed Research Form

Student Information	
Student NetId	
UIN	000000000
Honors Experience	
Honors Experience	Research
Research	
<i>All fields are required.</i>	
Who will supervise your research?	
Enter the proposed hours you will spending conducting your research	50
Provide a brief description of what your research will entail.	
Bottlebrush polymers are a new family of stimuli responsive polymers that respond to small external changes in their environment. They are usually capable of conformational changes, reversible solubility control, and reversible self-assembly into polymeric micelles. Synthetically, however, bottlebrush polymers are not trivial to access. The synthesis usually involves the implementation of two orthogonal polymerization techniques involving multiple purification steps. We will develop a new synthesis route to access this polymer topology more easily. Our technique will employ a combination of atom transfer radical polymerization (ATRP) and ring opening polymerization (ROP).	
Instructor Approval	
Approval Status	Approved
Instructor Comments	
Honors Director Approval	
Approval Status	Approved
Notes	

Full four-year examples

EXAMPLE:

Psychology major preparing for graduate school.

Julia is a psychology major. After participating in the James Scholars Student Advisory Board her first year and sophomore year, she became interested in leadership and started participating in the Illinois Leadership Center. She completed an all-day Leadership Lab her sophomore year, and then participated in The LeaderShape Institute her junior year, when she was also JSSAB secretary. She decided that she would feel regret if she didn't take the opportunity to study abroad, so she spent a semester in Barcelona, Spain. During her senior year, she was selected to serve on her sorority's recruitment board in addition to teaching LAS 122. She had banked enough points so that she could focus on applying to the University of Illinois School of Labor and Employment Relations before graduation. She ultimately decided on a career in Human Resources Management.

Year in LAS Honors	Honors points required	Fall semester	Spring semester	Total points earned	
Year 1	4	LAS 122 1 (A) point Participate in JSSAB 1 (E) point	3 credit-hour honors course 2 (A) points	4 points 3 (A) + 1 (E)	
Year 2	8	Participate in JSSAB 1 (E) point	Complete a Leadership Lab 1 (E) point 3 credit-hour honors course	8 points 5 (A) + 3 (E)	
Year 3	12	Serve as JSSAB secretary 1 (E) point 2 credit-hour honors course 1 (A) points	Complete The LeaderShape Institute 2 (E) points Semester long Study Abroad: Barcelona 2 (A) points	12 points 8 (A) + 6 (E)	
Year 4	16	Serve on sorority's recruitment board 1 (E) point Serve as an LAS 122 Intern 2 (A) points	Complete a Professional Program Exam: GRE 1 (A) points	18 points: 11 (A) + 7 (E)	

EXAMPLE:**Global studies major entering a think tank in Washington, D.C.**

Matt is a global studies major. His thematic focus is on environmental sustainability, and after volunteering with the Student Sustainability Farm, he knew he was on the right track. After submitting an EHCLA and completing his honors project, he had banked 5 points by the end of his first year. In Matt's second year, he continued to volunteer with the Student Sustainability Farm and decided to study abroad in Rome to learn more about food sustainability. He had taken a political science course before, but when he came back from Italy, he knew he wanted to add political science as a second major in LAS. He did an honors project for PS 280 his junior year and earned the points he needed to continue as a James Scholar. Matt was so excited when he started the Illinois in Washington Program, studying and interning in the United States capitol. This was a fantastic opportunity to prepare him to work at a think tank in Washington, D.C.

Year in LAS Honors	Honors points required	Fall semester	Spring semester	Total points earned	
Year 1	4	LAS 122 1 (A) point Complete the Wellness Initiative 1 (E) point	Volunteer for 20 hours with the Student Sustainability Farm 1 (E) point 3 credit-hour honors course 2 (A) points	5 points: 3 (A) + 2 (E)	
Year 2	8	Volunteer for 20 hours with the Student Sustainability Farm 1 (E) point	Study abroad in Italy: Rome – Sustainable Italian Food Systems 2 (A) points	8 points: 5 (A) + 3 (E)	
Year 3	12	Serve as an LAS 122 Intern 2 (E) point GLBL 298: Sustainability in the Bahamas study abroad over Winter Break 1 (E) point	3 credit-hour honors course 2 (A) points	13 points: 7 (A) + 6 (E)	
Year 4	16	Internship in Washington, D.C. with Illinois in Washington Program 2 (E) points	Complete second major 1 (A) point 3 credit-hour honors course 2 (A) points	18 points: 10 (A) + 8 (E)	

