

# **PATERNO FELLOWS PROGRAM**

## **Student Handbook 2022–23**



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**PennState**

Sponsored by the College of the Liberal Arts and Schreyer Honors College



## ABOUT

## What is the Paterno Fellows Program?

The Paterno Fellows Program (PFP) is an innovative program offered jointly by the College of the Liberal Arts and the Schreyer Honors College that encourages students to challenge themselves academically. 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 Paterno Fellows are challenged to perform to their full potential and offered the support they need to achieve their academic goals. Paterno Fellows distinguish themselves in areas traditionally associated with the liberal arts: ethics, service, and leadership; excellence in communication; and international and intercultural awareness. Students aspiring to the PFP have two years to become Paterno Fellows and Schreyer Scholars by meeting specific requirements that are outlined in this handbook. Other students choose to become Paterno Fellows after they have been admitted to the Schreyer Honors College.

## How to Participate

There is no application. Students simply decide to accept the Paterno Fellows challenge. If not already a Schreyer Scholar, a Liberal Arts student becomes an “aspirant”—i.e., a student who aspires to be a Paterno Fellow—by registering in the Paterno Fellows database, beginning to complete the Paterno Fellows requirements, and participating in PFP events. The majority of Paterno Fellows begin as aspirants. If students are already Schreyer Scholars with a major in the College of the Liberal Arts, they simply register in the Paterno Fellows database and begin to complete the Paterno Fellows requirements and participate in PFP events.

## The Paterno Fellows Aspirant

College of the Liberal Arts students who decide to pursue the Paterno Fellows Program will be in aspirant status until they satisfy entrance requirements, as well as any requirements stipulated by their intended major department. The deadline for meeting these requirements is the end of the second year. Therefore, aspirants can expect to be Paterno Fellows and Schreyer Scholars during their third and fourth years. Students in majors that do not have additional requirements will be eligible to enter the Paterno Fellows Program and Schreyer Honors College after their first year if they achieve a 3.5 or higher grade-point average.

In most cases, students register as Paterno Fellows aspirants during their New Student Orientation (NSO) advising session. Students will indicate a preferred major and will be assigned an academic adviser. Although aspirants may change majors, their major at the time they are admitted as Paterno Fellows will be the major in which they earn honors and write their thesis. If they decide to opt out of the program altogether, they simply notify the PFP assistant. There is no penalty for discontinuing and nothing will show on the student's record.

## Benefits of the Paterno Fellows Program

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### Transformative Academic Enrichment in the Liberal Arts

Paterno Fellows will graduate with strong academic credentials in at least two fields; develop ethical reasoning and leadership abilities; gain the ability to think critically, do independent research, and communicate effectively; and demonstrate global and intercultural sophistication. While all Liberal Arts students gain such an education at Penn State, Paterno Fellows pursue an education of exceptional ambition, depth, and distinction.

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### Financial Support for Enrichment Activities

Paterno Fellows receive financial support from the College of the Liberal Arts toward meeting their research, education abroad, and internship goals to build an impressive portfolio of experiences. These experiences prepare students for leadership, and alumni describe them as the most defining and unforgettable moments in their college careers. To apply, students fill out the [Liberal Arts Enrichment Funds Application](#).



## Participation in a Distinguished Academic Community

Every academic year offers a variety of events open to all Paterno Fellows and aspirants, such as lunch meetings, film screenings, artistic performances, seminars with visiting scholars,

off-campus trips, and social events. Informal events take place throughout the academic year in the Liberal Arts Paterno Fellows Special Living Option.

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## Advising

All PFP students are assigned an academic adviser to ensure that they are meeting expectations in a timely way and to help identify departments, institutes, and other University programs that provide academic and co-curricular opportunities for students. Once a student has chosen a major and has been accepted as a Paterno Fellow, a faculty honors adviser will be assigned as well. All Paterno Fellows work with a faculty honors adviser to develop a thesis topic, conduct research, and complete the thesis project. Paterno Fellows also have the opportunity to participate in the Liberal Arts Alumni Mentor Program.







