Fiat Lux Scholars Program

Student Policy Handbook

Last Updated: January 2020
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**New Fiat Lux Scholars Program Polices**

Please note that these polices will be in effect beginning January 27, 2020.

- Scholars **CANNOT** have 2 Community Scholar meetings or Lead Scholar meetings on the same day, you must schedule these meetings **three days apart**.
  - Scholars will **NOT** get credit if 2 meetings occur on the same day.
  - If you foresee having difficulty scheduling meetings three days apart, please communicate this with one of our Program Counselors or by E-mailing the Fiat Lux Scholars program at fiatlux@ucmerced.edu.

- Scholars **CANNOT** substitute a Lead Scholar meeting for a Community Scholar meeting, unless, an accommodation is made through a Program Counselor.

**New Initiatives to Assist You in Spring 2020**

- Scholars can receive credit towards their study session requirement through Academic Scholar “Effective Planning Sessions”, a one on one meeting with Academic Scholars to help with time management and planning.
  - Receive 1 Hour of study session credit for a 30-minute meeting with an academic Scholar during their “Effective Planning Session Hours”, Learn more at: [https://fiatlux.ucmerced.edu/Academic_Scholars](https://fiatlux.ucmerced.edu/Academic_Scholars).
  - Scholars are eligible to receive up to 2 Hours credit from an “Effective Planning Session” meeting. *(i.e. One 30-min meeting is equal to 1 hour of study session)*. Therefore, **two 30-minute meetings can count as 2 Hours of study session credit**.
  - Please note that “Effective Planning Sessions” do **NOT** count towards a Community Scholar or Lead Scholar meeting.
Recommendations

- We encourage you to schedule your Counselor, Community, and Lead Scholar meetings months in advance to avoid difficulty meeting those requirements.

- We encourage you to communicate with us if you feel you are unable to complete a program requirement due to a personal hardship, or other factors that you feel may prevent you from completing a requirement. We are here to help! and can assist you if you communicate with one of our Program Counselors or E-mail the Fiat Lux account.

- Please communicate with us if you have any concerns regarding requirements or would like to receive clarification on any requirement. We are always glad to assist you in any way we can. You can always E-mail the fiatlux@ucmerced.edu if you have any questions or concerns and we will gladly help you!
Fiat Lux Scholars Program Requirements

First Year Requirements
  o 4 hours a week of Study Session
  o 3 Workshops
  o 3 Community Scholar Meetings
  o 2 Fiat Lux Counselor Meetings
  o 1 Faculty Reception
  o 1 Social
  o 1 Professional Development

Second Year Requirements
  o 2 Workshops
  o 2 Fiat Lux Counselor Meetings
  o 2 Lead Scholars Meetings
  o 1 Faculty Reception
  o 1 Professional Development
  o 1 Social

Third Year Requirements
  o 1 Counselor Meetings
  o 3 Professional Developments

Fourth Year Requirements
  o 1 Counselor Meetings
  o 3 Professional Developments
Workshops

- First Year Scholars must complete a minimum of (3) workshops every semester.
- Second Year Scholars must complete a minimum of (2) workshops every semester.
- Scholars must stay throughout the entire workshop if they want to receive credit.
  - Fiat Lux Scholars must check-in and check-out of workshops with a Lead Scholar due to the possibility of non-Fiat Lux Scholars attending the workshops.
  - Scholars will not be able to receive credit for the workshop if they are more than 10 minutes late.
  - Scholars who need to leave early must inform a Lead Scholar before the start of the workshop or they will not be able to receive credit.
- Scholars are allowed to complete (1) outside workshop
  - Outside workshops are defined as workshops that are not hosted by Fiat Lux staff or are not in collaboration with the Fiat Lux Program (If they are not listed on our calendar, they are considered outside workshops unless otherwise stated).
  - If a scholar has any questions about whether an event they attended can count towards an outside workshop, they can email a Fiat Lux Counselor for approval.
  - Scholars must fill out this webform if they attend an outside workshop and wish to receive credit: https://fiatlux.ucmerced.edu/form/outside-workshop-webform
  - The webform for the outside workshop must be submitted within 7 days after attending an outside workshop.
- Disruptive behavior such as: interrupting presenters, excessive talking, texting, and use of electronic devices/applications is prohibited while attending workshops.
  - If a scholar is being disruptive, the Lead Scholar shall issue (1) verbal warning. If the disruptive behavior persists, the scholar will be asked to leave, and they will not receive credit for attending that workshop
- Scholars cannot attend the same workshop twice and have it count as two separate workshops for their requirements. Scenario example:
  - The program is offering a series of Recruitment Workshops. There is a total of four workshops in which the content presented is the same for all. A scholar can only attend one of the workshops and receive credit for completing one of their workshop requirements. Attending a workshop, a second time will not be counted for credit towards a second workshop requirement.
• There are no exceptions for not completing the workshop requirements unless discussed with a Fiat Lux Counselor.

