

Martin Scholars

**First-Year Program Handbook
2019–2020**

Multicultural Student Programs



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Purpose of the Martin Scholars Program

The Martin Scholars Program exists to foster opportunities for select students to participate in meaningful learning, service, leadership, and spiritual formation toward better equipping them to engage in the work of Christ-centered racial reconciliation.

Goals

Martin Scholars will:

- Be better prepared to engage successfully in college-related activities, curricular and cocurricular alike.
- Receive one-on-one peer guidance on how to manage college expectations, social life and diversity in our community.
- Be connected to at least one upperclass student.
- Be more connected to the Intercultural Office, seeing it as a dynamic resource.

General Scholarship Program Requirements

- Students who receive a Martin Scholarship must maintain at least a cumulative 2.5 GPA in their first-year and at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA in subsequent years.
- The scholarships are renewable for up to eight semesters at Messiah College.
- Students must complete all components of the program in any given year to maintain the scholarship.
- Students must show continued involvement in leadership, service or ministry at Messiah.
- To graduate with the Multicultural Scholar Cord, students must successfully complete the program.
- Students who lose the scholarship because of academic performance may remain in the program and graduate with Multicultural Scholar Cord as long as all other requirements are met.
- If planning to study abroad, the student must communicate the intent with the Assistant Director of Multicultural Student Programs in a timely manner.
- Students will be expected to respect the Messiah College community covenant and maintain good standing with the college by not being placed on academic, chapel or disciplinary probation or suspension.

First-Year Program Requirements

Martin first-year scholars will:

- Attend all program events as outlined in the following pages and updated on [Canvas](#).
- Attend two approved diversity events per semester.
- Meet individually with a peer mentor twice each semester (or four times during the first year).
- Schedule and attend two check-in meetings (one in the fall and another in the spring) with the Assistant Director of Multicultural Student Programs.
- Volunteer five (5) hours per year in an off-campus program (typically, the required participation in the MLK Service Project and April Service Day fulfills this requirement).

- Engage in a mentoring relationship with a staff or faculty member during the spring semester. Our vision for this mentoring relationship includes, but is not limited to, learning about opportunities for service, helping you explore the variety offered by a major or field of study and guiding you to grow personally and/or spiritually.

Approved Diversity Events

Martin Scholars are to attend a set amount of diversity events each semester. For a current list of events, please visit our [Canvas](#) page or the list of approved diversity events on the Messiah College [website](#).

Summary Reports

It is your responsibility to submit a one-paragraph summary report for each of the requirements listed below to the Assistant Director of Multicultural Student Programs by way of [Canvas](#) in order to receive “credit” for the experience.

- two approved diversity events per semester
- five (5) hours of service
- peer mentor relationship
- educator mentor relationship

Policies

Participation: Active, informed participation is absolutely essential. Meaningful participation involves careful preparation, consistent verbal contributions, and respectful listening. As we will discover together, engaging ideas and experiences in a supportive, collaborative learning environment is a great foundation for the kinds of collaborative work you will do as leaders at Messiah.

Attendance: You are expected to arrive to events and group meetings on time and stay for the full duration. **Attendance is required at all meetings and events outlined for your cohort in this handbook.** Remember that full participation in the program is required to maintain your scholarship. Therefore, unless there are exceptional circumstances (e.g., protracted, documented illness), you may not miss any of the program events. If you are experiencing significant, unavoidable circumstances that may cause you to miss a scheduled event, please notify the Assistant Director of Multicultural Student Programs as soon as you are able. You may be required to complete additional work to make up for your absence.

That noted, please advise the facilitators of any known conflicts in advance and in writing, including athletic events and performances. *If you expect to have an absence due to special circumstances (e.g. a scheduled athletic event in which you are an athlete), please notify the Assistant Director of Multicultural Student Programs within the first week of the term.*

Comportment: Please leave your cell phones off and your laptops (and other electronic devices) in their cases, unless otherwise instructed. Practice respect for your facilitators, guest speakers and classmates: no sleeping, no social media, no texting, and no otherwise disruptive or distracting behavior. If you fail to behave in an appropriate manner, you will

be considered as not fully participating in the program. In extreme cases, you may be asked to leave the session.

Inclusive Language: Please carefully review Messiah's Statement on Inclusive Language in the [Messiah College Student Handbook](#). Particularly in a program like this, where we are paying attention to the dynamics of social and historical categories such as race, gender, class, religion, etc., it is crucial that we remember that, "language, as a means of signifying and communicating, is not static or value-free."

Communicating Circumstances: Things happen in life. And when you are experiencing some significant circumstance, please let the Assistant Director of Multicultural Student Programs know as soon as possible. If you have something going on in your life, we can try to help you, but if you don't tell us, we won't know and you may experience adverse outcomes as a result.

Program Requirement Review

At the close of each semester, the Intercultural Office will evaluate a student's participation in the program to assure you have met program requirements. If the student has failed to meet program requirements, you will receive a Martin Scholars Program probationary semester during which you will continue to receive the scholarship.

If the student meets program requirements during this probationary semester, you will continue to receive the scholarship for the semester following the probation and as long as you continue to meet the requirements.

You will receive only one Martin Scholars Program probationary semester during your time at Messiah College. If you fail to re-qualify after the probationary period, you will lose your scholarship, with no opportunity to regain it in the future. If you re-qualify after the probationary period, but fail to re-qualify at any time in the future under either criterion in the above paragraph, you will lose your scholarship, with no opportunity to regain it in the future.

