

Russell Scholars Program

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The Russell Scholars Program (RSP) is a residential, undergraduate learning community of highly motivated students and faculty dedicated to the achievement of educational goals through collaborative learning, out-of-class activities, and community service. The Russell Scholars Program is designed for average-to-excellent students who wish to pursue their studies in a small learning community, and who wish to receive regular coaching in the mastery of critical thinking. Russell Scholars will develop a commitment to learning and community service, an ability to transfer competence, an intercultural knowledge, a personal and ethical integrity, and an ability to work as part of a team. Approximately 50 first- and second-year students from all majors are admitted to the Russell Scholars each year and work with their individual RSP faculty mentors.

Extensive co-curricular and social activities enrich the learning community experience. All Russell Scholars are encouraged to have optional out-of-state or out-of-country learning experiences for which they receive full academic credit. First-year Russell Scholars are required to reside at Woodward Hall, a remodeled residence hall located on the Gorham campus. Here students can study, socialize, attend seminars, concerts, and readings, and meet with mentors. There are frequent opportunities for Russell Scholars, their faculty members, and guests to discuss ideas and issues in a relaxed social setting. Special events in the arts, sciences, and humanities are produced by Russell Scholars and are made available to the entire community.

To graduate as a Russell Scholar, a student must successfully complete two writing courses or equivalents, three RSP seminars, and six credits of Learning Community Labs, the final lab to be taken during the senior's spring semester. Students who are not taking RSP Lab who wish to earn service-learning credit must register for RSP 400 Independent Study with the instructor's permission. Students planning to graduate as Russell Scholars are required to take RSP 110, RSP 111, RSP 210 or 211, RSP 310 or 311, and RSP 411.

RSP	100C	College Writing	(3 credits)
RSP	101W	Russell Scholars Creative Writing	(3 credits)
RSP	102J	Seminar: Community and Identity	(3 credits)
RSP/EYE	103I	Seminar: Culture, Comm. & Environ	(3 credits)
RSP	104C	Enriched College Writing	(4 credits)
RSP	110	Learning Community Laboratory	(1 credit)
RSP	111	Learning Community Laboratory	(1 credit)
RSP	210	Learning Community Laboratory	(1-2 credits)
RSP	211	Learning Community Laboratory	(1-2 credits)
RSP	250H	Seminar: Songs and Society	(3 credits)
RSP	340	Global Campus	Variable credit
RSP	310	Learning Community Laboratory	(1-2 credits)
RSP	311	Learning Community Laboratory	(1-2 credits)
RSP	400	RSP Independent Study	(1-3 credits)
RSP	401	Community Service Internship	Variable credit
RSP	402	Russell Scholars Capstone Seminar	(3 credits)
RSP	410	Learning Community Laboratory	(1-2 credits)
RSP	411	Learning Community Laboratory	(1-2 credits)

Core Curriculum Requirements

Many Russell Scholars courses will satisfy the USM Core/General Education requirements. Students should consult with their mentor concerning the use of additional Russell Scholars courses to satisfy additional Core curriculum requirements.

Departmental Major

Russell Scholars courses are not intended to be counted toward the number of credits that departments require for graduation as a major. Students enrolled in the Russell Scholars Program should consult with their departmental advisors concerning the use of Russell Scholars courses to satisfy departmental major requirements.

***Admission to the
Russell Scholars
Program***

Any full-time, residential student in good academic standing is eligible to apply to be a Russell Scholar. Criteria for admission include: completion of application to the program, and an interview with a member of the Russell Scholars faculty.

Students interested in the Russell Scholars Program must complete an application separate from the application to the University. Those with questions about the Russell Scholars Program may call or write The Russell Scholars Program, University of Southern Maine, Woodward Hall, 37 College Avenue, Gorham, Maine 04038, (207) 780-5752 or 5751. Application materials will be forwarded upon request. Upon receipt of a completed application, students will be contacted for an interview, which may take place in person or by telephone. Applications are acted upon as they are received; hence, they should be submitted as early as possible.

To remain in the Russell Scholars Program a student must remain in good standing with the University and demonstrate a genuine desire to remain in the program.

