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

*Undergraduate Scholars* complete four components: service to the community, mentored undergraduate research, and international experience.

**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 of have a significant international experience in a country other than your country of birth or a travel course (e.g., IDH4200)
- 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.

Email [mejias@honors.usf.edu](mailto:mejias@honors.usf.edu) for more information.
Criteria

- Documented accomplishments in Global Experience, Undergraduate Research, and Service to the Community, under the guidance of a faculty mentor (and a signed acknowledgement).

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 to Mr. Mejías (mejias@honors.usf.edu or at ALN241) by: **April 13th** for Spring graduates; **July 28th** for Summer graduates; **or December 1st** for Fall graduates.
The Reflective Essay/eFolio Narrative

The Reflective Essay/eFolio Narrative integrates the three experiential components (Global Experience, Undergraduate Research, and Service to the Community). Connections should be drawn between the three components.

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. **We will also consider your responses to these reflection questions in the form of a well-designed blog or e-Portfolio** (see http://honors.usf.edu/Honors_E-folios.html for examples).

The Reflective Essay/eFolio Narrative will answer the following questions for each of the 3 components:

- What did I do?
- Why did I do it?
- What skills did I use?
- What skills did I develop?
- What did I learn?
- How was I changed?
- What is the relationship among the 3 components?