## Entrance Requirements

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Aspirants may be admitted to the Paterno Fellows Program and Schreyer Honors College at one of three points:

### After Two Semesters

- Completion of four honors courses during the first year, including the Rhetoric and Civic Life sequence CAS/ENGL 137H and CAS/ENGL 138T, for a minimum of 12 honors credits.
  - Completion of any department requirements.
  - A second semester grade-point average no lower than 3.4 and a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 or higher.
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### After Three Semesters

- Completion of five honors courses for a cumulative total of 15 honors credits, including CAS/ENGL 137H and CAS/ENGL 138T.
  - Completion of any department requirements.
  - A third semester grade-point average no lower than 3.4 and a cumulative grade-point average of 3.4 or higher.
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### After Four Semesters

- Completion of seven honors courses for a cumulative total of 21 honors credits, including CAS/ENGL 137H and CAS/ENGL 138T.
  - Completion of any department requirements.
  - A fourth semester grade-point average no lower than 3.4 and a cumulative grade-point average of 3.4 or higher.
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*Aspirants who have two consecutive semester grade-point averages below 3.4, regardless of their cumulative grade-point average, will not be admitted into the Paterno Fellows Program.*

## Department Requirements

Only the departments listed below have additional entrance requirements. All other departments follow the general PFP grade-point average and honors credit requirements.

### Criminology

- Complete CRIM/SOC 12, CRIM 100, CRIM 249, and STAT 200 with an average grade-point average of at least 3.67 in these courses.

### Economics

- Complete ECON 102, 104, 302, and 304 (or their honors counterparts) with an average grade-point average of at least 3.67 in these courses.

### Political Science/International Politics/Social Data Analytics

- Maintain a cumulative grade-point average of 3.67 or higher.
- Complete at least two of the following courses at Penn State with an A- or higher: PLSC 1, 3, 7N, 10, 14, or 17. (Students may not use both PLSC 7N and 17 to fulfill this requirement.)
- Complete PLSC 309 with a grade of a B+ or higher.

### Psychology

- Complete PSYCH 100 (or score a 5 on the AP exam), PSYCH 105, PSYCH 200 or STAT 200, and PSYCH 301W with a grade of an A. Students who receive three A's and one A- will still qualify if they have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.8 or higher.







## Requirements for Graduation

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### **Maintain a Minimum 3.4 Grade-Point Average Every Semester**

A student's grade-point average may not fall below 3.4 for two consecutive semesters. This will lead to automatic dismissal.

### **Complete a Specified Number of Honors Courses Each Year**

- 21 honors credits in the first two years (normally four courses in the first year and three in the second, which includes the Rhetoric and Civic Life honors sequence CAS/ENGL 137H and CAS/ENGL 138T).
- At least 14 honors credits in the final two years.
- Honors courses include advanced 400-level courses taken in the first and second years and graduate-level courses.

### **Complete a Second Major or an Enhanced Minor**

Only one of the majors needs to be in the College of the Liberal Arts. An enhanced 24-credit minor will count as a second area of expertise, especially if a particular field does not offer a major. An 18-credit minor is enhanced by adding 6 credits from the approved course list for the minor.

### **Complete 3 Credits of Study in Ethics**

Students may choose from a variety of courses. Students who wish to propose another course for consideration should contact the director.



### **Complete an Education Abroad Experience or an Internship**

- Education abroad experiences must be at least five weeks in-country.
- A 3-credit internship will automatically fulfill the requirement. If the internship does not appear on the transcript, students may submit a Non-Credit Internship Form to document 150 hours of work.

### **Complete a Substantial Leadership or Service Commitment**

Paterno Fellows are expected to take on a leadership role or offer volunteer services to a community of their choice totaling at least 50 hours during their college career. Participants in the Presidential Leadership Academy automatically meet this requirement.

### **Demonstrate Global Awareness**

- **Two Options**
  - Complete two additional courses beyond the 12-credit-level proficiency in one foreign language or meet 12-credit-level proficiency in two foreign languages.
    - Students majoring or minoring in a foreign language, native speakers of a language other than English, and students studying abroad where courses are taught in a language other than English will automatically meet this requirement.
  - Take 9 credits of International Cultures (IL) courses beyond the general education requirement.

### **Complete a Thesis Research Project**

Paterno Fellows must demonstrate strong research and critical thinking skills within an “Area of Honors,” usually the student’s primary major.



