

STAMPS SCHOLARS

Handbook

The Stamps Scholars Program at Elizabethtown College

August 2023



The Stamps Scholars Program at Elizabethtown College

2023-24 Handbook

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Stamps Scholars Program Mission and Vision

Our mission

The Strive Foundation partners with visionary colleges and universities to award multi-year scholarships that enable extraordinary educational experiences.

Our vision

To build a nationally prestigious merit-based scholarship program that supports exceptional students as they become leaders throughout society.

Stamps Scholars

Stamps Scholars are driven and talented individuals with proven leadership skills who are supported by multi-year awards to work toward their long-term goals.

Program Overview

The Stamps Scholars Program at Elizabethtown College

The Stamps Scholars Program supports a select group of Elizabethtown College students who have been awarded a four-year full tuition scholarship on the basis of their potential as future national leaders. The Program exists to provide Stamps scholars with an enriched undergraduate experience aimed at developing scholars' skills in four domains: creativity, leadership, scholarship, and service.

Creativity

Stamps scholars are naturally intellectually curious, and the program will encourage scholars to explore a variety of experiences, challenge themselves, take risks, and discover their own strengths, both in their curricular and co-curricular experiences.

Leadership

Stamps scholars are poised to become the leaders of tomorrow. Scholars will participate in leadership development opportunities through curricular and co-curricular activities. Scholars will network with leaders from among Elizabethtown College faculty and/or alumni and have the opportunity to attend leadership development seminars off campus.

Scholarship

Stamps scholars are high achievers, and they are expected to be outstanding scholars at the undergraduate level. They are strongly encouraged to participate fully in the Elizabethtown College Honors Program and conduct independent artistic and/or scholarly work. They are encouraged to share their work at professional conferences and compete for national fellowships.

Service

Stamps scholars are expected to use their creative abilities, leadership skills, and scholarly knowledge to benefit the greater good. Scholars will work in collaboration with peers and organizations in the community to create positive change in the world.

Stamps Scholars Program Staff

Stamps Scholars Program Director

Dr. Jean Pretz, Professor of Psychology
pretzj@etown.edu, 717-361-1267, Esbenshade 260F

Faculty Guide for Class of 2024

Dr. Charla Lorenzen, Professor of Modern Languages
lorenzenc@etown.edu, 717-361-1996, Wenger 309

Faculty Guide for Class of 2025

Dr. Anya Goldina, Associate Professor of Biology
goldinaa@etown.edu, 717-361-6418, Lyet 242

Faculty Guide for Class of 2026

Dr. Shannon Haley-Mize, Associate Professor of Education and Director of the Center for Global Understanding and Peacemaking
mizes@etown.edu, 717-361-3702, Nicarry 122

Faculty Guide for Class of 2027

Dr. Tomas Estrada, Associate Professor of Engineering and Physics
estradat@etown.edu, 717-361-3755, Esbenshade 160A

Program Assistant

Luke Mackey, Assistant Director of the Honors Program & Program Assistant for Academic Affairs
mackeyl@etown.edu, 717-361-3758, Honors Center in Myer Hall

Program Activities

The Stamps Scholars Program at Elizabethtown College

Stamps scholars are expected to take advantage of many opportunities offered through the Program. Scholars should consult with the Program Director and their cohort's Faculty Guide to tailor their experience to best develop their own interests, challenge themselves to grow academically, as a leader, and in service to others.

Required Activities

In the event that a scholar anticipates difficulty completing a requirement, the Stamps Program Director should be notified directly in a timely manner.

Stamps Scholars National Conventions

All Stamps scholars are expected to attend the Stamps Scholars National Convention which is held at a Stamps partner institution approximately every other year. This event provides an extraordinary networking opportunity as well as a community-building experience among Elizabethtown scholars. Scholar participation in national conventions is funded fully by the national Stamps program; students do not need to use enrichment funds for this experience.

Stamps Scholars Retreats

All Stamps scholars are expected to attend one or two annual retreats. The purpose of the retreats is to build community, deepen personal reflection, and explore topics of mutual interest.

Stamps Engagement and Reflection

Each semester, Stamps scholars are expected to engage in four different events or experiences that contribute to the development of their 1) scholarship, 2) leadership ability, 3) commitment to service, and 4) creative ability, one event for each category. For two of these experiences, scholars will write a 500-word reflection to share with their faculty guide and the Stamps director each semester. Engagement and reflections are documented via the Stamps Canvas page.

Leadership Course

Stamps scholars are expected to take HON 171 Rethinking Leadership: Creativity, Collaboration, and Social Change, an online asynchronous summer course designed for Stamps scholars. This course introduces students to the concept of leadership as collaboration with communities to work for positive social change. This course is best taken after the first or second year on campus.

Goal Setting

All Stamps scholars are expected to submit to the Faculty Guide and Program Director written short-term and long-term goals typically at the time of the fall retreat. Goals are typically discussed with the Faculty Guide in a one-on-one advising meeting each semester.

Thank You Notes

All Stamps Scholars are expected to write thank-you notes to Mr. Stamps each year in response to his generous support.

