

Missouri Scholars Academy

What It Is

The Missouri Scholars Academy is a three-week, residential summer program held on the Columbia campus of the University of Missouri. It provides unique opportunities for students to enhance their academic skills; assimilate the accumulated knowledge of their culture; relate to contemporary issues; deepen understanding of themselves and their unique abilities; and engage with others in critical thinking and problem-solving activities. Students must be residents of Missouri and be nominated by their public or private Missouri high schools to be considered for admission.

The Missouri Scholars Academy will be held at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Student nomination forms are mailed to school districts in November. Participants are drawn from across Missouri and represent the diversity of the state. No grades or credits are awarded. The program is singularly free from competition, creating an environment that is conducive to building a community of friends and colleagues. Participants have a chance to know and make friends with other students who've demonstrated a commitment to academic pursuits. The give-and-take among students from different backgrounds is one of the most treasured aspects of the program.

What It's Like

Students live in a college dormitory with separate quarters for men and women. They learn a great deal about themselves and others, as they live together in community and develop long-lasting friendships. The program provides students, faculty, and staff an opportunity to share the joy and discovery of learning and to exchange ideas in a caring community. A select group of teachers and mentors, chosen from across the state, works closely with the students in classes, seminars, and co-curricular activities. Well-known speakers and instructors, as well as special events and recreational opportunities provide an array of stimulating activities that offer fun and enjoyment, along with learning.

Students who are accepted must be prepared to remain on campus the entire three weeks and become a participating, contributing member of the MSA community, academically and socially. Because there are such a variety of opportunities for personal, educational, and cultural growth in this program, students will have to make choices. The program offers students the chance to take responsibility for their individual learning.

Purpose

The Missouri Scholars Academy seeks to help gifted high school students achieve their full potential; to motivate them to use their abilities in attaining higher goals; and to encourage local schools to establish and/or improve programs for academically gifted youth by providing leadership in developing curriculum and innovative teaching strategies.

Program

The program moves at a swift pace and contains advanced level content as students explore abstract concepts, theory, and interdisciplinary curriculum. Each student has a major field of study, as well as a minor field. Students are expected to attend daily classes for the entire three-week academy and to participate fully in the instructional and social life of the community. Nominees should be an excellent representative of their district, functioning well in the school and community setting, and mature enough to live away from home successfully.

For more information, contact the University of Missouri, at (573) 882-4421.