## **First Semester**

- Register online in the Paterno Fellows database. The database helps us track your progress through the program.
- Schedule at least one honors course in addition to CAS/ENGL 137H.
- Meet with your adviser early in the semester to discuss your academic interests and progress.
- Meet with your adviser again in October or November to plan your spring schedule. Schedule CAS/ENGL 138T and any additional honors courses necessary to meet the 9–12 credit total expected in the first year.
- Discuss additional PFP entrance requirements for your intended major(s), if there are any. While some students may enter the PFP at the end of the first year, all students have until the end of the second year to do so.
- Review your fall grades and discuss your options with your adviser, the PFP assistant, or the director.

## **Second Semester**

- Begin thinking about and discussing with your adviser:
  - Which second major or enhanced minor might be of interest to you?
  - Which ethics course or suitable leadership or service experience is right for you?
  - When would it be appropriate for the College of the Liberal Arts to endorse your entrance into the PFP and the Schreyer Honors College (after your second, third, or fourth semester)?
  - Which honors courses will you take to reach 21 honors credits by the end of your second year? Remember that 400-level courses count as honors equivalents for first-year and second-year students.
- Review your spring grades and discuss your options with your adviser, the PFP assistant, or the director.
- Update all information in the Paterno Fellows database.
- If you have met the entrance requirements, see your adviser to declare your first major at the end of your first year in preparation to become a Paterno Fellow and Schreyer Scholar.

## The Second Year ---

- Continue to excel in your courses so that you achieve the required cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.4.
- Continue to meet regularly with your adviser to discuss your academic interests and progress.
- Discuss how and when you plan to:
  - Complete the entrance requirements for your intended major.
  - Study abroad or complete an internship prior to graduation.
  - Complete 3 credits in ethics.
  - Complete a suitable leadership or service experience.
  - Complete the foreign language proficiency requirement or the International Cultures (IL) course requirement.
- Declare your first major by the time you have completed 60 cumulative credits.
- Declare your second major or enhanced minor at the end of your second year.
- Update all information in the Paterno Fellows database at least once every semester by marking any requirements you have met as “Claimed Satisfied.”

## The Third/Fourth Years ---

- Carefully read the Schreyer Honors College Scholar Handbook. Make sure you understand its requirements and expectations.
- Meet with your honors adviser to discuss your completion of graduation and Paterno Fellows requirements.
- Apply for financial support for education abroad, internships, and undergraduate research by completing the Liberal Arts Enrichment Funds Application.
- Complete your second major or enhanced minor.
- Complete 3 credits in ethics.
- Aim to complete a leadership or service experience by the end of your third year, and submit the documentation form.



## The Third/Fourth Years *continued*

- In the spring of your third year, work with a faculty member in your primary major to identify a feasible thesis topic and submit the Thesis Proposal Report to the Schreyer Honors College. Consider doing thesis research in the summer after your third year, in order to complete the research and writing of the thesis by the beginning of the spring semester of your fourth year. Apply for funding from the Erickson Discovery Grant Program, Rock Ethics Institute, and the Liberal Arts Career Enrichment Network to support summer thesis research. The final version of the thesis must be submitted no later than March of your fourth year.



## Important Policies

- Aspiring Paterno Fellows must complete all requirements by the end of the fourth semester in order to be admitted to the Paterno Fellows Program.
- To be a Paterno Fellow, students must have at least one major in the College of the Liberal Arts.
- Only aspiring Paterno Fellows with an Economics major may be enrolled in the College of the Liberal Arts while they pursue a second major in the Smeal College of Business.
- Aspiring Paterno Fellows who receive an insufficient grade in a required course may take it again if a certain grade is needed for entrance to the Paterno Fellows Program. Students should seek the advice of their academic adviser before deciding to retake a course.
- Aspirants or Paterno Fellows who have two consecutive semesters with grade-point averages below 3.4, regardless of their cumulative grade-point average, forfeit their aspirant or Paterno Fellow standing permanently.



