

The Wayne and Claire Horton Honors Scholarship

For Students in Engineering

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Introduction

The Wayne and Claire Horton Honors Scholarship provides assistance to outstanding honors students in the College of Engineering. The purpose of the scholarship is twofold: first, to provide financial assistance for tuition, room, and board for the third and fourth years of study, and second, to provide the students the resources to design and complete a major educational experience that gives focus and direction to their undergraduate efforts. The central goal of the scholarship is to insure that, in addition to the outstanding education offered by the College of Engineering, the Horton Scholars will obtain significant and organized study in the humanities and the social sciences. The Horton Scholar graduate will be broadly knowledgeable of world affairs, the social and political issues of the time, and have an appreciation of language and the arts.

Wayne Horton is graduate of Virginia Tech's College of Engineering. Claire Horton is an anthropology professor who taught at Marshall University. They currently reside in Huntington, West Virginia.

The Scholarship

The Horton Scholar will receive the following support from the scholarship:

- 1) \$3,000.00 for the third year of study applied to tuition, room, and board
- 2) \$3,000.00 for the fourth year of study, applied to tuition, room and board
- 3) \$4,000.00 funding for *two major educational experiences* that:
 - a) Require international travel
 - b) Demonstrate an awareness and knowledge of cultural and social differences
 - c) Attempt a project of meaning to both the student and the host country
 - d) Develop a program to internationalize the engineering education of the student

To enhance the value of the scholarship, the Hillcrest or Main Campbell Honors Community will hold the appropriate number of spaces for Horton Scholars to reside in the Community. The Scholars must live in one of the Communities during the time they are funded by the scholarship. Applicants for the scholarship will be required to have a faculty mentor to assist in the design and completion of a major or minor in the humanities/social sciences.

Eligibility:

All second year engineering students who are registered with University Honors and who will be in course for two full years after the scholarship is awarded are eligible to apply. The appointments are made in the spring semester. Special attention will be given to students who are interested in those fields of engineering that confront the issues of energy and alternative energy sources. Students who may need a fifth year due to Cooperative Education, Internships, or to gain a richer undergraduate education may remain with the Community after the fourth year. The Horton Scholarship, however, covers only the third and fourth years.

General Requirements:

All honors students completing three semesters of study in the College of Engineering with a grade point average of 3.70 or above are eligible to apply for the Horton Scholarship. In making application, the students agree (if they win the scholarship) to pursue an Honors degree, to reside in the Hillcrest or Main Campbell Honors Community, and to seek a minor or a second major in the Humanities or Social Sciences.

Students who win this award must **demonstrate** in the first and second year of study the following:

1. Outstanding intellectual ability
2. A high level of achievement
3. A high level of motivation and creativity
4. Character and integrity
5. Persistence and tenacity in their approach to life

Specific Requirements for the Horton Scholars:

The Horton Scholarship requires that a student:

1. Gain a major in the College of Engineering.
2. Gain a second major or a minor in a field of the Humanities or Social Sciences.
3. Gain significant capability with at least one language other than English.
4. Gain an Honors Scholar, *in-Honors*, or Honors Baccalaureate Degree.
5. Give a presentation to the campus community concerning the international experiences. The University Honors Program will host these presentations each year. Special visitors will be invited to these events.
6. During their Junior and Senior year, winners are expected to participate fully in the selection process for the new Horton Scholar.

The Application Process

Much of the value of this scholarship is the application process itself. The second year of college proves perhaps the most critical in terms of decision making for the future. Adjustment to college life, most decisions on majors, and an assessment of additional opportunities have largely been accomplished. The application for the Horton Scholars Program is the best time for the student to receive the mentoring and advising that is specific to their lives.

For these reasons, and to insure that the Scholars chosen meet the high standards of this scholarship, the application process is rigorous. It requires that the applicants assess the future direction of their lives and to plan the events that will add significant value to their college education. This must be done with the assistance of a faculty mentor. The duties of the mentor include acting as academic advisor to the student, assisting the student in developing the proposal for the educational experience component of the scholarship, and serving as a proponent during the selection process.

Prior to making application for the Horton Scholarship, the student must schedule an appointment with Russell Shrader, Assistant Director of University Honors.

Application is made through the development of a portfolio. The portfolio is a collection of the work and ideas of the student and, properly done, should provide the selection committees with a portrait of the applicant. The portfolio for the Horton Honors Scholars remains a work-in-progress until the Scholar graduates.

