Paterno Fellows are challenged to reach the highest levels of academic achievement and distinguish themselves in areas traditionally associated with the liberal arts: ethics, service, and leadership; excellence in communication; and intercultural awareness. The program’s rigorous challenges are coupled with significant rewards. Fellows receive financial support to participate in enriching out-of-class experiences like internships, study abroad, and research. The program is also one of the only pathways at the University for students not initially admitted as honors students to demonstrate their potential and earn their way into the Schreyer Honors College.

How Do I Apply for the Program?

There is no application—any Liberal Arts first-year student may aspire to the Paterno Fellows Program.

Aspiring students who meet the challenge academically become admitted Paterno Fellows and enter the Schreyer Honors College following their first or second year. Other students choose to become Fellows after they have been admitted to the Schreyer Honors College.

How Can I Learn More?

For more information about the Paterno Fellows Program, visit us at laus.la.psu.edu/paternofellows

or contact:

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I know that this unique program helped me stand out against other applicants. Also, I was able to apply for funding through Paterno Fellows to ensure that an internship away from home was a possibility.

-Kate, International Politics, French

The Paterno Fellows Program enabled and encouraged me to pursue multiple disciplines, which I was able to leverage in approaching research projects and intellectual discussions at the internship. This allowed me to bring valuable insight to the workplace, and I felt I quickly became a treasured member of the team.

-Daniel, Communication Arts and Sciences, English, Philosophy

The Paterno Fellows experience offers "an education for leadership" in the best tradition of the liberal arts. It molds well-rounded students who are ready for the world and prepares them for citizenship, for lifetime learning, and for the satisfaction derived from an exemplary education. Students aspiring to become Fellows are challenged to perform to their full potential and offered the support they need to achieve their academic goals.

What Are the Rewards of Becoming a Paterno Fellow?

- Honors courses, special seminars, and performances by visiting lecturers and artists
- Social events, special living options, and off-campus excursions with faculty and other Paterno Fellows
- Substantial funding for research, study abroad, and internships
- One-on-one mentoring with successful faculty and alumni
- Special acknowledgement at graduation

The Paterno Fellows Program ensured that I was a strong leader and took initiative during my experience. Because of this, I had the confidence and skills necessary to ask questions, lead team building exercises, give presentations in front of managers, and train other coworkers.

-Evan, Economics

I am so grateful for the academic and financial support that the Paterno Fellows Program gave me. I am so fortunate to be in a program that helps students reach their goals and ultimately creates more well-rounded students and global citizens.

-Casey, Anthropology, Jewish Studies

What Are the Expectations that Fellows Must Meet?

- Maintain required GPA
- Complete a specified number of honors courses
- Satisfy requirements of the intended major
- Complete a second major or an enhanced minor
- Complete a study abroad experience or an internship
- Complete an ethics course
- Complete a substantial leadership or service commitment
- Complete a senior thesis

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