



High Achievers

Session I June 17—July 12, 2012
Session II: July 8—August 2, 2012



2012 CSS 491H Students

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. Fifty-five (55) students (26 males, 29 female) participated in the 2012 program. The resident component, added to the program summer 2010, didn't have enough participants to run summer 2012.

MSU admissions criteria is used to identify participants as the students are enrolling in MSU summer honors courses. Eleven (11) students were in 9th grade, sixteen (16) in 10th, twenty-eight (28) 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 an university funded scholarship 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 \$486.75 scholarship. University scholarships totally \$26,771.25 were granted for 2012. The Thoman Foundation provides up to \$7,000 scholarship funding, the Lawshe Endowment up to \$6,000 in scholarship funding. MSU covers the High Achievers professors' summer salaries (\$46,213.28).

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. It gives students an opportunity to be challenged in a college environment while still attending high school but not conflicting with the academic school year. Students enrolling in High Achievers plan to attend institutes of higher education before participating in the program.

Description

Five honors level courses are offered. The 2012 High Achievers program includes, three-credit courses, Biotechnology: Demystifying the Concept (CSS 491H), Introduction to Philosophy (PHL 200H), Introduction to Microeconomics (EC 201H), Questions, Issues and Debates in Global Studies: Exploring Africa Through the Arts and Humanities (GSAH 200), and Myth, Self and Religion (REL 205). Of the five courses offered, only Myth, Self and Religion did not run due to low enrollment.

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.

Outcomes

Post-program evaluation of the 2012 High Achievers program:

- * 100% of the students felt that they could complete a college degree after completing their High Achievers course,

In 2012, 42 students received a 4.0, 8 students earned a 3.5 and 5 student a 3.0 in their course.

Post-program student evaluation results included the following:

- * 87% of the students felt that the program made them excited about attending college,
- * 95% of the students felt that the program better prepared them to attend college.

Student comments included, "I enjoyed the level of work/input required from each of us. The professors kept pushing us to a higher level of thinking/work, and encouraged us to share/discuss out opinions, even when we were afraid to do so. For sure, we were pushed outside our comfort zone to become better people/students."

"Before the program I hadn't considered studying in Africa but after [the course] I have more interest in it. I still have my own field I want to be in, but maybe I'll relate it to Africa now."

"The professor challenged us. He didn't treat us any different than actual college students and I feel that is needed for our future."

Numerous students who have participated previously in High Achievers or other GATE programs participated in High Achievers 2012. Eleven (11) students have previously participated in High Achievers, three (3) are former CHAMP students, two (2) are former ISHALL student and one (1) MST@MSU student.

Additional Significant Information

This is the 25rd 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. Each January, a colloquium is held for qualifying students on the MSU campus. In 2012, over 300 people attended this event.

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