RSP 100C College Writing

This course introduces students to the style and standard of writing expected of them in college. Students read expository writings grouped around a theme and use the ideas they encounter to develop and refine analytical essays in response. Emphasis is placed on building the skills of critical analysis and the writing process, specifically reading, drafting, rereading, revision, editing, and proofreading. Students are encouraged to integrate ideas from RSP Seminar into class discussions and individual essays, when appropriate. At the end of the semester, an RSP 100C student will be able to engage with complex readings and compose analytical essays that focus on a central theme using language that is relatively free of sentence-level error. Prerequisite: college readiness in writing. Fall semester. Cr 3.

RSP 101W Russell Scholars Creative Writing

This course is offered as a continuation of RSP 100C to help students define and meet their writing goals. Classes meet once a week, and include individual conferences. Creative Writing emphasizes style, organization, and development, with some emphasis on mechanics. Students must exercise the self-discipline necessary to work independently. Cr 3.

RSP 102J Russell Scholars Seminar: Self and Communication

This seminar will explore the process of self-discovery, building a foundation of self-knowledge, maintaining self-esteem, and communicating this inner self and personal vision to others in everyday life. It will examine issues ranging from the classic view of knowing one's self to practical concerns of effective interpersonal interactions. This seminar addresses several areas, including sociology, psychology, communication, and human growth and development. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of this course, it will be important to draw upon several sources which are written from a variety of disciplinary vantage points. Cr 3.

RSP 103I Russell Scholars Seminar: Culture, Community, and the Environment

All first-year Russell Scholars and transfer students are required to take this course. This course will utilize scientific and humanistic anthropological theories and understandings to explore contemporary issues and dilemmas concerning the environment. It will consider values and approaches of different cultures in order to better understand the current problems of environmental damage and pollution, population growth, lifestyle impacts on ecology, ethnic conflict, and other threats to cultural survival and ecological balance. The seminar will attempt to analyze contemporary problems locally and globally, and to explore possible resolutions to these problems. An example of cultural types will be examined, including forager, agriculturalists, and industrial nation-states, in terms of their relationship with and values about the environment. Cr 3.

RSP 104C Enriched College Writing

This college writing course provides additional support to students as they are being introduced to the style and standard of writing expected of them in college. Through additional classroom time, discussion, and small-group work, students further practice the skills of critical analysis; the writing process, specifically reading, drafting, rereading, revision, editing, and proofreading; and correct grammar and usage. The course is designed for students who have not met the University's measure of college readiness in writing and for any student interested in extra structure and support for success in the writing of college essays. Students are encouraged to integrate ideas from RSP Seminar into class discussion and individual essays, when appropriate. At the end of the course, an RSP 104C student will be able to engage with complex readings and compose analytical essays that focus on a central thesis using language that is relatively free of sentence-level error. Fall semester. Cr 3.

RSP 110 Russell Scholars Learning Community Laboratory

This forum for all Russell Scholars will convene bi-weekly in an informal environment to address topics such as campus issues, current events, and student interests. Russell Scholars Lab also takes students out of the classroom atmosphere by integrating field trips to enhance the learning experience. Cr 1.

RSP 111 Russell Scholars Learning Community Laboratory

RSP 111 is a continuation of RSP 110. Cr 1.

RSP 175F Oral Interpretation

A course in the assimilation and analysis of literary material (poetry, prose, drama) with emphasis on the techniques used in reading written material aloud to an audience. Designed to stimulate an understanding and responsiveness to literature and to develop the ability to convey to others, through oral reading, an appreciation of that literature. Prerequisite: 24 or more credits earned. Cr 1.

RSP 210 Russell Scholars Learning Community Laboratory

RSP 210 is a continuation of RSP 111. Cr 1.

RSP 211 Russell Scholars Learning Community Laboratory

RSP 211 is a continuation of RSP 210. Cr 1.