Recommended Activities

Stamps Cohort Gatherings

Your faculty guide will organize opportunities for scholars to gather as a cohort approximately once per month during the academic year. These gatherings will help you build a sense of community in the program, learn from the experiences of your peers, and give your faculty guide an opportunity to get to know you so that they can provide personalized advising.

Stamps Scholars Society

Stamps scholars are encouraged to participate in the Elizabethtown Stamps Scholars Society. The Society is focused on fostering communication and building relationships among Elizabethtown Stamps Scholars as well as facilitating participation in service.

Etown Blue Print Program

Elizabethtown Blue Print program is a unique leadership program available to all students. Blue Print helps students develop leadership skills, better their well-being and connectedness, and enhance relationship building. The Etown Blue Print program provides students with a roadmap for this journey, acts as a bridge between campus and local communities, fosters life skills, and creates professional connections that extend outside the classroom. There are four pillars of the program that students pursue: Well-Being and Connectedness, Civility and Curiosity, Leadership and Service, and Equity and Diversity. These goals overlap and complement the goals of the Stamps program, and scholars are strongly recommended to take advantage of the Blue Print program. Details and information on signing up can be found here:

<https://www.etown.edu/programs/blueprint/index.aspx>

Service Activities and Civic Engagement

Stamps scholars are encouraged to participate in service activities through the Stamps Scholars Society, the Center for Civic and Community Engagement, and/or other campus clubs. Each year we participate in the national Stamps Day of Service and Into the Streets (campus-wide day of service). Scholars are also encouraged to consider service trips that are held over spring break.

Independent Academic Work

Stamps scholars are encouraged to pursue independent academic work. This may take the form of a summer research internship through Elizabethtown's Summer Creative Arts and Research Projects (SCARP) program or a research practicum for credit during the academic year. Scholars are strongly encouraged to present their work at the on-campus research conference, Scholarship and Creative Arts Day (SCAD), and at professional conferences as appropriate. Stamps scholars who complete the requirements for the Elizabethtown College Honors Program will also enroll in HON 301: Thesis Preparation as they work on their Honors thesis.

Study Abroad

Stamps scholars are encouraged to spend time in another culture during their College experience. This can take the form of a semester abroad, but can also occur during May Term travel courses or Alternative Spring Break trips. Scholars are encouraged to use enrichment funds to gain additional or more extensive experiences abroad.

Internships

Stamps scholars are encouraged to seek internships during the summer or academic year. Enrichment funds can be used to support room and board during summer internships, and students are encouraged to pursue multiple opportunities to intern in diverse settings.

Conversations with Campus Visitors

Elizabethtown regularly hosts national and international leaders for campus lectures and workshops. Stamps scholars are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities, and scholars are often invited to personally encounter campus visitors over breakfast or lunch for a more in-depth discussion.

Elizabethtown College Honors Program

Stamps scholars are automatically invited to participate in the Honors Program, and they are strongly encouraged to accept that invitation. The Honors program carries numerous benefits to its students including priority registration and funds to support academic work. Details on the requirements and opportunities available through the Honors program can be found at www.ETOWN.EDU/honors. Stamps scholars are not required to complete all the requirements for the Honors program.

Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships

Stamps scholars are encouraged to seek out and apply for prestigious scholarships and fellowships such as Rhodes and Fulbright. These nationally competitive funds are available for specialized study abroad, independent research, and future graduate study. Enrollment in HON 205: Leadership Theory and Personal Narrative is highly recommended for students interested in these opportunities.

Proposed Timeline for Stamps Scholars

These are suggestions. Please be creative and challenge yourself to take advantage of available opportunities.

First year

Attend Honors orientation, participate in Honors program activities
Attend Stamps scholars retreat and participate in cohort gatherings and Stamps Scholars Society
Participate in Stamps Day of Service
Attend campus events and explore interests through the Stamps engagement requirement
Participate in the Blue Print Program
Consider summer internship (e.g., research through SCARP)
Enroll in Rethinking Leadership: Creativity, Collaboration, and Social Change, Honors summer course

Second year

Attend Stamps scholars retreat and participate in cohort gatherings and Stamps Scholars Society
Participate Stamps Day of Service
Attend campus events and explore interests through the Stamps engagement requirement
Participate in the Blue Print Program
Present at Scholarship and Creative Arts Day (SCAD)
Consider SCARP, study abroad, summer internship, leadership role on campus
Enroll in Rethinking Leadership: Creativity, Collaboration, and Social Change, Honors summer course

Third year

Attend Stamps scholars retreat and participate in cohort gatherings and Stamps Scholars Society
Participate in Stamps Day of Service
Attend campus events and explore interests through the Stamps engagement requirement
Participate in the Blue Print Program
Present at SCAD and/or professional conference
Develop Honors thesis proposal
Consider applying for prestigious scholarship or fellowship
Consider SCARP, study abroad, summer internship, leadership role on campus

