

Handbook

The Stamps Scholars Program at Elizabethtown College

January 2016



STAMPS SCHOLARS

STAMPS FAMILY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, INC.

Handbook
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Stamps Foundation Mission and Vision

Our mission

The Stamps Family Charitable 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 Elizabethtown's signature leadership development program, Called to Lead. Scholars will network with leaders from among Elizabethtown College faculty and/or alumni, and have the opportunity to attend leadership development seminars.

Scholarship

Stamps scholars are high achievers, and they are expected to be outstanding scholars at the undergraduate level. In addition to excelling in the classroom, scholars will 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 organizations in the community to create positive change.

Stamps Scholars Program Director

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Administrative Assistant

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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 faculty mentors 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, he/she should contact the Program Director 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.

Stamps Scholars Retreats

All Stamps scholars are expected to attend annual fall retreats for Elizabethtown scholars. The purpose of the retreat is to build community, deepen personal reflection, and explore topics of mutual interest.

Goal Setting and Self Reflection

All Stamps scholars are expected to submit to the Program Director written short-term and long-term goals each fall and record their reflection on their progress toward these goals each spring. Goals and self-reflections are typically discussed with the Program Director in a one-on-one advising meeting each semester.

Thank You Notes

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

Recommended Activities

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.

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 complete an Honors thesis.

Called to Lead

Stamps scholars are encouraged to participate in Elizabethtown's signature leadership development program, Called to Lead. Through this program, scholars will be exposed to a variety of perspectives on leadership, practice their own leadership skills, and reflect on leadership experiences. One of the perks of this program is attendance at "What Matters to Me and Why Dinners," events that feature prominent members of the campus community reflecting on their values and purposeful life work.

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.

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.

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.

Elizabethtown College Honors Program

Stamps scholars are automatically invited to participate in the Honors Program, and they are strongly encouraged to accept that invitation. There is no requirement for Stamps scholars to complete all the requirements for the program.

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 Stamps Scholars Society
Participate in Called to Lead and service activities
Attend events with campus visitors
Consider summer internship (e.g., research through SCARP)

Second year

Attend Stamps scholars retreat and participate in Stamps Scholars Society
Participate in Called to Lead and service activities
Attend events with campus visitors
Present at Scholarship and Creative Arts Day (SCAD)
Consider SCARP, study abroad, summer internship, leadership role on campus

Third year

Attend Stamps scholars retreat and participate in Stamps Scholars Society
Participate in Called to Lead and service activities
Attend events with campus visitors
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 Stamps Scholars Society
Complete capstone for Called to Lead
Participate in service activities and attend events with campus visitors
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

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 a small number of program activities each year, as noted in this Handbook in the section on Program Activities.

Accessing Enrichment Funds

Each scholar has access to an enrichment fund of \$6,000 to be used to enable and enhance educational experiences. This includes study abroad, room and board during a summer internship, travel to conferences, Outward Bound trips and leadership workshops, exam costs, even books and a computer for use during college. 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.

How to access enrichment funds

Complete a request form and send it electronically to the Stamps Program Director. (Do this prior to incurring expenses.)

Obtain written (email is acceptable) approval from the Stamps Program Director.

Bring the written approval and receipts to Linda Hinson in the Honors office (lower level of Wenger) for processing. Reimbursement may take about two weeks.

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 written approval for the expenses from the Stamps Program Director first, and then contact Linda Hinson to arrange payment.

If you will be using enrichment funds to pay the College (e.g., for Elizabethtown summer courses or research practica), contact Linda Hinson to arrange a direct transfer of funds rather than paying and asking for reimbursement.

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

The Stamps Scholars Program at Elizabethtown College

Request to Use Enrichment Funds

Each Stamps Scholar at Elizabethtown has an enrichment fund to use for enriching experiences related to his or her educational endeavors while an undergraduate student. Such funds can be used to support experiences such as summer research, study abroad, research-related travel, participation in conferences, leadership training and/or service projects.

Use of the enrichment fund is contingent on approval of the Stamps Program Director. Please submit this completed form to the Director prior to incurring expenses. Upon approval, funds will be released after submission of receipts for reimbursement.

Name:

Class Year:

Major(s):

Minor(s):

Major Advisor:

Total amount requested: \$

Project description:

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

Budget (an itemized list of estimated expenses):

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.

Resources for Stamps Scholars

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

Stamps Foundation Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StampsFoundation>

Official Stamps Scholars Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/166758543372995/>*

Elizabethtown Stamps Scholars Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/384249651690562/>*

*Please join these groups for the latest updates on Stamps events and opportunities!