

**LAS HONORS**  
**Student Handbook**

AY 2019-2020

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## What is LAS Honors?

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The mission of the James Scholar Program 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.

We strive to assist our students in defining their role as active learners, critical thinkers, and influential leaders. The LAS James Scholar Program 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 Honors provides and supports ways for our students to do more, go farther, and become their very best.

Benefits of the LAS James Scholar Program include:

- Priority registration
- LAS 122, a special course designed for incoming LAS Honors students taught by upperclass James Scholars
- Qualify to apply to live in the Honors LLC
- Unique courses and sections reserved for LAS Honors students
- Opportunity to apply for the James Scholar Preble Research Scholarship
- LAS Honors study abroad and experiential learning courses
- Opportunity to graduate with Honors
- Belonging to the LAS Honors community (we're great)

Responsibilities of belonging to the LAS James Scholar program include:

- Maintain a 3.5 GPA
- Adhere to academic integrity standards in the Student Code of Conduct
- Be enrolled full time unless otherwise approved by the College of LAS
- Maintain your portfolio (earn 4 points per year)
- Engage in both academic and enrichment experiences

## Empower, enlighten, engage

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The LAS James Scholar program focuses on academics and enrichment as its two central pillars. To be an Honors student does not mean that you are doing more work. It means that you are working differently – you’re going deeper, making connections between subject areas, engaging in more complex thinking, and connecting it with the world around you. Your academic coursework, which you will undertake in Honors courses with other James Scholars, 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, doing research in labs, completing presentations at conferences, publishing, and for engaging in an array of other activities.

As an LAS James Scholar, we also ask you 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 in a Registered Student Organization, community service, ROTC, and numerous other forms of leadership. Through this involvement, we forge connections with one another and find our voices within it. The LAS Honors 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. Our Honors 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 Honors 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.

*Dr. Kate Krueger* is the Director of LAS Honors. A former English professor, her favorite part of Honors is imagining, organizing, and teaching courses and programs that encourage us to engage with each other and with the world. She spends her free time reading lots and lots of books and hanging out with her partner and little boy.

*Allison Holden* is the Associate Director of LAS Honors. She has a Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership. Her favorite part of Honors is one-on-one advising, because she gets to meet all of our amazing students and learn about how they’re doing. She spends her free time drinking coffee or at home with her partner and two daughters (preferably in the backyard).

*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 watching her son play college soccer or walking around with a camera in her hand.

## James Scholar program requirements

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### ***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 cumulative University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign GPA of 3.50 at the end of every academic year to meet the GPA requirement of the James Scholar Program in LAS. At the completion of their first semester at Illinois, first-year LAS James Scholars must have an Illinois cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 in order to continue as a James Scholar.

### ***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.

## The points system

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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 at graduation.

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 years as LAS James Scholar: 12 honors points – 8 academic and 4 enrichment
- 2 years as LAS James Scholar: 8 honors points – 5 academic and 3 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. James Scholars should schedule a James Scholar Graduation Review with LAS Honors staff during their senior year to review remaining requirements. With these milestones in mind, students should be able to be proactive and plan ahead.

### ***Summer Experiences***

Summer experiences are eligible for honors points in limited categories (see pages 13-27 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 consideration 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 |  |
|-------------|--------|--------|-------|--|
|-------------|--------|--------|-------|--|

| 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 the specified number of points by the end of each year. Keep in mind that even if you have banked points, you still must earn at least **1** honors point each year to 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

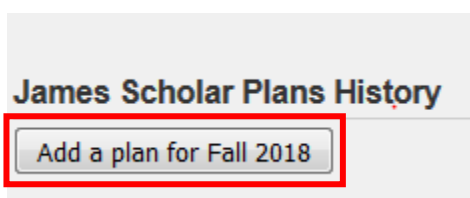
The [James Scholar Portfolio system](#) allows you to submit a James Scholar Plan each semester. After logging in with your NetID and password, you can see your James Scholar Semester History, any Student Notes, and your previous semester James Scholar Plans. You can view old plans as well as edit your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

### IMPORTANT DEADLINES

**By the 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 will be provided during the spring term.



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 pre-approval materials need to be submitted by the sixth week deadline.

