SCHOLARS * DC

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
From government hallways to research labs, from corporate boardrooms to performance stages, leadership can be found in any profession or academic field. The Scholars DC program offers second- and third-year scholar students the opportunity to explore the many identities of our nation’s capital. Students will attend a series of spring semester meetings focused on building community and developing professional skills, followed by a two-week May Session trip. The trip will include visits to government agencies, non-profit groups, private firms, and other places of interest. There will be several other activities as well as free time for students to explore DC on their own. Participating students will receive one (1) hour of academic credit via Political Science 3191.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS
I. Pre-Trip Meetings (Spring Semester)
Meetings will be held approximately every two weeks on Tuesday afternoons from 3:55-5:15pm in the Kuhn Honors & Scholars House. The purpose of these pre-trip meetings is to build relationships with participating Scholars from other programs and to develop professional skills and networks. 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 10-23, 2015)
Designed as a professional excursion, students will engage in both group and individual activities:

Week 1: Students will attend 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 topical briefings or other in-depth conversations beyond what is generally available to the public; some locations may not be accessible except as part of an educational visit. Group visits in 2014 (which are not guaranteed for 2015) included:

- Meeting members of Congress and staff
- Tours of Departments of State and Defense
- Briefings at the CIA and NSA
- Tour of the FBI Academy
- Visits to media outlets such as NPR, the Washington Post, and Voice of America
- Behind-the-scenes at the U.S. Supreme Court
- Meetings with OSU alumni in DC

Week 2: Students will conduct visits they independently arrange during Spring semester to offices and agencies related to their individual academic and professional interests. These visits may range from informational interviews to shadowing experiences. In 2014 students met with personnel in forensic labs, think tanks, non-profit groups, lobbying firms, environmental groups, educational institutions, and others.

INTERNSHIP CREDIT – POLITICAL SCIENCE 3191
Students will receive one (1) hour of course credit via Political Science 3191. This is an ungraded (S/U) course available to all students, regardless of major. Although 3191 is typically utilized for internship opportunities, for the purposes of Scholars DC students will earn credit based on their professional exploration and related experiences. Such experiences can serve a variety of purposes. They might serve as stepping stones to a vocation, a chance to explore the differences between government and private sector jobs, or even develop networking contacts for future employment.
3191 for Scholars DC is designed to give students an opportunity to engage with professionals in DC and learn about possible career options. The following is a partial list of objectives that this experience might fulfill:
1. Give students orientation to a career area they may wish to pursue
2. Develop students’ understanding of organizational and leadership processes
3. Enhance students’ awareness of public service obligations
4. Build an ongoing relationship between the academic and practitioner communities

Although the foundation of this course is professional outreach and engagement, it is still a course for which you will receive academic credit. The requirements and the evaluation of your performance are based upon a combination of professional activities and more traditional academic activities. The course credit will be applied to Spring Semester 2015, however the final S/U grade will not be entered until the end of May Session.

APPLICATION INFORMATION
• The deadline to apply for the Scholars DC program is Friday, October 10
• Applicants must submit an application online at go.osu.edu/ScholarsDCapply.
• 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 Scholars Program. Students from any of the H&S Scholars Programs who meet these criteria are invited to apply. There is no specific major or career interest required!
• Students will be notified the week of October 20th if they have been accepted to the Scholars DC program.
• Students accepted into Scholars DC will have Poli Sci 3191 added to their Spring Semester schedule. The pre-trip meetings and May session trip are considered together to be one complete program worth one (1) credit hour. By signing up for the course, students commit to attend all pre-trip meetings and the May trip.

PROGRAM COSTS
The program fee for Scholars DC 2015 is $1900.
• A $250 (non-refundable) deposit will be due Monday, November 17 with the balance due in three payments of $550 each during Spring Semester (Jan 28, Mar 1, Apr 9). 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, all official program activities, two group dinners (one on campus, one in DC), unlimited-use metro passes in DC, and round trip OSU charter bus travel from campus to DC. It does not cover lunches or other dinners in DC, personal spending money, or housing costs in Columbus prior to departure day.
• Students will stay at a hotel in Pentagon City/Arlington (two beds and two people per room). Breakfast is included, plus each room includes a full kitchen. Laundry machines are available at the hotel, as well as a pool and exercise facility. There is a grocery store 3 blocks away, along with numerous restaurants and stores (including the Pentagon City Mall) within walking distance.
• For students staying in OSU residence halls, Move-Out is May 6th, however students are permitted to remain in the residence halls through May 10th at a cost of $35 per day.

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 Scholars DC program fee. Of the 6 STEP Experience categories Scholars DC best fits Leadership, however depending on each student’s itinerary the trip may include elements of other Experience categories as well.

Due to the timing of the fellowship’s dispersal after the Scholars DC program fee due dates, STEP students will be required to pay the full program fee out-of-pocket and then be reimbursed by STEP.

CONTACT US
Questions about the Scholars DC program can be directed to Kevin Freeman, Scholars DC Program Director, at freeman.259@osu.edu. Questions about Political Science 3191 can be directed to Elizabeth Kloss, Internship Coordinator in the Department of Political Science (kloss.8@osu.edu).