

PROGRAMS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Expository Writing Program

The Edith Kinney Gaylord Expository Writing Program

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General Information

The Expository Writing Program offers students the opportunity to sharpen their critical thinking, reading, and writing skills through the intensive examination of a particular topic. The defining feature of an Expo course is students' collaboration with their instructors.

All Expo courses feature

- a guided investigation of a special topic
- seminar-sized class of no more than 16 students
- an emphasis on individual instruction and student/teacher collaboration
- an open, interactive classroom atmosphere

Graduate Programs for Academic Excellence

Private donations have enabled the Graduate College to provide fellowships and scholarships in many areas. Additional programs seek to reward and encourage scholars conducting and presenting original scholarship at the highest levels. Dissertation Awards and Graduate Teaching Assistant Awards are given to reward excellence in dissertation research and teaching, respectively. In addition, the annual Three Minute Thesis competition (3MT®) challenges students to communicate the significance of their research to a general audience in just three minutes. Cash prizes are awarded, and the finalists' presentations are featured on the Graduate College website. For more information on these programs and others that may be available, visit the Graduate College website.

National Merit Scholars

The University of Oklahoma has made a long-standing commitment to the recruitment and retention of outstanding high school students who have been recognized as Semifinalists/Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship competition. All National Merit Finalists automatically qualify for the Oklahoma Academic Scholars Program administered by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education along with a tuition waiver scholarship and cash stipend from the university. Upon entering the university, these students receive a technology allowance, a one-time travel-study stipend, specialized academic advising, early enrollment privileges and a great deal of personalized attention from the National Merit team. For further information, contact the OU Office of Admissions and Recruitment at (405) 325-2151, via email at natlscholars@ou.edu, or visit the Admissions and Recruitment website.

OSLEP

Oklahoma Scholar-Leadership Enrichment Program

The Oklahoma Scholar-Leadership Enrichment Program - OSLEP - is an intercollegiate academic program sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education open to students at all the public and private universities in Oklahoma. Small groups of students selected from Oklahoma's four-year colleges and universities study with distinguished visiting scholars. Students tell us over and over again that being in an OSLEP class is one of the most rewarding experiences in their academic careers because of the unique learning environment, the time devoted to one subject, and the opportunity to develop a personal relationship with a world-famous scholar and make lasting friendships with students from around the state. Many of the visiting scholars present a free public lecture, open to the community. These programs always include a question & answer session and an opportunity to meet and talk with the scholar. Interested students can contact the OSLEP office or visit www.oslep.org for the current schedule of seminars and additional information. The OSLEP office is located in Monnet Hall, Room 559, 630 Parrington Oval, 325-4309; email oslep@oslep.org.

Academic Common Market

The Academic Common Market (ACM) is an interstate agreement coordinated by the Southern Regional Education Board for sharing some unique academic programs through an exchange of students across state lines wherein non-resident tuition charges are waived. Visit Academic Common Market for more information regarding the university's participation in the Academic Common Market.

ORAU

Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU)

Since 1949, students and faculty of the University of Oklahoma have benefitted from its membership in Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU). ORAU is a consortium of 91 colleges and universities and a contractor for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. ORAU works with its member institutions to help their students and faculty gain access to federal research facilities throughout the country; to keep its members informed about opportunities for fellowship, scholarship, and research appointments; and to organize research alliances among its members.

Undergraduates, graduates, postgraduates, as well as faculty enjoy access to a multitude of opportunities for study and research through the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), the DOE facility that ORAU operates. Students can participate in programs covering a wide variety of disciplines, including business, earth sciences, epidemiology, engineering, physics, geological sciences, pharmacology, ocean sciences, biomedical sciences, nuclear chemistry, and mathematics. Appointment and program length range from one month to four years. Many of these programs are especially designed to increase the numbers of under-represented minority students pursuing degrees in science- and engineering-related disciplines.

ORAU's Office of Partnership Development seeks opportunities for partnerships and alliances among ORAU's members, private industry, and major federal facilities. Activities include faculty development programs, such as the Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Awards, the Visiting Industrial Scholars Program, consortium research funding initiatives, faculty research, and support programs as well as services to chief research officers.

For more information about ORAU and its programs, contact Richard D. Elmore, Robert and Doris Klabzuba Professor of Geology and ORAU Councilor for the University of Oklahoma at (405) 325-3253; contact Monnie E. Champion, ORAU corporate secretary, at (865)576-3306; or visit the ORAU Home Page.