Example: Select research from the drop-down menu (right).

Instructions for pre-approval and submission to plan (below).

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/](https://apps.atlas.illinois.edu/FormBuilderSurvey/Survey/LAS_Administration/Honors/Honors_Experience_Request_Form/)

**By the end of the fall and spring semester\* (last day of final exams):**

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 during the spring term.

Add a plan for Summer 2018

| Action | Term code   | Academic points | Enrichment points | Added on/by    |
|--------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| [edit] | Spring 2018 |                 | 0/4               | Jan 17 2018 11 |

Add a plan for Spring 2018

| Action | Term code | Academic points | Enrichment points | Added on/by     |
|--------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| [edit] | Fall 2017 | 4               | 1                 | Aug 29 2017 6:4 |

Add a plan for Fall 2017

| Honors option  | Point value |
|--|-------------|
| [X] Complete a PREAPPROVED 100 hour internship (Enrichment)  | 0/2         |
| <i>Additional information about this option</i><br><a href="https://apps.atlas.illinois.edu/FormBuilderSurvey/Survey/LAS_Administration/Honors/Honors_Experience_Request_Form/">https://apps.atlas.illinois.edu/FormBuilderSurvey/Survey/LAS_Administration/Honors/Honors_Experience_Request_Form/</a>   |             |
| <b>At the end of the semester</b><br>In order to earn an honors point(s) for this experience, you MUST complete the following steps by the last day of finals on the Illinois campus this semester.<br>You must complete the Honors Experience Survey for every experience you intend to use for honors points this semester: <a href="http://go.illinois.edu/las-honors-experie">http://go.illinois.edu/las-honors-experie</a><br>You must also upload a signed letter from your internship supervisor verifying that you interned at least 100 hours this semester. The supervisor's name, title, an<br><a href="#">Upload your documentation</a><br>Sen. Bennett internship hours ██████████ Hours.pdf  |             |
| [X] Leadership activities (ie: leadership position in RSO) (Enrichment)  | 0/1         |
| <b>At the end of the semester</b><br>In order to earn an honors point(s) for this experience, you MUST complete the following steps by the last day of finals on the Illinois campus this semester.<br>You must complete the Honors Experience Survey for every experience you intend to use for honors points this semester: <a href="http://go.illinois.edu/las-honors-experie">http://go.illinois.edu/las-honors-experie</a><br>You must also provide supporting documentation that indicates your role with the group such as communication announcing your election to office or screenshot the organization; 3) your position; 4) that this is a position you held THIS semester. Please also include a brief paragraph that tells us a little about what you do in role).<br><a href="#">Upload your documentation</a><br>Phi Eta Sigma: Executive Board PROOF : PES PROOF 2018.pdf |             |
| [X] Holding an office in JSSAB (Enrichment)  | 0/1         |
| <b>At the end of the semester</b><br>In order to earn an honors point(s) for this experience, you MUST complete the following steps by the last day of finals on the Illinois campus this semester.<br>You must complete the Honors Experience Survey for every experience you intend to use for honors points this semester: <a href="http://go.illinois.edu/las-honors-experie">http://go.illinois.edu/las-honors-experie</a>  |             |

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:   |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ First year as LAS James Scholar: 4 pts</li> <li>▪ Second year as LAS James Scholar: 8 pts</li> <li>▪ Third year as LAS James Scholar: 12 pts</li> <li>▪ Fourth year as LAS James Scholar: 16 pts</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 4 years as LAS James Scholar = 10 (A) + 6 (E)</li> <li>▪ 3 years as LAS James Scholar = 8 (A) + 4 (E)</li> <li>▪ 2 years as LAS James Scholar = 5 (A) + 3 (E)</li> <li>▪ 1 year as LAS James Scholar = 3 (A) + 1 (E)</li> </ul> |

