

Scholar Leader and Wilks Scholars: Information & Application Process

What is Scholar Leader?

The mission of the Scholar Leader program is to establish a proactive, supportive community dedicated to enhancing leadership and scholarship among its members and the broader university community. The Scholar Leader program is a living-learning program involving a year of residence in Elliott or Stoddard Halls, two of the most historic residence halls in the nation. Endowments for each room provide scholarships to those students selected to live in the community. The Scholar Leader community encourages resident-guided programming, academic involvement, service learning projects and the opportunity to explore leadership through intensive group engagement. The original idea of the Scholar Leader program was to provide an experience somewhat like residing on the Lawn at the University of Virginia. In the tradition of Thomas Jefferson's vision of higher education, the Scholar Leader program is more self-governing and determining than most residential environments at Miami or elsewhere. Those selected are expected to be exemplary in academic performance and character and ready and willing to take on shared leadership for the quality of their community.

Within this mission, the goals of the program are:

- For each Scholar Leader to develop a personalized and meaningful theory/philosophy of leadership.
- For the program to influence positively the broader Miami University community through service, leadership, and support of others.
- For Scholar Leaders to learn to analyze leadership dynamics and needs in order to determine the most effective form of leadership for any given situation.
- For Scholar Leaders to utilize the skills gained from the various learning activities offered in the program to effect policy and practice in the program and elsewhere.

What is a Wilks Scholar?

A Wilks Scholar is a student enrolled in the Acting Locally Thematic Sequence, sponsored by the Harry T. Wilks Leadership Institute. Acting Locally links learning and leadership through community interaction, dialogue, participation, coalition building, and problem solving. Students and faculty will work with local communities in the region to better understand the ways in which local communities are sustained, challenged, transformed, and created in a world where global forces often are as important as local ones in influencing our lives. Students take 10 credit hours to complete the Acting Locally Thematic Sequence. The community-based projects are centered within the areas of Hamilton, rural Butler County, and Over-the-Rhine. The courses are outlined as follows:

- **AMS 201: Approaches to American Culture (Fall 2008)**
Global to Local: Identity, Community, and Power
- **AMS 301: Practice in American Studies (Spring 2009)**
Globalization in Southwestern Ohio
- **AMS 405: American Studies Workshop (Fall 2009)**
Community-Based Project Implementation

Beginning in the Fall of 2008, students enrolled in the Acting Locally thematic sequence (Wilks Scholars) will also live in the Scholar Leader community as Scholar Leaders. They will receive a scholarship during their year as Scholar Leaders.

What criteria exist to live in Scholar Leader?

- Applicants must be enrolled as full-time students during the 2008-2009 academic year
- Applicants must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Applicants must be free of disciplinary sanctions

What is the application process?

Application Form:

Every applicant to the Scholar Leader program (including students interested in applying to the Acting Locally thematic sequence) must complete the same application form. The form should be clearly filled out in its entirety. Applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, December 5, 2007**. Applications must be submitted to:

Scholar Leader and Wilks Scholar Applications
109 Kreger Hall
Oxford, OH 45056

Transcript:

Students should obtain a current copy of their transcript from the Office of the Registrar.

Two References:

Students should obtain references from two individuals who can speak to the applicants' academic and leadership ability.

Essay questions:

There are two sets of essay questions. All applicants are required to thoughtfully complete questions one and two. Those students interested in the Acting Locally thematic sequence must complete the third question in addition to the general Scholar Leader essay questions.

Answers to the essay questions should be typed, double-spaced, and no more than two pages per question. For purposes of blind review of the applicant pool, please submit **five copies** of your essays with the page number as well as your banner number in the heading of each page. Please **do not** include your name on your essays.

Interviews:

Qualified applicants will be contacted in January to participate in a group interactive experience as well as a faculty interview.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please do not hesitate to contact:

Sarah Woiteshek
Program Coordinator
Harry T. Wilks Leadership Institute
513.529.1953
woitesse@muohio.edu

Matt Lewis
Graduate Resident Director
Scholar Leader Community
513.529.3976
lewismw@muohio.edu

Scholar Leader and Wilks Scholar 2008-2009 Application

Personal Information:

Name: _____

Banner ID #: _____

Email Address: _____

University Class Standing: _____

Sex: _____

Major (s) and/or focus: _____

Minor (s): _____

GPA: _____

Anticipated date of graduation: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Miami/Current Address: _____

Miami/Current Phone: _____

Housing Preferences:

If selected, I would prefer a:

_____ Single Room

_____ Double Room; Please list preferred roommate: _____

_____ Either

Essay Questions:

Scholar Leader

- I. What qualities do you believe are important in creating a vital learning community? Describe what action you would take in order to foster one of these qualities if selected to join the 2008-2009 Scholar Leader community.
- II. Besides the annual Scholar Leader programs of Turkey Bowl and Plunge, please identify a program which would have **significant public impact** that you would help develop and implement with the 2008-2009 community. What steps would you take to ensure the implementation and success of this program?

Please see reverse side for Scholar Leader & Acting Locally Essay Question

Scholar Leader & Acting Locally

- III. A main theme throughout the Acting Locally thematic sequence is seeing civic leadership as a way to connect the global with the local. How do you think you can use community-based engagement as a way to address global issues? What do you think are the most important elements in community-based learning?

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