## ADVICE

## For the Paterno Fellows Aspirant

- Seek advice early and often from many different sources.
- Develop a good relationship with your adviser. Meet with your adviser to schedule courses, to get answers to questions, or if you find yourself struggling for any reason.
- Visit faculty members in your major during their office hours to learn about courses in the major that especially interest you, research opportunities, and possible career paths for students with your interests. Take advantage of the mentoring that faculty members can provide.
- Check in with the Liberal Arts Career Enrichment Network to learn about opportunities for internships and funding for enrichment activities.
- Excel in your courses so that you achieve the required cumulative grade-point average.
- Become and remain active in the Penn State community in ways that are personally meaningful to you.
- Maintain and update your student information in the Paterno Fellows database as you complete the various PFP requirements.
- Visit the [Paterno Fellows Program website](#) and read the weekly newsletter for updates and links to useful resources.
- Review this handbook and check off the actions as you complete them.





## GET ANSWERS

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who are Paterno Fellows?

Paterno Fellows are a group of students in the College of the Liberal Arts who have proven themselves to be superior scholars and citizens. All admitted Paterno Fellows automatically become Schreyer Scholars and share dual enrollment in the College of the Liberal Arts and the Schreyer Honors College.

### Who are aspiring Paterno Fellows (aspirants)?

Aspirants are first- and second-year Liberal Arts students who accept the challenge to become Paterno Fellows.

### How do I become an aspiring Paterno Fellow?

To start, register in the Paterno Fellows database, usually during New Student Orientation (NSO), and schedule at least one honors course, CAS/ENGL 137H, for the fall semester of your first year. You must then take CAS/ENGL 138T in the spring semester. Ideally, a student should take four honors courses in the first year and three more in the second year. If you decided to aspire to PFP after your NSO date, contact the adviser in your intended major to make sure that your schedule is appropriate and that you are on track to meet entry requirements.

### What if I started as a first-year student in another college and did not take CAS/ENGL 137H and CAS/ENGL 138T?

Aspiring Paterno Fellows must take CAS/ENGL 137H and CAS/ENGL 138T. If you have a strong academic record but have not taken these courses and other honors courses, consider entry to the Schreyer Honors College by means of the [Current Penn State Student Application](#). If you are accepted, you may then choose to be a Paterno Fellow.



## **How do I know which honors courses I should take?**

Typically, your adviser will assist you during your first scheduling session at New Student Orientation (NSO). Thereafter, you will meet with your assigned adviser for scheduling assistance at least once every semester. Honors courses do not have to be in your major.

## **How do I move from aspirant status to Paterno Fellow and Schreyer Scholar?**

Your entrance into the Paterno Fellows Program and Schreyer Honors College is automatic and guaranteed provided you complete the appropriate requirements by the end of your second year at Penn State. There is no application. The PFP assistant will notify you when you have met entry requirements.

## **When I choose a major, must it be in the College of the Liberal Arts in order for me to pursue the Paterno Fellows Program?**

*At least one major must be in the College of the Liberal Arts. Other major(s) or minor(s) may be in other colleges. The “preferred major” in the PFP database will be your major of admission, the one in which you will be expected to earn your honors and write your thesis.*

## **When is the soonest I can be admitted? When is the latest?**

Depending on the major you choose, the soonest an aspirant can be admitted is the end of the first year. Some majors have requirements that preclude completion before the end of the second year (e.g., a course that everyone takes in the spring of their second year). Students who are admitted directly to Schreyer Honors College will enter PFP as admitted Paterno Fellows.

## **What if I need more time to complete requirements?**

All Paterno Fellows aspirants have until the end of the second year to meet the entrance requirements. Unfortunately, exceptions cannot be made to extend this deadline.

## How are my completed requirements verified?

Academic requirements such as total honors courses completed and grade-point average can be verified via your transcript. As you complete other requirements, update your status in the Paterno Fellows database. A notation of “Claimed Satisfied” prompts the PFP assistant to verify that the requirement has indeed been completed.

## To whom can I speak if I have additional questions about the Paterno Fellows Program?

Your assigned academic adviser is the first place to start, particularly for questions regarding courses, academic requirements, and deadlines. Contact the PFP assistant for questions related to requirements for the program. For questions that require an exception to a Paterno Fellows policy, contact the director.

## What happens if I am unable to meet requirements due to COVID-19?

Students who are unable to meet entry or graduation requirements due to COVID-19 restrictions should consult the website for guidance.



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