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. This final date 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, and his instructor can complete her portion of the form at a later time.

| Experience                         | Description  | Point value per experience | Total points possible | Preapproval required  | Final documentation required   |
|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|
| <b>LAS 122</b>                     | 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 |
| <b>2 credit-hour honors course</b> | 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 |
| <b>3 credit-hour honors course</b> | 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.  |   |  |   |   |
| <b>2-3 credit-hour honors course</b> | The same category as the 2 credit-hour and 3 credit-hour course options, <b>but ONLY</b> 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, and follow the above directions.                                  | 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    |
| <b>REACT for Chemistry</b>           | 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    |
| <b>500-level course</b>              | 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.  | 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 |
| <b>Honors LLC course</b>             | Only Honors Living Learning Community (LLC) members are eligible to enroll in these courses. Please consult with the   | 1 | 1  | None, just add the course to your semester James                            | None, earn a B- or higher in the course to be                                 |

|  |  |  |  |              |                              |
|--|--|--|--|--------------|------------------------------|
|  | Honors LLC for additional information on the course. |  |  | Scholar Plan | 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](#). Visit the [LAS Life + Career Design Lab](#) to learn how to reach out to faculty about potential research opportunities.

| Experience   | Description  | Point value per experience | Total points possible | Preapproval required                                       | Final documentation required  |
|--|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| <b>#Faculty-directed independent study or research</b> | 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 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                        | 4                     | Submit an Honors Experience Request Form (see pages 29-32) | If enrolled in credit hours, no documentation is required. If not enrolled in credit hours, provide a signed letter from your research supervisor verifying the number of research hours completed. |
| <b>#Presentation at a regional conference</b>          | The Undergraduate Research Symposium on campus each spring is eligible in this category. The regional conference must be preapproved with an Honors Experience Request Form.   | 1                          | 2                     | Submit an Honors Experience Request Form (see pages 29-32) | Submit a copy of the conference program.  |



|  |  |   |   |  |   |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| <b>#Presentation at a national conference</b>              | 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.                                    |
| <b>#Publication in an undergraduate journal or website</b> | To count in this category, your work should be selected for publication through a peer review process. Check out <a href="#">these undergraduate research journals on campus</a> . 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.                           |
| <b>#Publication in a professional journal or website</b>   | 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.                           |
| <b>Honors Thesis or Senior Project</b>                     | 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  |
|--|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|---|---|
| <b>Applying for a nationally competitive scholarship or fellowship</b> | Scholarships eligible for this category are limited to those administered by the <a href="#">National and International Scholarships Program</a> . You <b>must work with that office on your application</b> 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.   |
| <b>Induction into a departmental or professional Honors Society</b>    | 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                          | 1                     | Submit the name and invitation of your honors society   | Submit documentation that shows verification of your induction.         |
| <b>Complete second major</b>   | You can earn 1 academic honors point during the semester that you are completing the second major (typically your <b>final semester</b> ).   | 1                          | 1                     | Submit the name of your second major  | None. Completion of your last semester provides necessary verification. |
| <b>Complete dual degree</b>  | You can earn 2 academic points during the semester that you are completing your dual degree (typically your final semester). Find the instructions <a href="#">here</a> 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. |

|  |   |   |   |  |  |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| <b>Complete an entrance or professional program exam</b>       | 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 | 1 | Submit documentation that shows registration of exam.      | Submit verification or receipt of exam completion (no scores are necessary). |
| <b>Student teach/complete secondary education requirements</b> | <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.  |

**Study abroad** experiences can be used as academic points *or* enrichment points. Check out the [Illinois Abroad and Global Exchange](#) 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 the [LAS Life + Career Design Lab](#) to investigate and explore.