RSP 250H Russell Scholars Seminar: Songs and Society

This is an interdisciplinary, literature-based course focusing on the role of songs in world cultures. It is designed to introduce students to the influence that songs have upon societies, and likewise, the influence of societies upon the creation and use of songs. Like most art forms, songs are reflections of the prevailing values of a given society at any given time in history. The course examines songs as vehicles to motivate

and mobilize people, to help them escape from drudgery, to worship, to express political sentiment, to approve or to protest, to celebrate, and to entertain. Students identify and analyze the range of song genres from martial songs and anthems to love songs, lullabies, and protest songs. The course traces the evolution of the traditional story-song from the epic ballads to its present incarnation as both high and pop culture. Students will also explore songwriting as both an art form and as a business driven by societies' unquenchable appetite for songs, both old and new. Prerequisite: 24 credits or permission of instructor. Cr 3.

RSP 300H Russell Scholars Seminar: England and the Humanities

This course is designed to explore the interrelationships between the arts and humanities of the British Isles. The humanities comprise those areas of study that are literally the creation of human beings, as distinguished from science and its systematic revelation of the patterns of nature. Subsequently, this course will include, but will not be limited to, the roles played by literature, history, ethics, social science, religion, the fine arts, and folk arts in shaping British culture. Cr 3.

RSP 305J Britain: The Interactions of Politics and Culture

This course is specifically designed for Americans studying in England and introduces students to the economic, political, and psychological environment and cultural lifestyle of contemporary Britain. Common use of "English" language in both the United States and Britain often conceals essential differences that exist in culture and in attitudes. These differences will be identified and explored through the study of a variety of topics both in the classroom setting and outside. Students will be encouraged to focus their own observations in order to deepen and broaden their understanding of Britain, its inhabitants, its politics, and its culture, and to do so in a way that will enable them to reflect more fully upon their own country, politics, culture, and way of life. Cr 3.

RSP 310 Russell Scholars Learning Community Laboratory

RSP 310 is a continuation of RSP 211. Cr 1.

RSP 311 Russell Scholars Learning Community Laboratory

RSP 311 is a continuation of RSP 310. Cr 1.

RSP 340 Cultural Landscape of Greece

Students will be introduced to the multi-faceted nature of this intriguing country. Greece, the birthplace of our western civilization, is a modern, emerging European nation and is already a major tourist destination. Students will travel to the bustling capital of Athens for three days, but spend most of their time on the quieter island of Lesbos. Here they will live in the small city of Mytilene

(now a Sister City with Portland, Maine); gather to share meals in a seaside or city café; take field trips to villages, ancient sites, museums, and beaches; learn about the physical and societal framework of the culture; and attend lectures on human geography, geology, cultural traditions, current forces of change, impact of tourism, environmental issues, and regional politics. Cr 3.

RSP 345/GEY 110K Russell Scholars Global Campus

This course takes place at any one of several international sites. It offers Russell Scholars students an opportunity to travel while experiencing the rich cultural differences of our diverse world. An example of a course is one held at Wroxton College in England during Winter Session. It examines British culture, government, economy, and literature. Students attend a performance by the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-on-Avon, spend a weekend in London, and take several other side trips. Another example of this course takes students to Greece. Students will be introduced to the multi-faceted nature of this intriguing country. Although ancient Greece is the birthplace of our western civilization, Greece today is also a modern, emerging European nation. Students will travel to the bustling capital of Athens for a few days, but spend most of their time on the quieter island of Lesbos. Here they will live in the small city of Mytilene (now a sister city with Portland, Maine) where they will be near markets, shops, and cafes. Daily they will gather to share meals in their pensione, or in seaside or city cafés; and take field trips to villages, ancient sites, archeological and art museums, and beaches. Cr 6.

RSP 402 Russell Scholars Capstone Seminar: Community and Commitment

This capstone seminar will bring together the framework, principles, and experiences of four years in the Russell Scholars Program to prepare graduating seniors to become lifelong learners with a commitment to the common good. Drawing upon the lessons of identity and community, and other themes of the program, this classroom and field-based seminar will explore such questions as: What is the common good? How can we be at home in the world? How can we live within and beyond the tribe? What is our responsibility in the world? What does citizenship in the 21st century mean? How do we develop critical habits of mind? This seminar will include a significant service-learning field experience in a community setting. Cr 3.

RSP 410 Russell Scholars Learning Community Lab

RSP 410 is a continuation of RSP 311. Cr 1.

RSP 411 Russell Scholars Learning Community Lab

RSP 411 is a continuation of RSP 410. Cr 1.