PRESTON SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Learn about the REQUIREMENTS | Prepare yourself for GLD
WHAT IS THE PRESTON SCHOLARS PROGRAM?

The Preston Scholars program (PSP) supports students of any major, minor, or intellectual interest in their quest for academic and community leadership. PSP provides students interested in leadership with an additional path to distinction; recognizes high-achieving students; supports student progression toward Graduation with Leadership Distinction (GLD); promotes leadership and engagement; connects students to opportunities for meaningful service experience; and provides funding for student scholarship through travel awards and undergraduate research grants. Students must reside in Preston for at least 1 semester to apply to the Preston Scholars Program.

WHY SHOULD I PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM?

If you’re a student involved in the community through coursework, Preston organizations, or service, you are already working towards completing the requirements of the Preston Scholars Program! Becoming a Preston Scholar distinguishes you from your peers, demonstrating your dedication to developing leadership and service. If you earn a distinction as a Preston Scholar, you will be better prepared to market yourself as a servant leader and a civically engaged individual both inside and outside the classroom. The Preston Scholars Program will serve as a springboard into your completion of Graduation with Leadership Distinction. Additionally, participating in the Preston Scholars Program is the only way to earn your Preston senior recognition cord!
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Reside in Preston Residential College for at least one semester

2. Complete your declaration of intent form (bit.ly/PrestonScholarsProgram) with your Housing application or once you have started your time at Carolina

3. Attend one meeting per semester with the Graduate Assistant, Assistant Principal, or Faculty Principal to discuss your progress toward completing the requirements of the Preston Scholars Program.

4. Fulfill the Core Requirements:
   - GPA: Students are expected to graduate with at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA.
   - Standing: You must remain in good academic standing with the university.
   - Coursework: Students are expected to enroll in at least one Preston course.
   - Graduation with Leadership Distinction: Complete one of the five pathways of GLD.
   - Points: Complete experiences that add up to 10 points under each pillar.

5. Write a short (minimum one page) reflection detailing how your involvement in Preston and on campus has contributed to your development in the four Preston pillars. Reflections will be submitted to and reviewed by the Faculty Principal and Assistant Principal.

6. Fulfill the requirements for one of the five pathways under GLD. Students are encouraged to consider the Community Service or Professional and Civic Engagement pathways.
1. Preston Coursework
   - U101
   - COLA298
   - ENGL101
   - ENGL102
   - SPCH140
   - STAT201
   - UNIV290
   - Courses taught by current Preston Associates

2. Preston Grants (awarded)
   - Travel Grant
   - Research Grant

3. Campus Opportunities
   - Undergraduate research
   - Magellan Grant
   - Study Abroad
   - U101 Peer Leader
   - Supplemental Instruction Leader
   - Peer Tutoring
   - Writing Center Tutor
   - Teaching Assistant
   - Attend a conference (+2 if you present)
   - The Student Leadership and Diversity Conference
   - Present at Discover USC
   - Out-to-Lunch Program

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1. Academics
   - Minor in Leadership Studies
   - Organizational Leadership Course
   - Creative arts-related minor
   - Creative arts course

2. Preston Leadership
   - Attend the Leadership Retreat
   - Serve on the Executive Board of a Preston organization
   - Publish a submission to the Bellwether
   - Build your own leadership or creative experience

3. Campus Opportunities
   - Resident Mentor
   - Orientation Leader
   - Serve on the exec board/lead team of a campus org
   - Close Family Emerging Leaders Program
   - Attend the OMSA Diversity Retreat
   - Participate in Women LEAD
   - Freshman Council
   - EcoRep
   - Pillars XM
   - Provost's Leadership Week
   - Attend 2 Momentum Series events in one semester
   - Other campus leadership opportunities (ex: Carolina Judicial Council, band section leader, Magellan Ambassador)
COMMUNITY