| Experience                        | Description   | Point value per experience | Total points possible | Preapproval required                                    | Final documentation required   |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|
| <b>#Short-term study abroad</b>   | 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. |
| <b>Semester-long study abroad</b> | Students must be studying on university-sanctioned programs to count for honors points.   | 2                          | 6                     | Submit proof of acceptance to your study abroad         | None. Points are awarded when final grades are available,  |

|  |  |  |  |         |  |
|--|--|--|--|---------|--|
|  |  |  |  | program | 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 |
|---|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <b>Serve as an LAS 100/101/102/122 Intern</b> | Rising juniors and seniors are eligible to apply. Applications are available annually beginning in January for the following academic year. This experience is eligible for academic points <u>or</u> enrichment points. | 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) | None                         |

## 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<br>(may be any combination of A or E categories):   | Points by Graduation for James Scholar Graduation Honors:  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ First year as LAS James Scholar: 4 pts</li> <li>▪ Second year as LAS James Scholar: 8 pts</li> <li>▪ Third year as LAS James Scholar: 12 pts</li> <li>▪ Fourth year as LAS James Scholar: 16 pts</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 4 years as LAS James Scholar = 10 (A) + 6 (E)</li> <li>▪ 3 years as LAS James Scholar = 8 (A) + 4 (E)</li> <li>▪ 2 years as LAS James Scholar = 5 (A) + 3 (E)</li> <li>▪ 1 year as LAS James Scholar = 3 (A) + 1 (E)</li> </ul> |

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 Volunteer Programs](#) website, or [CUVolunteer](#). 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   |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| <b>#Community Service</b>         | 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                        |
| <b>Alternative seasonal break</b> | To be eligible for honors points, the experience must be sponsored by the University of Illinois.   | 1                          | 2                     | Submit an Honors Experience Request Form (see pages 30-33) | Signed letter from a coordinator of the experience verifying that you participated |

**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  |
|--|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|---|---|
| <b>Participate in a day-long leadership program (I-Program, for example)</b> | Participation in a day-long leadership program hosted by the Illinois Leadership Center can earn you 1 point. Please see the <a href="#">I-Programs website</a> 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   |
| <b>Full participation in The Institute by LeaderShape</b>                    | The application for The Institute by LeaderShape is available each fall semester through the LAS Honors Office. Please see the <a href="#">LEADERSHAPE website</a> for more information.  | 2                          | 2                     | Just add the experience to your semester James Scholar Plan.    | Completion certificate or group photo from the program  |
| <b>Hold an office on the JSSAB</b>   | Information about getting involved with the <a href="#">James Scholars Student Advisory Board</a> will be made available via email each semester.   | 1                          | 2                     | Just add it to your semester James Scholar Plan.                | Verified by the JSSAB executive board   |
| <b>Serve as JSSAB Peer Mentor</b>  | Information about getting involved with the <a href="#">James Scholar Student Advisory Board</a> 's 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 LAS Honors Office staff   |
| <b>Hold a leadership position in Employment</b>                              | Students who hold leadership positions in the employment setting, such as shift leader or assistant manager, can earn 1 point for 50 hours and 2 points for 100   | 1-2                        | 4                     | Upload verification of your offer of employment, including your | Signed letter from the employment supervisor verifying that your role and how many hours were |

|  |  |   |   |  |   |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|
|  | hours.   |   |   | position title.  | completed   |
| <b>#Other leadership activities</b>  | For example, you can earn 1 point for serving in a leadership position in a registered student organization or other student organization.## | 1 | 2 | Just add it to your semester James Scholar Plan                  | Documentation that indicates your role with the group |
| <i>##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.</i> |  |   |   |  |   |
| <b>Serve as an undergraduate teaching assistant</b>  | 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 | None  |

