

Graham Sustainability Scholars Program 2018 Call for Student Applications Open to Current Second-Year Undergraduate Students

Overview

The Graham Sustainability Scholars Program (Program) supports a diverse and inclusive cohort of outstanding students from across campus, providing an opportunity to enhance sustainability leadership, training, and education. The Program engages undergraduate students in action-based learning and co-curricular activities.

The Program is part of the Graham Sustainability Institute (Institute), which engages, empowers, and supports faculty and students from all U-M units and integrates this talent with external stakeholders, fostering sustainability solutions at all scales.

Requirements & Guidelines

The program requires a minimum of nine (9) credits of coursework (see Section 2c for details) as well as participation in co-curricular activities and includes up to \$3,500 in funding for field-based experiences. If not pursuing a supplemental studies transcript notation, substitutions or exceptions to the requirements may be approved by petitioning the Program Director.

1. Student Eligibility:

- a. Undergraduate students in all U-M academic units are eligible to apply.
- b. Students must be either in their second-year (having completed 3 full semesters at U-M by January 2018) or, in the case of transfer or non-traditional/junior students, be on track to graduate no earlier than December 2019.
- c. Students must be on the Ann Arbor campus in good standing during Fall 2018. During this term, all Graham Scholars must enroll in UC 327: Interdisciplinary Thinking for Sustainability, which is offered Thursdays from 4-5:30pm.
- d. Students must have a minimum cumulative grade point average above 3.25, including Fall 2017 grades. Exceptional candidates with GPAs between 3.0 and 3.25 may be considered. Anyone with a GPA below 3.0 will not be considered and should not apply.
- e. Students must successfully complete all program elements (including passing grades in all courses) to be eligible to receive funding for field-based experiences, and recognition on their transcripts.

2. Program Summary:

It is expected that 25-30 applicants will be selected each year. Participation will begin immediately upon selection and will continue until the completion of undergraduate studies.

- a. Participation in Graham Institute-sponsored activities offered to further develop leadership skills and foster a sense of identity in and among cohorts.
- b. Academic program requirements consist of completing a minimum of nine (9) credit hours, with the following distribution:
 - i. A one-credit seminar (UC 327) focused on Interdisciplinary Thinking for Sustainability to be taken in the first fall semester following acceptance into the program
 - ii. A one-credit seminar (UC 427) focused on Leadership Development for Sustainability to be taken in the second fall semester of program participation
 - iii. ENVIRON/RCIDIV 391 – Sustainability and the Campus (4 credits)
 - iv. Election of a three-credit (or more) program-approved field-based sustainability course or an

acceptable alternative, which may include an appropriate course within or outside of U-M, or an independent study experience. Alternatives to pre-approved courses require approval from the Education Director at the Graham Institute. Scholars can petition to access up to \$3,500 for direct expenses for course fees, related direct travel expenses (e.g. food, lodging, plane, ground transportation, lab fees) and/or tuition (for spring or summer courses only). Indirect expenses (e.g., gear/equipment/supplies and anything involving individual preferences not directly attributable to the course/experience) are ineligible for funding.

- c. Completion of the program may be entered as a supplemental studies program on the academic transcript of students who successfully complete program requirements, and are enrolled in the following schools or colleges: Taubman College of Architecture & Urban Planning, Stamps School of Art & Design, Ross School of Business (Ross), College of Engineering, College of Literature, Science & the Arts (LS&A), and Ford School of Public Policy. The ability to obtain a supplemental studies notation through the School of Public Health is to be determined. The Graham Institute will provide documentation of program completion for all students who successfully fulfill the requirements as long as supplemental studies notations are allowable.
 - i. Per LS&A policy, LS&A students who complete a Sustainability Minor through the Program in the Environment may not have both the Sustainability Minor and the program listed on their transcripts. However, these students may still fully participate in the program.
 - ii. Per LS&A policy on supplemental studies programs, LS&A students who want the program designation to appear on their transcripts may not share any courses used toward the program with any other LS&A major or minor. However, LS&A students who choose to not have the program designation appear on their transcripts may still participate fully in the program if they fulfill all program requirements.

3. Selection Process:

Applications will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

- i. Academic qualifications;
- ii. Previous experience related to sustainability;
- iii. Personal statements and letters of recommendation, as reviewed for sustainability leadership potential; and
- iv. Desire for diversity and interdisciplinary balance in the cohort.

Application Procedure

- **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** 11:59 pm, EST January 31, 2018.
- **Students must submit their packages on-line:** <http://graham.umich.edu/application-request/42424>

Required Application Materials: Items 1-5 should be uploaded as a single .pdf file by the applicant.

1. A statement of no more than 250 words, describing how this program would complement or enhance your studies and professional goals, and how your acceptance would contribute to the program.
2. A short, critical thinking essay (no more than 250 words) answering the following question: "In what ways does fostering a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community affect pathways to sustainability?"
3. Transcripts of all undergraduate coursework. Unofficial transcripts are acceptable. This transcript must include your Fall 2017 grades.
4. A brief resume or curriculum vitae describing your: (a) Educational background; (b) Professional experience; (c) Major awards and honors received; (d) Membership in organizations as applicable; and (e) Outreach and volunteer efforts, especially those related to sustainability.
5. We want to know what excites your curiosity about sustainability. Please describe in 250 words or less a project that would answer a sustainability question that intrigues you.
6. Names and contact information for two people. *One person must be a U-M faculty member or someone who has taught the applicant at the college level.* Contacts will be asked by the Graham Institute to submit confidential recommendation letters. **Letters of reference are due by February 6, 2018.**

Timeline

- 11:59 pm EST, **January 31, 2018** application deadline
- 11:59 pm EST, **February 6, 2018** letters of reference due
- **March 15, 2018** expected award announcement

Graham Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement

At the Graham Sustainability Institute, our dedication to academic excellence for the public good is inseparable from our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our mission of engaging, empowering, and supporting faculty, staff, and students to foster sustainability solutions includes ensuring that each member of our community thrives. We believe that diversity, equity and inclusion are key to individual empowerment, and the advancement of sustainability knowledge, learning and leadership. See:

<http://graham.umich.edu/diversity>

- **All applications will be handled confidentially.**
- **Application Information Website:** www.graham.umich.edu • Email: graham-institute@umich.edu
- **Graham Scholar Program Information:** Margaret Wooldridge, Graham Institute Education Director, mswool@umich.edu