• Scholars must schedule an appointment with a Fiat Lux Counselor if any accommodations are needed.

**Socials**

• First- and Second-Year Scholars must attend at least (1) social every semester.

• Scholars must RSVP to confirm their attendance.

• Only Scholars in the Fiat Lux Scholars Program are allowed to attend Socials. Outside guests are not allowed to attend.

• Scholars must do the following in order to receive credit:
  o Scholars must be actively engaged in the activities
  o Scholars must sign-in and sign-out of the social
  o Scholars must be present for at least an hour

• There are no exceptions for not completing the social requirement unless discussed with a Fiat Lux Counselor.

• Scholars must schedule an appointment with a Fiat Lux Counselor if any accommodations are needed.

**Faculty Receptions**

• First- and Second-Year Scholars must attend (1) Faculty Reception every semester. A Faculty Reception will be hosted every month on different weekdays, giving the scholar multiple chances to attend.

• Scholars must RSVP to confirm their attendance.

• Scholars must stay for the entire event in order to receive credit unless:
  o Scholars need to leave 10 minutes early due to them having a class/work conflict.
  o Scholars who need to leave more than 10 minutes early must email a Fiat Lux Counselor at least a day before the event.

• Scholars who are unable to attend any of the faculty receptions will be expected to complete a Faculty Story report as an alternative for the requirement. A description along
Counselor Meetings

- All Scholars are required to meet with a Fiat Lux Counselor (2) times every semester.
- Scholars must make an appointment prior to meeting with a Fiat Lux Counselor.
- Scholars can schedule an appointment through the Fiat Lux Website:
  - Click ‘Contact’ tab → ‘Professional Staff’
  - Click on the appointment link for either Alejandro or Kisha
- Scholars have the option to schedule a 30-minute or 1-hour meeting.
- Scholars are required to meet with a Fiat Lux Counselor to excuse any requirement.

Community Scholar Meetings

- First Year Scholars are required to meet with a Community Scholar (3) times every semester.
- Scholars can attend a Community Scholar’s office hours with or without an appointment:
  - Scheduled appointments will have priority over those who do not have an appointment.
- Scholars can schedule an appointment through the Fiat Lux Website:
  - Click ‘Contact’ tab → ‘Student Staff’ → ‘Community Scholars’
  - Click the scheduling link for the Community Scholar you would like to set-up an appointment with.
- Scholars must meet with a Community Scholar for at least 30 minutes.
- Scholars **CANNOT** have 2 community scholar meetings on the same day, you must schedule these meetings **three days apart**.
  - Scholars will **NOT** get credit if 2 meetings occur on the same day.
- In order to receive credit, Scholars must individually meet with a Community Scholar:
  - Group meetings will not be allowed
Lead Scholar Meetings

- Second Year Scholars are required to meet with a Lead Scholar (2) times every semester.

- Scholars can attend a Lead Scholar’s office hours with or without an appointment
  - Scheduled appointments will have priority over those who do not have an appointment.