The basic document of the application is a portfolio of no less than fifteen and no more than twenty-five pages (front only). The portfolio must contain the following documents:

1. A cover letter written by the student detailing why the student is applying, the rationale for inclusion of items in the portfolio, and a statement of long range goals and plans
2. A Curriculum Vita
3. A Personal Statement of no more than one thousand words
4. A Proposal for the rising senior experience
5. An endorsement from the faculty mentor
6. A statement signed by the applicant that all the work in the portfolio is the work of the applicant
7. A Current Course of Study Planner detailing how the major/minor requirements will be met

In addition to these required documents, the applicants can present whatever additional material they wish in the portfolio. Care should be taken NOT to "pack" the portfolio--it is the quality of the work that matters. In no case will a portfolio be

judged if it exceeds more than the 25 pages allowed. Additional items may take the following forms:

- Papers written by the student
- Artistic works by the student
- Photographs of the work of the student
- Notes from the applicant's journal, diary, or research logs/journals
- Letters or other evidence documenting the work of the student. If in doubt about whether to include something, ask the Assistant Director.

The selection of the winner of the Horton Honors Scholarship for Students in Engineering will be a three-stage process: judging the portfolios, holding preliminary interviews, and holding final interviews.

JUDGING THE PORTFOLIO

When the applicants have submitted their preliminary portfolios, University Honors reviews them. The review is for the purpose of checking the portfolio. Applicants will be notified of problems and will be permitted to correct the portfolio and submit the final application. Once this process is complete, the applicant may make no further changes. Should the applicant's record of accomplishment change, the Assistant Director of University Honors must be notified.

THE CAMPUS COMMITTEE

The submitted portfolios will be judged by a committee of faculty appointed by University Honors. The committee will make its decisions on the following bases:

- Does the applicant demonstrate the qualities listed above (see General Requirements)?
- Does the applicant propose a significant educational, international experience in engineering/humanities/social sciences?
- In the judgment of the committee, will the applicant complete the experience in a manner appropriate to be designated a Horton Honors Scholar?

After the portfolios are judged, the faculty committee will select a small group of applicants to be interviewed. The faculty committee will interview applicants and will at their discretion pick the finalists. The committee will convey to the Chair, a Junior Honors Award winner, and the Assistant Director of University Honors the reasons for selection or exclusion of each applicant. Applicants will then review, with one of the above, the reasons they were selected or not.

During the interview process, applicants can expect questions concerning any item in the portfolio, current world, national, or state events, or their education.

THE HORTON HONORS AWARD COMMITTEE

Those applicants put forward by the first Campus Committee will undergo one more interview to determine the Horton Scholar appointed each year. This committee may consist of Virginia Tech faculty and citizens from outside the University committee. They will be selected on the basis of their achievements and their representation of the ideals espoused by this Scholar Program. Following the interviews with the applicants, the Committee will select the Horton Honors Scholar. Their decision will be final and will be announced as soon as the committee adjourns.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 2007

12 & 13 – Information Meetings concerning the Horton Scholarship

17-28 – Schedule appointment with Mr. Shrader to discuss application process. Call 540-231-4591 to schedule an appointment – no appointments via email! No appointments on Tuesdays.

October

1 – Deadline to declare intent to apply for scholarship

11 – Presentations by former scholarship winners. This year's presenter will be Elizabeth Traut.

A mentor meeting will be held by Dr. Terry Papillon at 4:00 pm. Applicants and their mentors are urged to attend. Please RSVP to rbshrade@vt.edu by October 8.

Reception held at 4:30 pm with presentations beginning at 5:00 pm.

Keep Mr. Shrader informed of your progress throughout the month and ask for help as needed!

November

Keep developing your portfolio!

30 – Turn in preliminary portfolio to Mr. Shrader by 5:00 pm

December

Before you leave for break, schedule an appointment to review the portfolio

January 2008

Work to complete the portfolio

February 2008

1 – Final portfolio due to Mr. Shrader by 5:00 pm

4-8 – Faculty on interview committee to review portfolios

11-15 – Preliminary interviews. These will be scheduled by John Helveston, 2007 winner of the Horton Scholarship. John and his mentor, Dr. Guo-Quan Lu, will conduct the preliminary interviews.

18-22 – John will meet with all students to discuss their candidacy

March 2008

14 – Scholarship selection dinner at 6:00 pm for all finalists

15 – Scholarship selection and announcement of winner