Co-ops and Internships

Cooperative education, internships, and practicums, which are available in a wide variety of settings, can make students' academic study come alive by providing practical experience related to their academic goals. This experience can help students evaluate their career choices and enhance their employability upon graduation. More than 50 undergraduate fields of study offer positions, ranging from informal arrangements between a professor and a business colleague to formal, required internships. Some internships are paid positions; other field experiences may provide the opportunity to earn credit toward a degree while gaining practical work experience. Co-ops always are paid experiences. Visit Career Services to identify openings and opportunities and contact the representative who coordinates specialized programs through your academic department. Career Services will help you learn the job-search skills and techniques necessary to be successful in the application process. For additional information, contact Career Services, 323 Oklahoma Memorial Union, (405) 325-1974.

Combined Curriculum

- Dentistry
- Medicine
- Osteopathic Medicine
- Veterinary Medicine
- Law

A student may qualify for the degree of Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science at the end of his/her first year in an approved school of law, dentistry, medicine, osteopathic medicine, or veterinary medicine by fulfilling the requirements listed below. Items A-1 through A-4 **must be completed prior to entering** the professional school.

1. Combined Curriculum with the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, College of Dentistry, or College of Law:
 - a. Complete at least 98 semester credit hours before entering the College of Medicine, College of Dentistry, or College of Law.
 - b. Earn at least 30 semester credit hours in residence at the University of Oklahoma.
 - c. Earn at least 15 semester credit hours of upper-division major credit courses at the University of Oklahoma.
 - d. Earn at least 15 of the last 30 semester credit hours before entering the College of Medicine, College of Dentistry, or College of Law in residence at the University of Oklahoma.
 - e. Complete all other degree requirements of the College including the University's general education requirements, the College requirements, and all the major and major support requirements of a regular degree program.
 - f. Successfully complete the work of the first year in the College of Medicine, Dentistry, or Law.
2. Combined Curriculum with other Approved Schools of Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, Dentistry, and Veterinary Medicine:

A student enrolled in a medical school approved by the Association of American Medical Colleges, in an Osteopathic Medical School approved by the American Osteopathic Association, in a dental school

approved by the American Dental Association, or in a school of veterinary medicine approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association may receive the degree of Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science upon the satisfactory completion of: Items A-2 through A-4 (above) and completion of at least 98 hours prior to entering the professional school and by satisfactory completion of the first year in the approved College of Dentistry, Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine or Veterinary Medicine.

University-Wide General Education

In today's global society, the most important contribution a university can make is to help prepare its students for a lifetime of change and a future as an educated and responsible citizen. OU's university-wide general education core curriculum, which was implemented in fall 1990, meets this challenge by providing a curriculum of required courses designed to help students think creatively, reason and communicate clearly, and adapt quickly to a rapidly changing world.

OU was the first college in the state — and among the pioneers nationally — to organize its general education requirements into a focused curriculum that emphasizes the key areas of knowledge essential in today's society and life in the 21st century.

In designing its general education curriculum, OU looked toward two new centuries—the 21st century, in which students will need to cope with global, societal and career changes — and OU's second century, in which it will continue to produce leaders for the state, nation and world. OU's general education curriculum is designed to help its students succeed after graduation, regardless of their field of endeavor. Because effective communication skills are essential, writing is emphasized across the general education curriculum. Courses also help students learn to express themselves orally, use mathematical analysis, examine and solve problems, explore the concepts and methodologies of the natural and social sciences, appreciate the creative arts, and better understand their own and others' cultural heritages. Courses are designed to foster enthusiasm, curiosity and a desire to continue learning.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 40 credit hours of general education courses is required for graduation. Some colleges or majors require students to complete additional hours of general education coursework or to take specific courses to fulfill general education requirements. The list of courses approved for general education credit is available in the Gen Ed Planner. Courses must be distributed among the following areas:

I. SYMBOLIC AND ORAL COMMUNICATION (3-6 courses, 9-22 hours)

- English Composition (2 courses, 6 hours).
- Foreign Language (2 courses, 6-10 hours). This requirement can be satisfied by successfully completing two semesters of the same foreign language at the college level equivalent to two semesters at OU. It also may be satisfied by successfully completing two years of the same foreign language in high school or by demonstrating an equivalent level of competence on an assessment test. (Note: the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication, College of Arts and Sciences, and the College of International Studies require students to complete three semesters of college-level foreign language or pass an assessment test. The College of Arts & Sciences and College of International Studies requirement cannot be met by high school coursework. Some majors require a fourth semester of foreign language.)
- Mathematics (1 course, 3 hours).

- Other. Courses in this category are not required, but may be used when additional credit hours are needed to bring the total hours completed to 40. Approved courses in this area include communication, logic and public speaking.

II. NATURAL SCIENCE (2 courses, 7-8 hours)

- At least two courses of three or more credit hours each and totaling a minimum of seven credit hours are required. The courses must be from different disciplines, and at least one course must include a laboratory component, denoted by [L] in the list of general education courses. (Note: the College of Arts and Sciences requires its students to complete one course in the Biological Sciences and one course in the Physical Sciences.)