- Scholars can schedule an appointment through the Fiat Lux Website
  - Click ‘Contact’ tab → ‘Student Staff’ → ‘Lead Scholars’
  - Click the scheduling link for the Lead Scholar you would like to set-up an appointment with

- Scholars must meet with a Lead Scholar for at least 30 minutes

- First years are welcomed to meet with a lead scholar, but please note, your meeting will not be counted towards your requirements.
- Scholars cannot have 2 lead scholar meetings on the same day, you must schedule these meetings three days apart.
- **Scholars will not get credit if 2 meetings occur on the same day.**

- In order to receive credit, Scholars must individually meet with a Lead Scholar.
  - Group meetings will not be allowed
**Professional Development**

- First- and Second-Year Scholars must complete (1) Professional Development requirement every semester

- Third- and Fourth-Year Scholars must complete (3) Professional Development Requirements every semester

- The Professional Development requirement can be met through many ways including, but not limited to:
  - Meeting with a Career Counselor from the Center for Career and Professional Advancement (CCPA)
  - Meeting with a Coordinator in the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Center (UROC)
  - Meeting with a Study Abroad Advisor from the Office of International Affairs
  - Attend an event that contributes to your leadership development, growth and goals post-graduation such as:
    - Workshop pertaining to a specific field of interest
    - Conferences (leadership/professional)
    - Attend or participate on a panel
    - Career Fair
    - Graduate School Fair
    - Participate in an Interview
    - Networking Event
  - For an extensive list for what can count towards a professional development requirement, please click on the following link: http://fiatlux.ucmerced.edu/Fiat_Lux_Approved_Workshop_Calendar

- Scholars must fill out this webform within 7 days of completing a professional development activity in order to receive credit: http://fiatlux.ucmerced.edu/form/professional-development-summary

- There are no exceptions for not completing the Professional Development requirement unless discussed with a Fiat Lux Counselor

- If a scholar is not sure if an activity, they participated in can count as Professional Development, it is best to email a Fiat Lux Counselor for approval

- Scholars must schedule an appointment with a Fiat Lux Counselor if any accommodations are needed
Study Sessions

- First Year Scholars must complete (4) hours of study hours every week.
- Depending on the scholar’s learning preference and academic needs, the weekly (4) hour study sessions can be completed in the following ways:
  - (2) hours must be completed weekly by attending a Fiat Lux hosted Study Session.
  - (2) hours of the 4 weekly required hours can be replaced with resource cards (please refer to the Academic Support Resource Cards section on page 12).
  - (30) minutes of an Academic Effective Planning Session can account for 1 study session hour.
  - Scholars can also choose to complete all 4 hours every week by simply attending Fiat Lux hosted Study Sessions.

- Scholars must attend a study session for at least an hour to receive credit. After the first hour is completed, credit will be given in increments of 15, 30, and 45 minutes.

- Scholars are required to come to sessions prepared to do academic work.

- Each Fiat Lux scholar that attends these sessions must check-in and check-out with an Academic Scholar due to the possibility of non-Fiat Lux scholars attending a study session.

- For each hour, the scholars are allowed to take a 5 to 10-minute break:
  - Please note that the 5 to 10-minute break is earned after the hour has been completed not before.
  - If taking a break, scholars must inform the Academic Scholar.
  - If the student is gone for more than 10 min and/or does not inform the Academic Scholar that they are leaving the room, the scholar will not get credit for the time they were away.
  - Scholars who choose to remain in the study session room while on break, should be mindful of other scholars as not all scholars are on break.

- Food is allowed, but it should not be a distraction.

- The number of individuals in a study session room may not exceed the room’s capacity.
  - No scholar is allowed to sit on the floor – due to it being a possible fire hazard.

- When watching/listening to audio or media related to an academic assignment, headphones must be utilized, and it should not distract other scholars.

- Excessive talking, texting, and disruptive use of electronic devices/applications is prohibited.
  - Facebook, YouTube, and any other social media site shall not be utilized during study session hours unless related to the academic assignment.
• If a scholar is being disruptive, the Academic Scholar shall issue (1) verbal warning. If the noise persists, the scholar will be asked to leave, and they will not receive credit for attending that session.

• If a scholar does not complete their hours in a given week, the hours for that given week can only be made up the following week.

• There are no exceptions for not completing the (4) hour requirement unless discussed with a Fiat Lux Counselor.

• Scholars must schedule an appointment with a Fiat Lux Counselor if any accommodations are needed.

• Failure to complete weekly hours may result in dismissal from the Fiat Lux Scholars Program.