EXAMPLE:**MCB major on a Pre-Med track.**

Divya is a molecular & cellular biology major. She **transferred** from UIC after her freshman year and entered as a James Scholar. Because of this, she never took LAS 122. After completing the MCB study abroad program in Stockholm, Sweden, she forgot to submit an Honors Experience Request Form for her faculty-led research. Luckily, she was enrolled in an integrated honors course, and had banked enough points so that it didn't prevent her from being certified as a James Scholar. In her senior year, she was able to earn points by completing the MCAT to apply for medical schools, serve on the executive board for her professional Pre-Med fraternity and complete her senior thesis. She was only at Illinois for three years, so she is only required to earn 12 points for James Scholar Graduation Honors.

Year in LAS Honors	Honors points required	Fall semester	Spring semester	Total points earned	
Year 1	4	Participate in JSSAB 1 (E) point Complete a Leadership Lab 1 (E) point	3 credit-hour honors course 2 (A) points	4 points: 2 (A) + 2 (E)	
Year 2	8	Study abroad in Stockholm 2 (E) point	Faculty-led research 2 (A) points 3 credit-hour honors course 2 (A) points	8 points: 4 (A) + 4 (E)	
Year 3	12	Complete a professional program exam: MCAT 1 (A) point 100 hrs. Faculty-led research 2 (A) point	Complete a senior thesis 2 (A) points Hold an office in Phi Delta Epsilon 1 (E) point	14 points: 9 (A) + 5 (E)	

EXAMPLE:**Classics major finding her way.**

Vanessa ICT'd into LAS from another college of campus her fall semester freshman year. The 3 credit-hour honors course completed in the fall before ICTing into LAS was retroactively added to her fall semester portfolio by the honors team, helping her to earn her 4 points for her first year in the program. She was so excited when she was accepted to the Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program (URAP) to assist a graduate mentor and was able to use it as an honors experience in addition to deciding whether she enjoyed academic research for a possible career path. Vanessa had always enjoyed performing, so it made sense to use an official university-sponsored musical and her executive board position in Illini Student Musicals for honors points. With the completion of her philosophy major in addition to her classics major, she reached the number of academic and enrichment points necessary to graduate as a James Scholar.

Year in LAS Honors	Honors points required	Fall semester	Spring semester	Total points earned	
Year 1	4	3 credit-hour honors course 2 (A) points	Volunteer for 20 hours with a local high school theater program 1 (E) point Complete the iBox 1 (E) point	4 points 2 (A) + 2 (E)	✓
Year 2	8	3 credit-hour honors course 2 (A) points	Research (URAP) 2 (A) points	8 points 6 (A) + 2 (E)	✓
Year 3	12	Perform in a musical at Krannert 1 (E) point 2 credit-hour honors course 1 (A) point	3 credit-hour honors course 2 (A) points	12 points 9 (A) + 3 (E)	✓
Year 4	16	Illini Student Musicals executive board 1 (E) point Serve as an LAS 101 intern 2 (E) points	Illini Student Musicals executive board 1 (E) point Complete second major 1 (A) point	17 points 10 (A) + 7 (E)	✓

Make your own plan

Year in LAS Honors	Honors points required	Fall semester	Spring semester	Total points earned	
Year 1	4				
Year 2	8				
Year 3	12				
Year 4	16				

Frequently asked questions (FAQ)

What's so special about being a James Scholar?

- Specialized faculty engagement through honors courses and research experiences
- Individualized education and control over your own honors path
- Interdisciplinary education through honors experiences that encourage you to think across traditional academic boundaries
- Undergraduate research is supported and encouraged, including presenting at conferences, and publishing your own work
- Co-curricular experiences through campus engagement, leadership, and community service
- Preparation for graduate and professional school
- James Scholars get priority course registration (you can register for classes within the first two days that registration is available for the following semester)

What does it mean to graduate as a James Scholar?

Graduating James Scholars are recognized with a medallion that they wear as part of their regalia at commencement. Graduating James Scholars and their families are also invited to attend an LAS Honors Ceremony to recognize their achievements before spring commencement. Read more about college distinctions for James Scholars [here](#).

