

The Program

The Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program at the University of Notre Dame is a merit-based scholarship and leadership development program designed to equip young men and women to have a transformational impact on the world. Our scholars are lifelong learners and collaborative leaders who want to use their intellect, creativity, and influence to serve their communities and beyond.

Benefits of the Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program include:

- Four years of merit scholarship awards of \$25,000 per year (\$100,000 over four years) toward the cost of attending Notre Dame as a full-time student.
- Intellectual engagement within a community of scholars participating in regular discussion forums, local initiatives, and social activities throughout the academic year. Guidance and advice on coursework and summer projects.
- Four summer enrichment experiences: Wilderness Leadership, Social Justice, Global Inquiry, and Professional Venture. During these summers, scholars travel the world, discover new interests, identify true passions, refine lifelong pursuits, and lay the groundwork for future careers.
- Guidance and support from a dedicated Program staff and faculty mentors.



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“The very essence of leadership is that you have a vision. It’s got to be a vision you articulate clearly and forcefully on every occasion. You can’t blow an uncertain trumpet.”

-Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.





The HYSP Scholar

There is no single definition of a Hesburgh-Yusko scholar. Our scholars are passionate about the learning process, see their coursework as a vehicle for discovery, and recognize the journey as the destination. They tackle challenging problems, develop innovative solutions, and are catalysts for material change. They are students with a genuine sense of mission who are capable of leading with both compassion and conviction. Hesburgh-Yusko scholars pursue their goals fearlessly, always looking to serve others in their own communities and around the world.



Selection Criteria

All candidates for our Program are evaluated according to four criteria:

Demonstrated Leadership Ability

Hesburgh-Yusko scholars have the potential to produce great and beneficial change in the University, the nation, and the world. We are looking for students who have led with confidence and humility. We do not believe leadership can be defined simply by positions and titles, but by the embodiment of vision and action.

Distinguished Academic Accomplishment

Hesburgh-Yusko scholars care about exploring ideas and engaging in meaningful and productive dialogue. They will have demonstrated significant achievement in the classroom, but their motivation for academic success stems from a true passion for learning and the discovery process.

Sincere Commitment to Service

Hesburgh-Yusko scholars are driven by a genuine desire to make a positive impact on the world around them. Successful candidates will have a generous spirit and a worldview that is oriented toward serving others.

Exemplary Moral Character

Hesburgh-Yusko scholars demonstrate strongly developed moral principles—they are guided by their beliefs about right and wrong, good and evil, justice and injustice. They are sincere in their convictions, and respected among their peers as people of kindness, integrity, courage, and faith.



Summer Enrichment

The Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program is a four-year journey that seeks to transform its scholars into leaders who can transform the world. This process does not stop at the end of each academic year. Four Summer Enrichment experiences—Wilderness Leadership, Social Justice, Global Inquiry, Professional Venture—offer our scholars the opportunity to grow as leaders and explore the world beyond Notre Dame's campus. During each of these 8–10 week experiences, scholars will encounter people with life experiences vastly different from their own. They will learn to persevere through challenges and obstacles. They will take risks. They will discover new interests, refine lifelong pursuits, identify passions and lay groundwork for future careers.

Wilderness Leadership

Scholars begin their development as leaders in our Program by completing an Outward Bound course. Scholars gain a better understanding of their individual capabilities outside of their comfort zones by encountering unfamiliar situations, learning to work with new people, and overcoming adversity through perseverance.

Social Justice

Our Program is committed to the University of Notre Dame's mission of cultivating "a sense of human solidarity and concern for the common good that will bear fruit as learning becomes service to justice." After their first year of study, each scholar participates in a self-designed service experience, either in the United States or abroad, applying insights and skills acquired in the classroom to address global problems in a tangible way.

Global Inquiry

During sophomore year, scholars develop research projects for their summer work, typically with an international dimension. The projects are an extension of a scholar's course of study and many choose to explore a topic or region of the world in which he or she has never had the opportunity to explore. Many projects will be natural extensions of the Social Justice summer experience and provide scholars with an opportunity to delve more deeply into a significant global problem.

Professional Venture

Scholars spend their fourth summer as interns in any industry or field they choose, exploring possible career paths and gaining firsthand work experience. They have interned in corporate, government, non-profit, and faith-based organizations in the United States and around the world. As the capstone experience in the Summer Enrichment journey, the Professional Venture summer is designed to help scholars build upon the skills they've learned during their three years in The Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program and prepare for their future careers.



Learn more about our Application Process

In addition to applying for admission to the University of Notre Dame, students who are interested in The Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program must be nominated by their high school and submit a separate application to the Program. For more information about the application deadline and selection process, visit hesburgh-yusko.nd.edu.

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