



High Achievers June 20—July 14, 2011

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-one (61) students (26 males, 35 female) participated in the 2011 program. A resident component, added to the program summer 2010, had 3 (three) 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, thirty (30) in 10th, nineteen (19) in 11th grade.

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 credit and in-coming undergraduate credit costs. This year students taking a three-credit course receive a \$480.00 scholarship, students taking a four-credit course receive a \$640.00 scholarship. Provost scholarships totally \$28,800 were granted for 2011. 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 (\$46,273.28).

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 2011 High Achievers program includes, three-credit courses, Biotechnology: Demystifying the Concept (CSS 491H), Introduction to Philosophy (PHL 200H), Introduction to Microeconomics (EC 201H), Introduction to Creative Nonfiction Writing (ENG 233H), and Writing in Transcultural Contexts (RCAH 111). 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.

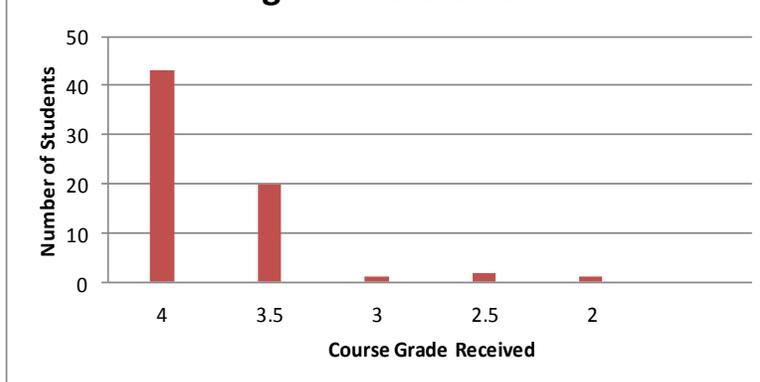
Residential students reside on the Michigan State University campus in Snyder Hall. Special efforts are made to give residential students a true undergraduate campus experience.

Outcomes

Post-program evaluation of the 2011 High Achievers program:

- * 100% of the students felt that they could complete a college degree after completing their High Achievers course,
- * 100% of the students felt that the High Achievers program better prepared them for college,
- * 90% of the students stated that they felt their course was interesting.

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In 2011, 43 students received a 4.0, 20 students earned a 3.5 and 1 student a 3.0. 2 a 2.5, 1 a 2.0 in their course. Post-program student evaluation results included the following:

- * 79% of the students felt that they had accomplished a great deal in their coursework,
- * 96.2% of the students felt that the professor covered an appropriate amount of content each class period,
- * 100% of the students felt that the professor provided an appropriate quantity of coursework,
- * 100% of the students felt that the professor had an appropriate expectation of the quality of the student's work,
- * 95% of the students enjoyed their High Achievers class.

Students comments on the narrative portion of the evaluation included, "It was a great opportunity that really taught me a lot and I'm grateful that I was a part of it and to be able to learn new things."

"I like that the course was a quick pace, it helped me keep focus and didn't take up my whole summer."

"Overall my experience was good and I am looking forward to new year."

Seven (7) students have previously participated in High Achievers, three (3) are former CHAMP students, and two (2) are former ISHALL students.

Additional Significant Information

Several students stated in the narrative portion of their evaluation that they'd like more humanities, science or mathematics courses offered in future High Achievers programs.

This is the 24rd 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

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