Fourth year

Attend Stamps scholars retreat and participate in cohort gatherings and Stamps Scholars Society
Participate in Stamps Day of Service
Attend campus events and explore interests through the Stamps engagement requirement
Participate in the Blue Print Program
Apply for jobs, graduate programs, prestigious scholarships or fellowships
Complete Honors thesis and/or other independent academic work
Present at SCAD and/or professional conference

Stamps Enrichment Funds

Each scholar has access to an enrichment fund of \$6,000 to be used to enable and enhance educational experiences while an undergraduate student. This includes study abroad, room and board during a summer internship, travel to conferences, May term travel courses at Etown, Outward Bound trips, and leadership workshops. The Foundation does not support the use of funds for supplies such as textbooks or equipment. Funds may be used to pay for additional tuition or fees for Elizabethtown courses (e.g., May term, winter term, summer term), but they should not be used for tuition at other institutions except in rare circumstances. If you are uncertain about whether a particular experience qualifies, please do not hesitate to ask the Stamps Program Director. Enrichment funds are available to scholars who are in good standing with the program (i.e., are participating in the required program activities) and whose GPA is at least 3.0. Use of the enrichment fund is contingent on approval of the Stamps Program Director.

How to access enrichment funds

1. Complete an electronic [request form](#) to the Stamps Program Director. (Do this prior to incurring expenses.) See below for details about information needed for the request form.
2. Wait for the Stamps Program Director to provide an approval via email.
3. Submit receipts to the Program Assistant via the request form, via email, or in person. Reimbursement may take about two weeks.

Receipts must be submitted within one semester of incurring the cost. That is, if you incurred a cost in the Fall semester, you must submit the receipt by the end of the Spring semester, and expenses incurred during the summer must be processed by the end of the Fall semester, etc.

If you anticipate large expenditures, the Stamps Program may be able to pay up front so that you do not need to be reimbursed. Obtain approval for the expenses from the Stamps Program Director first, and then contact the Program Assistant to arrange payment.

If you will be using enrichment funds to pay the College (e.g., for Elizabethtown summer courses or research practica), contact the Program Assistant to arrange a direct transfer of funds rather than paying and asking for reimbursement. Obtain approval for the expenses from the Stamps Program Director first, and then contact the Program Assistant to arrange the transfer.

Stamps scholars must use their funds by May 1 of their graduation year (December 1 for a December graduation). This means that all requests and receipts must be submitted and approved by May 1 (or December 1) so that the paperwork and reimbursement can be completed in time for graduation. The Foundation will not permit students to receive funds after they have graduated. Any unused funds will be forfeited.

For information on the balance in your fund, contact the Program Assistant. For information on what kinds of expenses qualify for enrichment funding, talk with the Stamps Program Director.

Request to Use Enrichment Funds

Access this form online here: <https://forms.office.com/r/2uLXKUcnzu> or via the QR code below.

Name:

Class Year:

Campus Mailbox:

Major(s):

Minor(s):

Major Advisor:

Address to send reimbursement:

Total amount requested: \$



Project description:

Rationale for funding (including relation of the project to your academic goals):

Budget (an itemized list of estimated expenses):

Scholarship Requirements

The Stamps scholarship is renewable for a total of eight semesters as long as scholars are enrolled full time, maintain a strong academic record, and demonstrate responsible citizenship. Stamps scholars must meet the standards applied to all merit-based scholarships at Elizabethtown. This includes maintaining a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75. In addition, Stamps scholars must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher in order to access enrichment funds.

Scholars are also required to participate in designated program activities, as noted in this Handbook in the section on Program Activities.

Violations of the Code of Conduct

In the event of a student conduct violation, Stamps scholars are expected to comply with the directives issued by the Director of Student Rights and Responsibilities. In addition, the following consequences apply for Stamps scholars.

Formal Warning – Meeting with Stamps director.

Disciplinary Notice – Meeting with Stamps director.

Disciplinary Probation – Meeting with Stamps director and loss of access to enrichment fund while on probation. Possible loss of eligibility to participate in program activities while on probation and possible loss of Stamps scholarship while on probation at the discretion of the Stamps director and/or Stamps advisory committee.

Disciplinary Suspension – Loss of status as Stamps scholar, the scholarship, and all of its privileges. The student is eligible to reapply for financial aid upon reinstatement.

Disciplinary Expulsion – Loss of status as Stamps scholar, the scholarship, and all of its privileges.

Violations of the Code of Academic Integrity

In the event of an academic integrity violation, Stamps scholars are expected to comply with the directive issued by the Academic Standing Committee. In addition, the following consequences apply for Stamps scholars.

First offense – Meeting with Stamps director and loss of access to enrichment fund.

Second offense – Loss of status as Stamps scholar, the scholarship, and all of its privileges. The student is eligible to reapply for financial aid from the College.

Resources for Stamps Scholars

Elizabethtown Stamps website: <http://www.etown.edu/stamps>

National Stamps Scholars Program website: <http://www.stampsscholars.org/>

Official Stamps Scholars Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/166758543372995/>

Etown Stamps Scholars Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/EtownStampsScholars/>