**Academic Support Resource Cards**

• Study session hours can also be credited through different assisted learning resources on-campus (e.g. PALS, Math Center, Chem. Center, Faculty office hours, Writing Center, etc.).
  o You must attend a learning center session for at least (30) minutes to receive (1) hour worth of credit towards your study session requirement.
  o You must attend a faculty or TA’s office hours for at least (15) minutes to receive (1) hour worth of credit towards your study session requirement.

• (2) hours of resource cards can count towards your 4-hour weekly requirement.

• Only (1) hour per resource card is permitted. Scholars can turn in up to two resource cards every week.

• Resource cards must be turned into an Academic Scholar during an official Fiat Lux study session by the Saturday of the week the hours are completed.

• Resource cards may also be turned into the designated resource card box located in Tenaya 160.

• Resource workshops (e.g. Grammar workshop, Library resources, etc.) can count for meeting either an outside workshop requirement or 1 hour of an Academic Support Resource Card but cannot count for both.

**Academic Scholar Effective Planning Sessions**

• The Academic scholars will be providing planning sessions to first years and assist scholars when planning their academic semester.

• Scholars are highly encouraged to meet with an academic scholar but not required.
• If a scholar has a 30-minute planning session with an academic scholar, this will count as one hour of study session.
• Similar to the resource cards, you can only do 2 planning sessions per week

**Program Continuation & Recognition**

**1st Year Scholars: Academic Year 2019-2020**

• Scholars must maintain a cumulative 2.75 GPA by the end of the Spring 2020 semester.
  o Scholars who fail to meet the cumulative 2.75 GPA requirement by the end of the Spring 2020 semester but have completed all of their requirements will have a meeting with the Program Coordinator to further discuss program eligibility.

• Scholars are required to live in the Fiat Lux Living Learning Community; however, due to certain circumstances that may arise, exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Program Coordinator.

**1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Year Scholars: Academic Year 2019-2020**

• All students regardless of year standing will need to complete 100% of their requirements each semester to remain in the program.

• Scholars who fail to complete 100% of their requirements each semester will be dismissed from the program at the end of the respective semester.
  o Scholars will receive an email prior to the start of Spring 2020 program requirements notifying them of their Fiat Lux Scholars Program Participant Status.
  o This email will contain instructions on what do whether a scholar is dismissed or not dismissed from the program.
  o It is the scholar’s responsibility to be aware of their requirement completions.
  o If a scholar notices a discrepancy on their weekly requirement progress report, it is the scholar’s responsibility to e-mail the Fiat Lux account with this information. The e-mail is fiatlux@ucmerced.edu.

**Graduation Stole**

• Scholars who remain in the program during their four years at the university and complete 100% of their requirements each semester will receive a stole to wear upon graduation.
  o Scholars who continue their undergraduate education after four years will receive their stole at the end of Spring semester of their 4th year.
  o Scholars who anticipate completing their undergraduate education prior to four years must email the Fiat Lux account the semester before their expected graduation date in order to guarantee a stole.
**Educational Leave and Study Abroad**

- Scholars will not be expected to complete their requirements if they are on Educational Leave or are studying abroad.

**Weekly Progress Reports**

- Weekly Progress Reports (WPR) serve as a tracking tool for scholars to be up to date on requirements they have completed and ones they still need to complete.

- WPR also communicate important information regarding everything program related such as upcoming faculty receptions, workshops, socials, announcements, etc.

- WPR are typically sent out every Monday and reflect requirements completed the week prior. For example:
  
  ○ WPR sent on Monday, September 9th, 2019 would reflect requirements completed the week before (Sunday, September 1st, 2019– Saturday, September 7th, 2019).

- It is a scholar’s responsibility to check their WPR on a weekly basis and notify the Fiat Lux account of any discrepancies within 7 days of receiving it. After 7 days, discrepancies will no longer be considered.

**Cal-Fresh**

- Scholars may be eligible for Cal-Fresh for being part of the Fiat Lux Scholars Program

- The Fiat Lux Scholars Program provides a letter to scholars who plan to apply, that deemed them eligible for Cal-Fresh

- Please note, by receiving a letter from the Fiat Lux Scholars Program, this cannot confirm that you will get Cal-fresh for there may be other components needed to confirm eligibility.

- To receive a letter, please e-mail the Fiat Lux account so we can provide you will the proper documentation.