Graham Sustainability Scholars Program
2015 Call for Student Applications
Open to Current Second-Year Undergraduate Students

Overview

The Graham Sustainability Institute is committed to educating and empowering the next generation of sustainability leaders. The major environmental and interrelated social sustainability challenges facing us are so complex that solutions will not come from traditional disciplinary approaches. With this in mind, we coordinate with U-M schools and colleges to lead the Sustainability Scholars Program (“program”) – consisting of a cohort of outstanding students from across campus – and provide an opportunity to enhance their sustainability leadership, training, and education. The program requires a minimum of 9 credits of coursework (see Section 2-C for details) as well as participation in co-curricular activities and includes up to $3,000 in funding for field-based experiences.

Requirements and Guidelines

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 2015) or – in the case of transfer or non-traditional/junior students – be on track to graduate no earlier than December 2016.
   c. Students must be on the Ann Arbor campus in good standing during Fall 2015. During this term, all Graham Scholars must enroll in UC 327: Interdisciplinary Thinking for Sustainability, which is offered Thursdays from 4:30pm.
   d. Students must have a minimum cumulative grade point average above 3.25, including Fall 2014 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:
   a. It is expected that 25-30 applicants will be selected each year.
   b. Participation will begin immediately upon selection and will continue until the completion of undergraduate studies.
   c. Academic program requirements consist of completing a minimum of 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 3-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 $3,000 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. For a current listing of Graham-approved courses, please see the Graham Institute website at http://graham.umich.edu/learning/undergraduate-scholars.

d. Additional Graham Institute-sponsored activities are offered to foster a sense of identity in and among cohorts and to further develop leadership skills.

e. Completion of the program will 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 (LSA), and Ford School of Public Policy. The Graham Institute will provide documentation of program completion for all students who successfully fulfill the requirements.

   i. Per LSA policy, LSA 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 LSA policy on supplemental studies programs, LSA students who want the program designation to appear on their transcripts may not share any courses used toward the program with any other LSA major or minor. However, LSA 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:**

   a. 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
      iv. Desire for diversity and interdisciplinary balance in the cohort

   b. Interviews of applicants may be conducted.
Application Procedure

**Required Application Materials:** Students must submit their packages on-line at [http://graham.umich.edu/application-request/30961](http://graham.umich.edu/application-request/30961) and include the following:

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 statement of no more than 250 words responding to the following scenario: You have just been awarded $1,000,000 to lead a new project focused on sustainability. What would you do with the award? How would you do it?

3. Names and contact information for two people, one of whom must be a U-M faculty member or someone who has taught the applicant at the college level, who will be asked by the Graham Institute to submit confidential recommendation letters. These letters are due by February 5, 2015.

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
   e. Outreach and volunteer efforts, especially those related to sustainability

5. Transcripts of all undergraduate coursework. Unofficial transcripts are acceptable. This transcript must include your Fall 2014 grades.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** January 15, 2015 (references due by February 5, 2015)

**EXPECTED AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT:** March 15, 2015

**NOTE:** All applications will be handled confidentially.

For more information about the Graham Sustainability Institute, please visit our website at: [www.graham.umich.edu](http://www.graham.umich.edu) or contact the Graham Institute directly at: graham-institute@umich.edu. For information about the Graham Scholars Program specifically, contact the Graham Institute’s Education Director Mike Shriberg at 734-647-6227 or mshriber@umich.edu.