Every top-twenty university has, as a fundamental component, an outstanding undergraduate program. At the University of Kentucky, The Chellgren Center for Undergraduate Excellence is not only the symbol, but the embodiment, of its commitment to the finest undergraduate education. The Chellgren Center embraces a comprehensive array of teaching and research programs, professors, and services designed to enhance, develop, foster, and deliver the exceptional undergraduate experience that is one of the major components of the University’s mission.

**Chellgren Fellows Program**

The Chellgren Fellows Program is for students with exceptional academic potential and aspirations who are eager to participate in a special learning community designed to cultivate extraordinary achievement. Fellows are students who have the potential not only to excel at UK but also to compete successfully for the highest honors and awards within and outside of the University. The learning community consists of the collaborative interactions among students, faculty, and staff that create an intellectually stimulating environment, nurture high academic aspirations, and foster scholarly and personal development reflective of undergraduate excellence. Each spring, a new class of Chellgren Undergraduate Fellows is selected, while returning fellows serve as models and mentors to incoming fellows.

**Mentoring**

Outstanding faculty from across campus serve as individual mentors for the Fellows. Through regular meetings and conversations, mentors help students develop strategies for engaging in the intellectual life of the University with an emphasis on opportunities available to them both within and outside the UK community, such as service learning experiences, internships, education abroad, undergraduate research, community service, and leadership opportunities. Mentors may elect to invite students to participate in sessions with their graduate students, attend lab meetings, review and discuss papers or projects being planned, and attend scholarly talks. Mentors help Fellows identify external scholarship opportunities and assist them in preparing applications and developing skills used to acquire these awards (e.g., writing personal statements, successful interviewing).

**The Chellgren Center Community Experience**

The learning community consists of Fellows, faculty mentors, and professional staff affiliated with the Chellgren Center for Undergraduate Excellence, all working together to make the Fellows’ undergraduate experience one of an exceptionally high standard.

Fellows are expected to attend regular meetings with mentors and peers as well as other pertinent events organized by the Center such as lectures at local colleges and universities, musical performances on and off campus, and art exhibits. At regularly scheduled meetings, Fellows learn about special educational programs and opportunities such as undergraduate research experiences, education abroad, internships, and volunteer activities. Fellows are also expected to submit brief, self-reflective progress reports and program evaluations once or twice each semester. Starting with the Fall semester, 2008, all incoming Fellows will register for DSP 200, Research Skills Orientation, and will actively engage in a research, creative, or scholarly project.

**The Chellgren Fellows Service Learning Project**

To help extend learning to the real world and foster responsible citizenship, each Chellgren Fellow participates in an annual service learning project or projects designed by the Fellows themselves with guidance from faculty affiliated with the Chellgren Center.

**Selection Process and Timeline**

Fellows are accepted through a competitive application process. Students are eligible to apply to the program after their first semester at UK. Applicants must have a 3.75 GPA or above. A committee of faculty evaluates and selects Fellows based on the following criteria:

- Academic credentials and extracurricular activities from junior year in high school
- Academic performance at UK (GPA, course selections, extracurricular activities)
- Essays completed as part of the application
- Letters of recommendation
- Performance in an interview