III. SOCIAL SCIENCE (2 courses, 6 hours)

- One course must be Political Science 1113, "American Federal Government" (three hours)

IV. HUMANITIES (4 courses, 12 hours)

- Understanding Artistic Forms (1 course, 3 hours)
- Western Civilization and Culture (2 courses, 6 hours). One course must be History 1483, "United States 1492-1865," or History 1493, "United States 1865 to Present." The other course may not be History 1483 or History 1493.
- Non-Western Culture (1 course, 3 hours). **Note:** The Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication, College of Arts and Sciences, and College of International Studies require additional upper-division Humanities courses outside the major (2 courses, 6 hours).

V. SENIOR CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE (1 course, 3 hours)

- Designed to culminate a student's undergraduate field of study and place it in a larger social, intellectual and professional context, the capstone experience should be an intensive experience in the major or interdisciplinary field at the senior level of performance. The capstone must include an in-depth writing component.

VI. UPPER-DIVISION REQUIREMENT

- In addition to the Senior Capstone Experience, at least one of the courses (minimum of 3 hours) used to satisfy the general education requirements must be at the upper-division level and outside of the student's major.

Honors College

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (UROP)

The Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) offers financial assistance for scholarly and creative projects under the mentorship of a faculty member. Dozens of research projects are funded each year in support of ambitious and exciting research endeavors. This competitive program is open to all University of Oklahoma main campus and Health Science Center students who apply for grants of up to \$1,000 each term. Students and faculty from across the University discover the benefits of hands-on research opportunities in laboratories, studios, libraries, and field sites. UROP recipients present the results of their research or accounts of their work in progress at the Honors College's Undergraduate Research Day, a professional-like conference held in the

spring of each year. Contact Jeff Cooper at jdcooper@ou.edu or Dr. Rich Hamerla at rhamerla@ou.edu with questions.

Undergraduate Research Day (URD)

Undergraduate Research Day (URD) is a blue-ribbon event held every Spring. The Honors College hosts and celebrates students who were funded in their research or creative activities by the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, and students in general who want to show what they have discovered and produced in their academic endeavors. The Honors College invites all undergraduates at accredited institutions to apply. Participants will be part of a panel of 4-6 students with whom they'll present their research to an audience of their peers, faculty, and parents. These presentations may be PowerPoint, videos, posters, or performances. Topics can include the arts, natural sciences, life sciences, business, engineering, social sciences, critical studies in ancient or modern literature, and the humanities. Prose and poetry submissions and other forms of creative activity are also encouraged. Contact Jeff Cooper at 405-325-8692 or jdcooper@ou.edu or Dr. Melanie Wright at 405-325-9428 or mwright@ou.edu for more information.

HONORS RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROGRAM (HRAP)

The Honors Research Assistant Program provides Honors students the opportunity to work with professors as research assistants on specific projects the professor is studying. Participants are expected to work for ten hours a week for ten weeks for \$900.00. Honors College students with at least 15 hours of college credit and a 3.4+ GPA are eligible to apply. We accept applications for this program at the beginning of the Fall and Spring terms. Applicants are considered until all positions are filled. Contact Jeff Cooper at jdcooper@ou.edu, 325-8692 with questions.

Honors Undergraduate Research Journal (THURJ)

The *Honors Undergraduate Research Journal (THURJ)* is an annual publication that celebrates undergraduate research in all academic disciplines. Each Spring, *THURJ* publishes the best Honors College papers from the previous year. An Editorial Board of student peers evaluates submissions using a blind review process, choosing between 8-12 papers for publication. All published authors also receive a \$100 prize.

Students interested in serving on the *THURJ* editorial board should look for announcements in August and September about the application deadline.

Students interested in submitting a paper to *THURJ* should look for publicized announcements in December and January for the submission deadline.

For more information contact: Mr. Will O'Donnell, willoodonnell03@ou.edu.

First Year Research Experience (FYRE)

In partnership with the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, the Honors College offers an opportunity for first-year Honors students to participate in laboratory research each Spring. This course, the Honors First-Year Research Experience (FYRE), is open to Honors College students from all majors, although admittance is competitive.

Besides working along side professors and graduate students in actual laboratories, you'll receive three hours of credit in Honors for successfully completing the course. Application deadlines depend on Spring enrollment, which actually occurs in the Fall term. Contact the College or Dr. Rich Hamerla at rhamerla@ou.edu with questions.

Applications for Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships

The Honors College maintains complete application information and works with outstanding undergraduates in their quest for Rhodes Scholarships, Marshall Scholarships, Goldwater Scholarships, Truman Scholarships, Gates Cambridge Scholarships, Rotary Scholarships, and other prestigious awards. For more information, contact the Honors College, 1300 Asp Ave., (405) 325-5291.