

STUDENTS Q&A

Q: What is Scholars?

A: *Cheyenne Welch:* Scholars is a set of courses that cover the core requirements needed for every degree (except Education). Instead of spending the first year/two years of university taking general courses like basic English, science, health, religion, etc., you take one Scholars course every semester. At the end of the four years, when you have taken all the Scholars classes, you will have covered your breadth requirements. A couple things to note: if you choose to discontinue Scholars, you do not have to retake breadth requirement classes. They match up so that you just have to take the requirements that remain. Also, joining Scholars means that you can begin taking more specialized courses right away in your first year because you don't have to focus on the general courses, which I really appreciated...

Q: What is the structure of Scholars?

Students say it is:

- discussion-based classes promoting critical thinking
- assigned reading lists of texts...almost like a book club
- questions/comments prepared in advance for class topics
- short essays expressing an original thought on each reading
- professors keeping discussions relevant and on topic

And each term requires:

- one major assignment: a term paper
- a final exam: an open-book, take-home essay

Q: What are the benefits of scholars?

A: *Peter Dodds:* Scholars provides foundational knowledge of the topics it explores through the reading of cornerstone texts. But this is just the formal benefit. Since the program spans the length of a 4-year degree and each class contains the same students as they move through their respective degrees, it provides a small community that is of a rare variety. As the students move through the program together, they grow and learn with and from each other, forming friendships that extend beyond the classroom. Another organic benefit that emerges is skills in discussion and debate; much-needed skills in any conversation.

Q: Is Scholars only for really smart, 4.0 people?

A: *Jordan Southcott:* I wish I had a 4.0, are you kidding me? Scholars certainly is not restricted to some inner circle of geniuses; I'm proof of that. I think that even asking the question "is it for smart people?" is somewhat misleading, because I don't think being academically inclined is what Scholars asks you to be. In this way, it's different than your typical academic program. Being in Scholars has made me more insightful, and a better thinker. But that was something Scholars helped to cultivate, not something I had to be before being allowed into the program...

Q: Will being in Scholars show up on my diploma? How could being in Scholars help me with professional/academic life beyond Burman?

A: *Sarah Wallace:* As someone soon to graduate and already accepted into graduate programs that combine creative and academic work, I believe Scholars has been my best preparation for graduate school (even more than most classes in my major) because it gave me a thorough understanding of the sources of ideas and taught me to connect, synthesize, and critique those ideas. In my master's degree I expect to pursue research and creative topics that I first became engaged with during the tour of Italy and Greece.

BURMAN UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS INFO

www.burmanu.ca/scholars

John McDowell | Dean
Faculty of Arts and Social Science

Ext. 4086
scholars@burmanu.ca



**BURMAN
UNIVERSITY**
SCHOLARS

NOTES

WHAT IS SCHOLARS?

Burman University Scholars offers a discussion-centered “core texts” model of education that allows students to encounter and evaluate significant works of world art and culture in a Christian context. Established on the belief that knowledge is profoundly interconnected, Scholars is committed to integrated, interdisciplinary education designed to transcend the barriers between such traditionally separate fields as art, history, science, theology, and philosophy. Courses are team-taught by faculty from differing disciplines.

Burman University Scholars creates a learning community that provides academically motivated students with a general education that will prepare them for a lifetime of critical thought, intellectual curiosity, aesthetic appreciation, and spiritual development.

We are looking for students who are intellectually curious and who wish to engage with others in cultivating the life of the mind. We are looking for students who are curious, who wish to be engaged with ideas and the ways ideas allow for deeper connections with others and the divine.

HOW DO I APPLY?

visit www.burmanu.ca/scholars/application

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Burman University Scholars is an alternative to the general or breadth education requirements for Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degrees. As long as you remain in Scholars, you do not need to take any other core courses. The program requires that students take one Scholars course each semester for four years, plus a summer semester taught in Europe.

Upon successful completion of the program, you will have the Burman University Scholars designation on your transcript, your parchment, and in the graduation program.

Students must maintain, at minimum, a 3.3 cumulative GPA while in the program

HOW DO I GET INTO SCHOLARS?

Students with the following qualifications may apply to become a Burman University Scholar: A high school average of 80% with no single course grade below 75%. Students must also meet all other regular admission requirements including at least one course from Group A and one course from Group B.

Group A courses are your humanities courses such as English, history, and social studies. Group B courses are math and science courses such as biology, chemistry, physics, and pre-calculus. These courses must be at the grade 12 level and must be university entrance courses (courses that DO NOT qualify for Scholars entry include 30-2 courses for Alberta and 4C courses for Ontario).

Students are required to submit an application to the program director. The application is designed to gauge the suitability of the applicant for Scholars and to assess the applicant's writing skills. Admission to Burman University Scholars is limited.