A student may appeal the decision to discontinue the scholarship based on failure to complete Martin Scholars Program requirements by writing a letter to the Dean of Students.

Academic Difficulty

If a student is deemed to be in academic difficulty by being either at risk of failing one or more courses or earning a GPA lower than required to maintain the scholarship, or if a professor issues an Academic Update that indicates that the student is struggling in a course, the student will meet with the Assistant Director of Multicultural Student Programs to identify a plan for success specific to you. Strategies may include, but are not limited to:

- Meet biweekly with the Assistant Director or another educator mentor
- Attend study-hall sessions
- Use other academic resources on campus on a regular basis

Grade Point Average Review

As previously stated, recipients of a Multicultural Scholarship must maintain a minimum GPA in each year that they receive the scholarship in order to continue to receive the scholarship for the next year. The minimum GPA is 2.5 for the first year and 3.0 each year thereafter.

The criterion for continuance of this scholarship is based on either a yearly GPA or your cumulative GPA. In other words, if either your cumulative GPA or your GPA for the two semesters of the most recently completed academic year meet the minimum for your scholarship, you will continue to receive the scholarship for the next academic year.

If you do not meet either of the above GPA criteria, you will receive a probationary semester during which you will continue to receive the scholarship and can attempt to increase your GPA. At the end of the probationary semester, if you meet either the cumulative GPA criterion, or if your GPA for the past three semesters (the probationary semester and the two semesters during which you failed to re-qualify) is up to the requirement for your grade level, you will continue to receive the scholarship for the semester following the probation and will continue to receive it as long as you continue to meet the requirements.

You will receive only one GPA probationary semester during your time at Messiah College. If you fail to re-qualify after the probationary period, you will lose your scholarship, with no opportunity to regain it in the future. If you re-qualify after the probationary period, but fail to re-qualify at any time in the future under either criterion in the above paragraph, you will lose your scholarship, with no opportunity to regain it in the future.

A student may appeal the decision to discontinue the scholarship based on GPA requirements by writing a letter to the Director of Financial Aid.

ADA STATEMENT (Americans with Disabilities Act)

Messiah College welcomes students with disabilities to participate in all of its courses, programs, services and activities. If you have a documented disability and are requesting accommodations, please:

- 1) Contact *Amy Slody, Director of Academic Success Center*, in Murray Library 115C, by phone (717-796-7258) or email aslody@messiah.edu. If your documentation meets the college's documentation guidelines, you will be given a letter from the Office of Disability Services for your professors.
- 2) As early as possible in the year, set up an appointment to meet with the Assistant Director of Multicultural Student Programs. During this meeting, we will discuss the academic adjustments specified in your accommodations letter as they pertain to this program. Please note accommodations are not granted in a retroactive fashion.

Reminder

We look forward to working with you! Never hesitate to ask questions. We also welcome feedback and suggestions about what can be done to help you get the most out of your experience in this program.

Requirements Check List

Fall requirements	Date	Details/Notes
30-minute check-in with Assistant Director of Multicultural Student Programs		
Fall peer mentor meeting (first)		
Fall peer mentor meeting (second)		
Submit fall peer mentor report on Canvas after two meetings		
Submit first fall event report on Canvas		
Submit second fall event report on Canvas		
Spring requirements	Date	Details/Notes
February educator mentor meeting		
March educator mentor meeting		
April educator mentor meeting		
Submit educator mentor report on Canvas		
30-minute spring check-in with Assistant Director of Multicultural Student Programs		
Spring peer mentor meeting (first)		
Spring peer mentor meeting (second)		
Submit spring peer mentor report on Canvas after two meetings		
Submit five hours of service report on Canvas		
Submit first spring event report on Canvas		
Submit second spring event report on Canvas		

First-Year Martin Calendar 2019–2020

(Please visit Canvas for updates)

FALL

Fri., Aug. 30, 2–3 p.m., Union (Move-in Day)	Multicultural Scholarship Programs (MCSP) Information Session
Sat., Aug. 31, 12–2 p.m., Howe Atrium & Patio (in Boyer Hall)	Multicultural Student Programs Welcome Picnic
Tues., Sept. 10, 4:30–5:30 p.m., Jordan Atrium	Martin Meet & Greet
Sunday., September 15th 8:15am-8pm	National Museum of African American History & Culture
September–December, TBD	Mentor-led Cohort Events
Wed., Sept. 18, 6pm, TBD Tues., Oct. 22, 6pm, TBD Wed., Nov. 20, 6pm, TBD	Multicultural Council's Open Council
Dec. TBD., Orchard Hill	Intercultural Office Christmas Party with President Phipps

J-TERM

Mon., Jan. 20	Martin Luther King Service Day
Tue., Jan. 21	Martin Luther King Chapel

SPRING

Wed. February 5, 4:30, Jordan Atrium	Martin Mix & Mingle
TBD	Cohort Dinner & Humanities Symposium Keynote Lecture
February TBD March TBD April TBD	Multicultural Council's Open Council
February-April, TBD	Mentor-led Cohort Events
Sun., March 8	International Gala (First-year participants & leaders are supplied tickets at a discounted price. Watch for an email with the details.)
April TBD, 5–6:30 p.m., Martin Commons	Intercultural Office Celebration Dinner

