Honors & Scholars Leadership Institute: Washington DC

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
From government hallways to research labs, corporate boardrooms to performance stages, leadership can be found in any profession or academic field. The Honors & Scholars Leadership Institute: DC offers students in their second or third year of an Honors or Scholars program the opportunity to explore leadership through the lens of our nation’s capital. In Spring Semester students will take ESHESA 2570: Team and Organization Leadership, focusing on leadership theory, developing professional skills, learning about DC, and building community. During May Session students will spend two weeks in DC visiting government agencies, non-profit groups, and private firms, and will participate in related leadership activities.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS
I. ESHESA 2570 (Spring Semester, 2016. 3 credit graded course, Mondays 4:10-5:05pm)
   Through this course students will explore the theory related to and skills necessary for the practice of leadership in organizational settings, with a focus on the Strengths based model of leadership. Part of the course will be used to learn about the multiple identities of Washington, DC (nation's capital, federal municipality, hub for research/arts/business, etc.) and to build community Honors & Scholars style. Over the course of the term students will put together an itinerary of visits and meetings with DC offices specific to each student’s individual academic and professional interests.

II. DC Trip (May Session, May 8-21, 2016)
   Designed as a professional excursion, students will engage in both group and individual activities:

   Week 1: Following a half-day leadership retreat, students will spend the week attending a series of group visits to familiarize themselves with the mix of government, private, and non-profit institutions that exist in the region. Visits may include tours and topical briefings or other in-depth conversations. While nothing is guaranteed, previous visits have included the Pentagon, Supreme Court, Washington Post, CIA, FBI Academy, Congressional offices, FCC, NPR, and many more.

   Week 2: Students will conduct individual visits to offices and agencies related to their individual professional interests, based on itineraries they established in the spring. Visits may range from informational interviews to business lunches to shadowing experiences. Students have previously arranged to visit non-profit groups, lobbying firms, forensic labs, think tanks, environmental organizations, educational institutions, and others.

COURSE CREDIT
Students will receive three (3) hours of course credit via ESHESA 2570. This is a graded course available to all students, regardless of major. For the purposes of the Honors & Scholars Leadership Institute, course requirements and evaluation of performance will be based on a combination of traditional academic activities on campus in Spring and the professional and leadership activities in DC in May. The course credit will be applied to Spring Semester 2016, however the final grade will not be entered until the end of May Session.
PROGRAM BENEFITS
In contrast to the ubiquitous 8th grade or other tourist trip, the May Session component of the H&S Leadership Institute allows students to engage with professionals in DC to learn about leadership roles and career options. As part of the experience, students will have the opportunity to:

- Gain insights from entry-level staff and seasoned professionals about career fields
- Develop an understanding of organizational and leadership processes and structures
- Explore the differences between public and private sector jobs
- Build an awareness of public service obligations and opportunities
- Develop relationships with potential networking contacts for future internships or employment.

The program is young enough that none of the previous participants have graduated and gone on to jobs, however several have returned to Washington for a semester or summer internship.

APPLICATION INFORMATION
To be eligible to apply, students must be in their second or third year at Ohio State at the time of application, and must be in good standing with their Honors and/or Scholars Program. There is no specific academic major or career interest required! To apply:

- Submit an application online at http://go.osu.edu/HSLIDCapply
- Priority Application Deadline: Sunday, October 25, 2015 (notification no later than Friday, Oct. 30).
- Final Application Deadline: Sunday, November 22, 2015 (notification no later than Wednesday, Nov. 25).

The priority deadline will provide applicants with an opportunity to be reviewed and notified earlier; if space remains, we will consider students who apply by the final deadline. Those accepted will be enrolled in a special section of ESHESA 2570 as part of their Spring 2016 course schedule. The course and May session together are worth three (3) credits; students must commit to attend all class sessions and the May trip.

PROGRAM COSTS
The 2016 program fee for the Honors & Scholars Leadership Institute: DC is $2000.

- A $200 deposit will be due Monday, December 7 with the balance due in three payments of $600 during Spring Semester (Jan 11, Feb 15, Mar 21). Any student who withdraws or becomes ineligible any time after December 1 may be held responsible for a cancellation fee.
- The program fee covers the hotel, all breakfasts, a few dinners, all official program activities, unlimited-use metro passes in DC, and round trip OSU charter bus travel from campus to DC. It does not cover lunches or most dinners in DC, or personal spending money.
- Students will stay at a Residence Inn in Bethesda (two people per room). Breakfast is included, plus each room includes a kitchen. Laundry machines are available at the hotel, as well as a pool and exercise facility. There are two grocery stores, numerous restaurants and shops, and a metro station within walking distance.
- For students staying in OSU residence halls, Move-Out is May 4th, however students are permitted to remain in the residence halls through May 8th for an additional fee (the program fee does not cover this)

COMPATIBILITY with STEP
Students in the Second-year Transformational Experience Program (STEP) who successfully complete the STEP requirements will be able to use their $2000 fellowship to cover the program fee. While this program is a natural fit for the Leadership category of STEP experiences, depending on each student’s itinerary the trip may include elements of other Experience categories as well. Current STEP students will be required to pay the full program fee out-of-pocket and then be reimbursed by STEP. Students who completed STEP last year will need to make arrangements to receive their stipend if they wish to use it for this program.

CONTACT US
Questions about the Honors & Scholars Leadership Institute: DC can be directed to Kevin Freeman, Program Director, at (freeman.259@osu.edu).