

**University Scholars Program (Combined Master's/Bachelor's or Doctoral/Bachelor's Degree):**

This program is designed for undergraduate students at the University of Kentucky whose well-defined academic and career plans include graduate or professional study. The University Scholars Program offers these students the opportunity and the challenge of integrating their undergraduate and graduate courses of study in a single continuous program, culminating in both a baccalaureate degree and a master's or doctoral degree. This option exists only in those programs which have submitted a plan of study for approval by the Graduate Council (a list of the currently approved graduate programs is provided in the Graduate School Bulletin). Each DGS is encouraged to identify undergraduates qualified for enrollment in the University Scholars Program. All applications should be accompanied by the University Scholars application form.

Applicants to the University Scholars Program will follow current procedures and rules for admission to the Graduate School with the following additions:

- An application to the program should be submitted at the end of the student's junior year.
- Applicants must have completed at least 90 credit hours of work toward the bachelor's degree, or be eligible for senior standing in the semester they are admitted to the program.
- The master's or doctoral program should be in the field of the undergraduate major (there are select program pairings where this is not a requirement, for example applicants to Diplomacy and International Commerce and to Public Administration; such pairings require Graduate Council approval).
- The undergraduate grade point average must be at least **3.50** in the applicant's major field and **3.20** overall.

Degree requirements are as follows:

- The total number of credit hours completed for the combined bachelor's/master's program may be up to 12 less than the total required for both the bachelor's and master's degrees (the requirements for the bachelor's degree are unchanged).
- The total number of credit hours completed for the combined bachelor's/doctoral program may be up to 12 less than the total required for both the bachelor's and the pre-qualifying residency requirement of the doctoral degree (the requirements for the bachelor's degree are unchanged).
- Students must register in the Graduate School for all work taken following admission to the University Scholars Program.
- Students may take no more than 16 credit hours per semester except by recommendation of the Director of Graduate Studies and approval by the Dean of the Graduate School.
- Students must have an undergraduate advisor and a graduate advisor. A jointly planned program must be prepared for each student.
- The primary classification of University Scholars students will be undergraduate until they have completed the credit hours required for their undergraduate degree, and
- Undergraduate tuition rates will be applied to the 12 hours (or less) of graduate level coursework designated for dual credit in this program.

## **University of Kentucky Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee**

From: Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (Joe Sottile (Chair), Ken Calvert, Raphael Finkel, Lee Ann Jung, Peggy Piascik, Suzanne Segerstrom, Glenn Telling)

To: Sheila Brothers, Office of the Senate Council

Date: May 22, 2008

The following proposal has been reviewed by the University Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee:

### **Expand University Scholars Program to Doctoral Candidates**

(Submitted by the Graduate School)

This proposal recommends that the University Scholars Program be expanded to include doctoral candidates. One member of the committee expressed that it might be difficult to establish research capability suitable for a doctoral program at the end of a student's junior year (which is the anticipated time of application into the University Scholars Program). However, the majority of the committee agreed that the individual departments would be able to make this determination before accepting a student into the proposed program.

However, specific language for this proposal needs to be developed to address qualifications, e.g., minimum credit hours completed by the student to be eligible, minimum cumulative and major grade point average, and total hours for the combined program. It is believed that the language could be very similar to the language used for the University Scholars Program at the bachelor's/master's level described on pages 28 and 29 of the Graduate Bulletin.



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To: Kaveh Tagavi  
University Senate Council

From: Jeannine Blackwell, Dean  
The Graduate School

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JB' with a flourish.

Date: January 19, 2007

At its meeting on January 18, 2007 the Graduate Council approved the proposal to expand the University Scholars program to Doctoral Candidates.

Rationale:

We propose a mechanism for a fast-track integrated baccalaureate-to-doctorate program. This applies the principles of the current University Scholars program (baccalaureate to master's) to the doctorate as well. This proposal is aimed at providing some programs with a new tool for recruitment of doctoral students. This program is for the limited number of doctoral programs which recruit from their own best undergraduates, and which admit directly into the doctoral program. For those students whose careers will best be served by continuing studies at UK, for those who are high-achieving students, but geographically bound to the Lexington area, this program may be one more tool among many that graduate programs may use to enhance doctoral productivity. It is intended for those unique students who are so advanced that they are already taking graduate courses as undergraduates and whom the program wishes to recruit into its own doctoral program.

This program is analogous to the "B.S to M.D."

Jeannine Blackwell



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This proposal is aimed at providing some programs with a new tool for recruitment of doctoral students. This program is for the limited number of doctoral programs which recruit from their own best undergraduates. I have polled Directors of Graduate Studies, asking them to consult their program faculty members about it. Many doctoral programs were extremely positive; some felt it would not be helpful.

It will not be applicable in every program, especially those with a lock-step, full-time curriculum. Moreover, some disciplines have the expectation that students will attend different universities for graduate and undergraduate studies. The program faculty and advisors should be the ones to determine how best to advise students about continuation in graduate studies.

For those students whose careers will best be served by continuing studies at UK, for those who are high-achieving students, but geographically bound to the Lexington area, this program may be an answer. It is one more tool among many that graduate programs may use to enhance doctoral productivity.

Jeannine Blackwell

# DRAFT

## Proposal to Expand the University Scholars Program to Doctoral Candidates

The current University Scholars Program provides an opportunity for the very best and brightest students to significantly reduce the time required to complete an undergraduate degree and a master's degree at the University of Kentucky. This is accomplished by allowing scholars to apply up to 12 hours of graduate coursework toward both degrees. Admission to this program is highly selective. Students must have senior standing (completed a minimum of 90 undergraduate credit hours), have a GPA of 3.50 or better in their major and an overall GPA of at least 3.20. Program participation in the University Scholars Program is voluntary, dependent on a vote of the Graduate Faculty in the program and in coordination with requirements of accreditation agencies in the discipline. Currently, 25 master's programs participate.

The Provost has approved a proposal to remove financial disincentives of the current program. This goes into effect in Fall 2007. Specifically, we are recommending that:

- the primary classification of University Scholars students should be undergraduate until they have completed the credit hours required for their undergraduate degree. As a result, students will retain eligibility for federal tuition assistance and private loans until the undergraduate degree is awarded.
- undergraduate tuition rates will be applied to the 12 hours (or less) of graduate level coursework designated for dual credit in this program.

We now propose that students who are admitted directly into doctoral programs from the baccalaureate level and who meet the criteria specified above should also be eligible to become University Scholars.

This model will be based on the currently existing program with University Scholars being eligible to apply up to 12 hours of graduate coursework toward both the undergraduate degree and the pre-qualifying residency requirements of the doctoral degree. The Graduate Faculty in the program may limit the number of hours, designate specific courses and sequences, and limit the criteria for admission beyond the minimum requirements of the Graduate School. Decisions on admissions are made by the Graduate Faculty in the program.

Please note that students classified as undergraduates may not receive graduate-level funding such as assistantships.

Given the current first year, pre-Qualifying residency requirement for the doctorate, which calls for completion of 18 hours of graduate work at the University of Kentucky,

the time to Qualifying Examination could be reduced by at least one semester for a University Scholar.