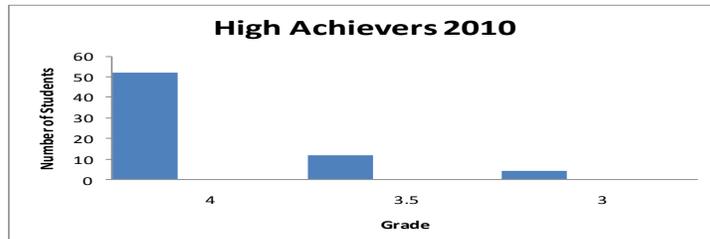




High Achievers June 21—July 15, 2010



In 2010, 52 students received a 4.0, 12 students earned a 3.5 and 4 students received a 3.0 in their course.

Audience

High Achievers is a program for academically talented students currently in grades 9—12 who are seeking to earn college credit while still in high school. Sixty-eight (68) students (37 males, 31 female) participated in the 2010 program. A resident component was added to the program summer 2010 with 3 students participating. MSU admissions criteria is used to identify participants as the students are enrolling in MSU summer honors courses. Twelve (12) students were in 9th grade, Twenty-four (24) in 10th, thirty-one (31) in 11th.

Funding

The Michigan State Provost Office, the W.B. and Candice Thoman Foundation and the Dorothy Lawshe Endowment provide funds for program implementation, instructor summer wages, and student scholarships. Student tuition provides all additional funding of the program.

Each student, grades 9—11, receives a scholarship from the Provost that covers the difference in life-long learner credits and in-coming undergraduate credit costs. This year students taking a three-credit course receive a \$396.75 scholarship, students taking a four-credit course receive \$525.00 scholarship, totally \$29,019 for 2010. The Thoman Foundation provides up to \$7,000 scholarship funding, the Lawshe Endowment up to \$6,000 in scholarship funding. MSU covers the five professors' summer salaries (\$76,332).

Objectives

The High Achievers program provides high school students with basic college courses. Those enrolled in this program will complete an honors-level college course at Michigan State University in four weeks, starting a transcript at MSU.

Description

Five honors level courses are offered. The 2010 High Achievers program includes Introduction to Psychology, PSY 101H, a four-credit course, Biotechnology: Demystifying the Concept (CSS 491H), a three-credit course, Introduction to Philosophy (PHL 200H), a three-credit course, Introduction to Microeconomics (EC 201H), a three-credit course, Introduction to English (ENG 210H), a four-credit course.

Students attend class Monday—Thursday, 9:00 AM—noon. All classes are instructed by MSU professors renown in their area of study. Total contact time: 64 hours.

Residential students reside on the Michigan State University campus in Snyder Hall. They are walked to and from class. Afternoons are spent studying in the MSU Library with evenings using campus facilities. Special efforts are made to give residential students a true undergraduate campus experience. Students also meet with the Director of Admission, James Cotter, to discuss admission to MSU and other higher education institutions and scholarship opportunities for high school students. They are supervised 24/7 by a Resident Assistant from the Office of Gifted and Talented Education.

Impacts

Post-program evaluation of the 2010 High Achievers program:

- * 87.5 % of the students found their class interesting,

- * 100% found their class challenging,
- * 87.5% of the students felt that they had accomplished a great deal in their coursework,
- * 96.2% felt that the professor covered an appropriate amount of content each class period,
- * 98.2% of the students felt that the professor provided an appropriate quantity of coursework,
- * 89.2% of the students felt that the professor had an appropriate expectation of the quality of the student's work,
- * 97.5% of the students enjoyed their High Achievers class.

Parent comments on the narrative portion of the evaluation included, "[High Achievers] provided the students with a good opportunity to learn about college level courses." "My daughter appears to have enjoyed the course, the professor and the contents. The content sparked lots of interest from my daughter and helped her narrow her focus on her college major."

"I think this is a good format to give students a "flavor of college level education and requirements."

Student comments on the narrative portion of the evaluation included, "The High Achievers Program taught me study skills and to begin studying for exams ahead of time. I learned what's expected of me from a college course." "I feel the four-week accelerated format was beneficial since it challenged me to work hard and thus learn more."

Additional Significant Information

Several students stated in the narrative portion of the evaluation that they'd like more science or mathematics courses offered in future High Achievers programs. Others would like to see more humanities courses included as options for High Achievers.

The residential component of the program was extremely successful, two of the three students have applied to Michigan State University for fall 2011.

This is the 23rd year of the High Achievers program. Initially in 1987, only 2 courses were offered, in 1999, four (4) courses and in 2000 four (4) courses were offered on the MSU campus and one (1) in Grand Rapids. In 1987, twenty-two (22) students enrolled in the program.

Contact Information

Kathee McDonald, Director
Office of Gifted and Talented Education
186 Bessey Hall
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824
Phone: 517.432.2129
Email: gifted@msu.edu
Program website: <http://gifted.msu.edu/programs/high-achievers>