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 Scholar Program include:

• Four years of merit scholarship awards of $35,000 per year ($140,000 total) 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.

“Be transformational. Be transformational.”

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

University of Notre Dame  |  120 Main Building  |  Notre Dame, IN 46556-5602  |  hesburgh-yusko.nd.edu
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 Ventures—offer our scholars the opportunity to grow as leaders and explore the world around them. Hesburgh-Yusko scholars pursue their passions and place themselves in challenging environments where they can encourage 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, build lifelong memories, 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 challenging 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 in a lifetime of solid social service to justice." In their sophomore year of study, each scholar participates in a self-designed service experience, either in the United States or abroad, exploring 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 may 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 self-designed experiences of the Social Justice summer experience and provide scholars with an opportunity to delve more deeply into a significant global problem.

Professional Ventures

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 sports, government, non-profit, and faith-based organizations in the United States and around the world. The professional venture portion of the Summer Enrichment 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.

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. They debug innovative solutions, and are analyzers of natural 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 passions, 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 position 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 integrity. They are aware of their convictions, and respected among their peers as people of kindness, integrity, courage, and faith.