

Undergraduate Scholars Award

Your future, go for it!

The **Undergraduate Scholars Award** recognizes students who fulfill the University goals of community engagement, undergraduate research, and global citizenship on both transcript and diploma. The **Undergraduate Scholars Award** adds depth to your University of South Florida academic experience. It is designed to help you apply academic learning to real-life issues and problems through faculty-mentored research. This innovative program seeks to encourage students to engage in meaningful service and to connect to the global community.

There are four components *Undergraduate Scholars* complete: **service to the community, undergraduate research, international experience, and an integrative essay.**

Service: You will be encouraged to seek out experience in multiple roles and in different types of service. Through service, you will move beyond campus and work to address needs in the broader community. It is expected that you will use what you have learned in the classroom to benefit others. Community engagement provides a framework for students to complete service to the community, links coursework to service, and recognizes students for their commitment to service.

In order to fulfill the meaningful service requirement of your program, you will:

- ◆ Complete a significant service project (generally consisting of a leadership role and 100 hours of service)
- ◆ Recording service hours via the co-curricular transcript system is highly recommended

Research: Through research projects, you will gain skills necessary for exploration, problem solving and for oral and written expression that can serve you well for a lifetime of learning, work and pleasure. Participation in the research process allows you to appreciate arts, humanities, sciences and social sciences in a way not otherwise possible. Thus, research may be conducted in any discipline, including visual and performing arts.

In order to fulfill the undergraduate research requirement of the program, you will:

- ◆ Complete a substantial research project
- ◆ Work under the direction of a faculty mentor (generally, over two semesters)
- ◆ Commit to a minimum number of hours per semester

Global: USF's commitment to international experience is driven by the belief that interaction between peoples of diverse cultures is the base upon which empathy among nations is built, and international experience is a vital building block in a university education.

In order to fulfill the international experience requirement of the program, you will:

- ◆ Study abroad in-residence for a minimum of 4 weeks or have a significant international experience in a country other than your country of birth
- ◆ Maintain a journal (reflective observation) during the program
- ◆ One semester of foreign language study is highly recommended
- ◆ Optional: Complete a volunteer and/or research project abroad which may account for the service and/or research portions of the Undergraduate Scholar Award. A local "international" cultural experience may be considered.

Reflect: The final integrative essay (approximately 20 pages double-spaced) is intended to be a reflective paper that combines interdisciplinary concepts, personal experiences, and self-analysis. You will consider how these experiences have contributed to honing practical skills and personal transformation.

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Criteria

- ◆ Documented accomplishments in Global Experience, Undergraduate Research, and Service to the Community, under the guidance of a faculty mentor (and a signed acknowledgement).
- ◆ Reflective essay integrating all three experiences. Connections should be drawn between the three components, with 7-10 pages for each. The essay will be evaluated from a holistic perspective, with attention to dynamics and aspects of experiential learning, research and service. You may include a brief reflection on your past, significant moments at USF. Explain how these experiences transformed you and connect to your future plans.

Application

Global

Student's Name _____ Phone _____

Nature of Activity _____

I confirm that this student was involved in the above project.

Faculty Signature _____

Department _____ Extension _____

Service

Student's Name _____ Phone _____

Nature of Activity _____

I confirm that this student was involved in the above project.

Faculty Signature _____

Department _____ Extension _____

Research

Student's Name _____ Phone _____

Nature of Activity _____

I confirm that this student was involved in the above project.

Faculty Signature _____

Department _____ Extension _____

Return this page with a copy of your application draft (10 pgs.) to Mr. Mejías at ADM241 by

November 28th for Fall Graduates. The final draft is due **December 9th**.