**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   |
|--|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|
| <b>Participate in JSSAB</b>  | Earn an enrichment point through attending <a href="#">James Scholars Student Advisory Board</a> events. Information will be made available via email each term. | 1                          | 2                     | Just add the experience to your semester James Scholar Plan | Will be verified with JSSAB executive board                          |
| <b>Perform in a university-sponsored concert, play, or recital</b> | Orchestra, Marching Illini, student organizations that perform, etc. are all eligible in this category.  | 1                          | 2                     | Just add the experience to your semester James Scholar Plan | Documentation of you as a performer such as a program from the event |
| <b>Having a piece of</b>   | An item, such as a program from the  | 1                          | 2                     | Just add the  | Documentation of   |



|  |   |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>art displayed at a university gallery or exhibit</b>  | event opening, that indicates you as a contributing artist will count as proof.   |   |   | experience to your semester James Scholar Plan  | your participation such as a program from the event                             |
| <b>Full season of intramural, club, or varsity sport</b> | Participation in a full season sponsored by the University of Illinois can earn you 1 enrichment honors point.  | 1 | 2 | Just add it to your semester James Scholar Plan   | A team roster or similar item   |
| <b>ROTC</b>  | 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 |
| <b>Complete an iBox</b>                                  | 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   |
| <b>Complete Wellness Initiative</b>                      | 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 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 visiting the [LAS Life + Career Design Lab](#).

| Experience         | Description  | Point value per experience | Total points possible | Preapproval required                                       | Final documentation required  |
|--------------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| <b>#Internship</b> | 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 at least a 50 hour 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) | Signed letter 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 Abroad and Global Exchange](#) 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 the [LAS Life + Career Design Lab](#) to investigate and explore.

| Experience                      | Description   | Point value per experience | Total points possible | Preapproval required                                    | Final documentation required  |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|---|---|
| <b>#Short-term study abroad</b> | Short-term studies abroad must be university sponsored experiences. There are a lot of short-term LAS Abroad opportunities, including over Winter | 1                          | 2                     | Just add the course to your semester James Scholar Plan | None. Points cannot be awarded until final grades are available for |

|                                   |   |   |   |   |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
|                                   | Break and Spring Break.   |   |   |   | this experience.   |
| <b>Semester-long study abroad</b> | 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 cannot be awarded until final grades are available for this experience. |

**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 |
|---|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <b>Serve as an LAS 100/101/102/122 Intern</b> | Rising juniors and seniors are eligible to apply. Applications are available annually beginning in January for the following academic year. This experience is eligible for academic points <u>or</u> enrichment points. | 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) | None                         |

## 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 2018 James Scholar options Sam chose in the beginning of the semester.**

|       | Honors option  | Point value | Plan details                  |
|-------|--|-------------|-------------------------------|
| [ X ] | 3+ credit honors course with B- or better (Academic) | 0/2         | LAS 399 E - 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

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 your 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.

## Honors Experience Request Form

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

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

The screenshot shows the top portion of the Honors Experience Request Form. The header is a red banner with the text "Honors Experience Request Form" and the "I LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES" logo. Below the banner is a breadcrumb trail: "Honors Experience Request Form / New Form". The main content area is titled "Student Information" and contains the following fields:

- Student NetId\***: A text input field.
- UIN\***: A text input field.
- Honors Experience**: A dropdown menu with the following options:
  - Alternative Seasonal Break
  - Community Service
  - Conference Presentation
  - Internship

Additional information is required depending on the experience selected.

### Alternative Seasonal Break:

The screenshot shows the "Alternative Seasonal Break" section of the form. It includes the following fields and instructions:

- Alternative Seasonal Break**: Section title.
- All fields are required.*: Instructional text.
- Organization leading the Alternative Seasonal Break**: A text input field.
- Where will your service take place?**: A text input field.
- When will this experience take place?**: A text input field.
- What project will you be working on? Provide a brief description of the work you will do.**: A text input field.
- Organization Contact Person Name**: A text input field.
- Organization Contact Person Email Address**: A text input field with the example value "user@example.com".

## 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**

## Conference Presentation:

**Conference Presentation**

*All fields are required.*

**Conference Title\***

**Is this a regional or national conference?\***  ▼

**Conference Location\***

**Conference Dates\***

**Upload documentation of your acceptance to the conference.\***

No file selected.

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

## 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.\***

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

## 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. Alternatively, if you enrolled in research credit hours for this experience, completion of this experience can instead be verified through successful completion of the course (in this case no additional documentation need be provided at the end of your experience).