Beyond the graduation regalia, graduating as a James Scholar means you were invested in your education. You wanted to engage above and beyond in your academics and extracurricular opportunities available.

How many honors points do I need each *semester*?

You technically are **not required** to earn a certain number of honors points each semester, but you must earn at least 4 honors points each year in order to reach the specified number of points needed for certification at the end of each academic year.

How many honors points do I need each year?

Check out the detailed description of [the points system](#) on page 7.

Can I earn more than four honors points each year?

Yes, students can bank points, but not borrow. Students may bank more than four points in a year and that will decrease the number of points required of them in the following year.

Banking points allows the option to not submit any honors experiences in a future term. See page 8-9 for further information and examples.

What happens if I don't fulfill my requirements?

Students may or may not be allowed to petition for a probationary semester if they did not fulfill the specified requirements for the LAS James Scholar Program. In order to be considered for a probationary semester, the student must have met at least one of the requirements for certification (either the required number of honors points, or the required GPA). If the student met the GPA requirement and half of the required points, he or she can petition. If the student achieved the required honors points, but earned between 3.10-3.29 Illinois cumulative GPA, he or she can petition. If the student only has 1 or less honors points for the year, and a GPA below 3.30 for the academic year, he or she is **not** eligible to petition for a probationary semester.

What if my major requires honors courses, but I've completed the 8 maximum points for 3+ credit hour courses?

If you have reached your limit of points required for our program, you are still allowed to enroll in honors courses using the (o) zero-point honors course option. This option is located in the portfolio system, at the bottom of the drop-down menu for honors options, and can be added to your portfolio during the first six weeks of any term.

What if I self-nominated?

If you self-nominated to be a James Scholar, you most likely won't be on campus for four years, which means your impending James Scholar Graduation Honors won't be 16 points, but instead either 8 or 12 points. Check out an example of a self-nominated student [here](#).

What if I transferred?

If you transferred to the College of LAS as a James Scholar, then you only need to worry about earning the required number of points for the years you have left until graduation.

Are summer experiences eligible for honors points?

Yes, with some exceptions. Please see page 7 and the academic and enrichment point category tables that begin on pages 15 and 23 respectively for further information.

How can I meet other James Scholars?

Get on the James Scholar Student Advisory Board (JSSAB) mailing list to find out about activities and events with other James Scholars. Contact JSSAB at lasjssab@gmail.com.

How do I get to the online James Scholar Portfolio?

The James Scholar Portfolio system is linked [here](#), and is also included in any LAS Honors emails reminding you of your requirements at the beginning and the end of each semester.

Contact information

Address:

LAS Honors
2002 Lincoln Hall, MC-448
702 S. Wright Street
Urbana, IL 61801

Phone:

(217) 333-1158

Email:

lashonors@illinois.edu

Advising:

LAS Honors offers walk-in advising hours during the fall and spring terms. Please check the [About LAS Honors](#) website for the most updated walk-in advising hours.

Schedule appointments with LAS Honors staff [can do so online](#) starting the third week of the fall or spring term or by email during the summer. Select "LAS Honors" from the pull-down calendar option. Please note appointments will not be available during the first 10 days of the semester.

Campus Resources

Getting Around	Wellness
Campus Map MTD Bus System	Campus Recreation Campus Safety Counseling Center McKinley Health Center
Academic Support	Student Support
Computer Labs LAS Departmental Advising LAS Honors LAS Student Academic Affairs Office Libraries Writers Workshop	Asian American Cultural Center Bruce Nesbitt African American Cultural Center Student Success, Inclusion & Belonging Chez Veterans Center Disability Resources & Educational Services International Student & Scholar Services Gender and Sexuality Resource Center La Casa Cultural Latina Native American House Office of the Dean of Students Office of Minority Student Affairs (OMSA) Off-Campus Community Living Student Legal Services
Extra-curricular Support	Sights Around Campus
Career Center Illinois Education Abroad Illinois Leadership Center LAS Career Services LAS International Programs Office of Civic Life (OCL) Student Organizations (SODA) University of Illinois Alumni Association	Illini Union Krannert Art Museum Krannert Performing Arts Center Spurlock Museum State Farm Center