

UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR PROGRAM NEW APPLICATION FOR FALL 2020

Summary of the Changes

Old Application:

- Consisted of a 7-page project proposal, a plan of study, and a 1-page plan of study discussion
- *One* faculty evaluation from the chair of the student's three-person advisory committee

New Application:

- Integrates the project proposal and the plan of study discussion into a single (8-page) proposal and expands the plan of study discussion.
- Proposal is divided into four parts:
 - Overall statement of interests
 - Learning plan
 - Project plan
 - References (not included in 8 page total)
- Recommended lengths: 4 pages for overall statement of interests and learning plan, and 4 pages for project proposal (indicative of the Committee's desire to learn more about the student's broader learning goals and plans)
- Includes a form that provides details on the student's learning and project plan by semester. The form lists the courses a student plans to take, other learning opportunities they intend to pursue, and project milestones they expect to achieve.
- *Two* faculty evaluations, one from the chair, with questions focused on the student's project plan and on the student as learner and one from another advisory committee member, focused on the student as learner only.
- Details on the application: <https://universityscholars.uconn.edu/application-instructions/>

New Criteria for Assessment

- Includes an expectation of integration among the different elements of the proposal (overall statement of interests, learning plan, and project plan)
- Details on assessment criteria: <https://universityscholars.uconn.edu/assessment/>

Why these changes?

- The Committee felt it needed a more in-depth and a more holistic view of the applicants.
 - More information that placed the student's project within their past learning experiences and their broader academic goals for their final three semesters (hence the sections of the application: "overall statement of interests" and "learning plan")
 - More than one faculty perspective and perspectives that addressed more than the student's project (hence, two faculty evaluations and some broader evaluative questions about student as learner)
- Provides the Committee with more information to evaluate the applicant in terms of the program's defining characteristics:

- Successful applicants will show “extraordinary engagement with self-reflective learning and research or creative endeavors” and have proposals that “show exceptional breadth and/or depth and bring together multiple fields of study, methodologies, and/or points of view.”

University Scholar Program Info

The University Scholar Program is one of the most challenging and prestigious programs for undergraduates at UConn.

- The Program is open to students from all the University’s schools and colleges and all campuses.
- Students need **not** be Honors students in order to apply.
- Applications are reviewed by an interdisciplinary committee of faculty who may select up to 30 University Scholars in any given year.
- Students (typically) apply as first semester juniors since this is a three-semester program.
- Info sessions for students considering an application will be held on April 7, 2020, 5-6 pm and April 8, 2020 5-6 pm both in MCHU 201
- Letter of intent will be due on Sept. 14, 2020. All students intending to apply must submit a letter of intent.
- Application will be due on Nov. 2, 2020. Applications (including faculty evaluations) are submitted using the Quest portal (<http://quest.uconn.edu>)

Questions? Contact Monica van Beusekom at monica.vanbeusekom@uconn.edu or 860-486-0324