**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.**

Students receive email notification of their approved forms.

## Completed Internship Form:

Student NetId  
Seren Wadood (swadood2@illinois.edu)

UIN

**Honors Experience**

Honors Experience  
Internship

**Internship**

*All fields are required.*

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:

|  |
|--|
| <b>Student Information</b>   |
| Student NetId<br>[REDACTED]  |
| UIN<br>[REDACTED]  |
| <b>Honors Experience</b>   |
| Honors Experience<br>Research  |
| <b>Research</b>  |
| <i>All fields are required.</i>  |
| Who will supervise your research?<br>[REDACTED]  |
| Enter the proposed hours you will spending conducting your research<br>50  |
| Provide a brief description of what your research will entail.<br>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). |
| <b>Instructor Approval</b>   |
| Approval Status<br>Approved  |
| Instructor Comments  |
| <b>Honors Director Approval</b>  |
| Approval Status<br>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 I-Program her sophomore year, and then participated in The Institute by LeaderShape 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<br>1 (A) point<br>Participate in JSSAB<br>1 (E) point                                      | 3 credit-hour honors course<br>2 (A) points  | 4 points<br>3 (A) + 1 (E)  | ✓ |
| Year 2             | 8                      | Participate in JSSAB<br>1 (E) point  | Complete an I-Program<br>1 (E) point<br>3 credit-hour honors course<br>2 (A) points                            | 8 points<br>5 (A) + 3 (E)  | ✓ |
| Year 3             | 12                     | Serve as JSSAB secretary<br>1 (E) point<br>2 credit-hour honors course<br>1 (A) points             | Complete The Institute by LeaderShape<br>2 (E) points<br>Semester long Study Abroad: Barcelona<br>2 (A) points | 12 points<br>8 (A) + 6 (E) | ✓ |
| Year 4             | 16                     | Serve on sorority's recruitment board<br>1 (E) point<br>Serve as an LAS 122 Intern<br>2 (A) points | Complete a Professional Program Exam: GRE<br>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 his Alternative Spring Break, 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. He started to get involved 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.

| <b>Year in LAS Honors</b> | <b>Honors points required</b> | <b>Fall semester</b>   | <b>Spring semester</b>   | <b>Total points earned</b> |   |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|---|
| Year 1                    | 4                             | LAS 122<br>1 (A) point<br><br>Complete the Wellness Initiative<br>1 (E) point  | Alternative Spring Break<br>1 (E) point<br><br>3 credit-hour honors course<br>2 (A) points | 5 points: 3 (A) + 2 (E)    | ✓ |
| Year 2                    | 8                             | Volunteer for 20 hours with the Student Sustainability Farm<br>1 (E) point   | Study abroad in Italy: Rome – Sustainable Italian Food Systems<br>2 (A) points             | 8 points: 5 (A) + 3 (E)    | ✓ |
| Year 3                    | 12                            | Serve as an LAS 122 Intern<br>2 (E) point<br><br>GLBL 298: Sustainability in the Bahamas study abroad over Winter Break<br>1 (E) point | 3 credit-hour honors course<br>2 (A) points  | 13 points: 7 (A) + 6 (E)   | ✓ |
| Year 4                    | 16                            | Internship in Washington, D.C. with Illinois in Washington Program<br>2 (E) points   | Complete second major<br>1 (A) point<br><br>3 credit-hour honors course<br>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 the UofI 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<br>1 (E) point<br><br>Complete an I-Program<br>1 (E) point                               | 3 credit-hour honors course<br>2 (A) points  | 4 points:<br>2 (A) + 2 (E)  | ✓ |
| Year 2             | 8                      | Study abroad in Stockholm<br>2 (E) point  | <del>Faculty-led research</del><br>2 (A) points<br><br>3 credit-hour honors course<br>2 (A) points | 8 points:<br>4 (A) + 4 (E)  | ✓ |
| Year 3             | 12                     | Complete a professional program exam: MCAT<br>1 (A) point<br><br>100 hrs. Faculty-led research<br>2 (A) point | Complete a senior thesis<br>2 (A) points<br><br>Hold an office in Phi Delta Epsilon<br>1 (E) point | 14 points:<br>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 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.