1. Serve as a mentor in the Preston Mentor Program
2. Participate in Adopt-an-Associate for one semester
3. Involvement (one semester or year) in Preston
   - Any Preston Organization
   - Desk Assistant
4. Preston Programs
   - Lodge events
   - K(no)w More event
   - Civil Rights Walk
   - Fireside Chat
   - Associate events
   - Dinners with visiting professors
5. Campus Opportunities
   - Out-to-Lunch Program
   - University Ambassador
   - Women's Mentor Network
   - MAPP Mentor Program
   - Diversity Dialogue
   - OMSA Lunch and Learn
   - Safe Zone Training
   - Green Zone Training
   - Carolina Intercultural Training
   - CreedX
   - International Festival
   - Tunnel of Awareness
   - Involvement in a campus organization
   - U101 Peer Leader

RESPONSIBILITY

1. Preston Opportunities
   - YIMPACT Service Projects
   - Transitions Homeless Shelter
   - Tour Corps
   - Preston Clean-ups
   - Families Helping Families
   - Preston Service Day (fall semester)
2. Campus Opportunities
   - Alternative Breaks (+1 if you lead a trip)
   - Impact Weekly Service Trip (+1 if you lead a trip)
   - Service Saturday (+1 if you are a site leader)
   - MLK Day of Service
   - Dance Marathon (+1 if you are a team captain)
   - Relay for Life (+1 if you are a team captain)
   - Service organizations
   - Cocky’s Reading Express
   - Carolina Service Council
   - Carolina/Clemson Blood Drive
   - Other campus service opportunities
3. Columbia and Beyond
   - 20 hours of service with an organization that has been approved by the Faculty Principal or Assistant Principal, such as Harvest Hope, Epworth Children’s Home, Pawmetto Lifeline, Habitat for Humanity, Richland Hospital, and more

PILLAR REQUIREMENTS
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IF I CANNOT TAKE A PRESTON COURSE?
If your course trajectory prevents you from enrolling in any Preston courses, please contact the Faculty Principal, Assistant Principal, or Graduate Assistant.

CAN I INCLUDE EXPERIENCES I HAVE COMPLETED MULTIPLE TIMES?
You may count an experience up to two times. For example, if you participated in Dance Marathon each year during your time at Carolina, you could include two of those experiences in your Preston Scholars Program requirements.

IF I COMPLETE MY POINTS REQUIREMENT, SHOULD I STILL UPDATE MY DOCUMENT?
In order to have an all-inclusive representation of your experiences in Preston and at Carolina, you are encouraged to continue updating your spreadsheet!

WILL MY OFF-CAMPUS EXPERIENCES COUNT TOWARD PSP?
Your off-campus experiences, if initiated during your time at Carolina, may count in one of the four pillars. Approval will come from the Faculty Principal or the Assistant Principal.

IF I STARTED AN EXPERIENCE IN HIGH SCHOOL AND AM STILL PARTICIPATING IT, CAN I COUNT IT TOWARD MY REQUIREMENTS?
The Preston Scholars Program is intended to encapsulate the experiences and growth you have during your time at Carolina. Experiences in high school, while valuable for your development, do not meet the mission and goals of the Preston Scholars Program and therefore do not meet the requirements of the Preston Scholars Program.

HOW DO I KNOW THAT I HAVE OFFICIALLY COMPLETED PSP?
Once you have fulfilled the point requirements of the Preston Scholars Program and completed your GLD requirements, you will receive a letter signed by the Faculty Principal and the Assistant Principal indicating your successful completion of the Preston Scholars Program. You will also receive a signed copy of your Preston Scholars progress worksheet. Finally, you will receive your Preston senior recognition cord.

CAN I COUNT THE SAME EXPERIENCE IN MULTIPLE PILLARS?
While many experiences in Preston and on campus are multi-dimensional and may contribute to two or more of the Preston pillars (ex: Out-to-Lunch program, service leadership, U101 Peer Leader), one experience may not count in multiple pillars. You must select which pillar you would like to associate with that experience.

IF I DO SOMETHING THAT'S NOT ON THE LIST, DOES IT STILL COUNT?
If you are participating in something that you think fulfills the requirements of the Preston pillars, let us know! The lists we have provided are not exhaustive and they leave room for other opportunities.