| <b>Year in LAS Honors</b> | <b>Honors points required</b> | <b>Fall semester</b>   | <b>Spring semester</b>   | <b>Total points earned</b>  |   |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|---|
| Year 1                    | 4                             | 3 Credit-hour honors course<br>2 (A) points  | Alternative Seasonal Break<br>1 (E) point<br>Complete the iBox<br>1 (E) point                  | 4 points<br>2 (A) + 2 (E)   | ✓ |
| Year 2                    | 8                             | 3 Credit-hour honors course<br>2 (A) points  | Research (URAP)<br>2 (A) points  | 8 points<br>6 (A) + 2 (E)   | ✓ |
| Year 3                    | 12                            | Perform in a musical at Krannert<br>1 (E) point<br>2 Credit-hour honors course<br>1 (A) point        | 3 Credit-hour honors course<br>2 (A) points  | 12 points<br>9 (A) + 3 (E)  | ✓ |
| Year 4                    | 16                            | Illini Student Musicals executive board<br>1 (E) point<br>Serve as an LAS 101 Intern<br>2 (E) points | Illini Student Musicals executive board<br>1 (E) point<br>Complete second major<br>1 (A) point | 17 points<br>10 (A) + 7 (E) | ✓ |

### Make your own plan

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| 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)

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### 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](#).

### 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. If you have banked honors points, you must still earn at least 1 honors point each year to maintain your status.

### How many honors points do I need each year?

Check out the detailed description of [the points system](#) on page 6.

### 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 7 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 LAS Honors. 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 3.25-3.49 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 3.50 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 examples of self-nominated students [here](#) and [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. Check out examples of transferred students [here](#) and [here](#).

### **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 13 and 21 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](mailto: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

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**Address:**

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

**Phone:**

(217) 333-1158

**Email:**

[lashonors@illinois.edu](mailto: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

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Getting Around</b>   | <b>Wellness</b>  |
| <a href="#">Campus Map</a><br><a href="#">MTD Bus System</a>  | <a href="#">Campus Recreation</a><br><a href="#">Campus Safety</a><br><a href="#">Counseling Center</a><br><a href="#">McKinley Health Center</a>  |
| <b>Academic Support</b>   | <b>Student Support</b>   |
| <a href="#">Computer Labs</a><br><a href="#">LAS Departmental Advising</a><br><a href="#">LAS Honors</a><br><a href="#">LAS Student Academic Affairs Office</a><br><a href="#">Libraries</a><br><a href="#">Writers Workshop</a>  | <a href="#">Asian American Cultural Center</a><br><a href="#">Bruce Nesbitt African American Cultural Center</a><br><a href="#">Disability Resources &amp; Educational Services</a><br><a href="#">International Student &amp; Scholar Services</a><br><a href="#">LGBT Resource Center</a><br><a href="#">La Casa Cultural Latina</a><br><a href="#">Native American House</a><br><a href="#">Office of the Dean of Students</a><br><a href="#">Office of Minority Student Affairs (OMSA)</a><br><a href="#">Off-Campus-Community Living</a><br><a href="#">Student Legal Service</a><br><a href="#">Veteran Student Support Services</a><br><a href="#">Women's Resources Center</a> |
| <b>Extra-curricular Support</b>   | <b>Sights Around Campus</b>  |
| <a href="#">Career Center</a><br><a href="#">Illinois Abroad &amp; Global Exchange</a><br><a href="#">Illinois Leadership Center</a><br><a href="#">Life &amp; Career Design Lab</a><br><a href="#">Office of Registered Organizations</a><br><a href="#">Office of Volunteer Programs</a><br><a href="#">University of Illinois Alumni Association</a> | <a href="#">Krannert Art Museum</a><br><a href="#">Krannert Performing Arts Center</a><br><a href="#">Spurlock Museum</a>  |