

To: Directors of Undergraduate Programs, Association Deans, and Faculty Advisors

From: Kirt von Daacke, Chair, College Scholarships and Grants Committee

RE: As the enrollment advising season approaches, I write to identify for faculty advisors the many awards and honors for academic excellence

(<http://college.artsandsciences.virginia.edu/awardsandhonors>) that students may ask about as they prepare to enroll in classes for the coming semester.

What follows represents a useful primer on the subject:

1. **Dean's List:** In the College of Arts & Sciences, a student must complete at least 15 credits of graded course work (CR/NC courses do not count) and semester grade point average of at least 3.500 to be eligible. Any student receiving an F, NC, or NG during the semester is not eligible to be on Dean's List. The transcript notation of *Dean's List* is normally posted within several weeks after the conclusion of the semester.
2. **Intermediate Honors:** A certificate of Intermediate Honors is awarded to students entering the University directly from high school or preparatory school who earn at least 60 credits in their first four regular semesters. No more than 12 of the 60 required credits may be earned on a CR/NC or S/U basis. Credits from AP, dual enrollment, transfer, January Term, and Summer Session do not count toward the requirement. Students must have remained in Good Standing.
3. **Echols Scholars Program:** The Echols Scholars Program accepts each year a number of First-year Echols Scholars. Students apply in their second semester. Information and application materials can be found here: <http://college.artsandsciences.virginia.edu/echols>. The program considers the number of graded credit hours taken each semester, rigor of the courses taken, balance of quantitative, humanities, and social science courses, evidence of intellectual curiosity, writing skills, and grades earned.
4. **Phi Beta Kappa:** Students are elected to Phi Beta Kappa for their scholarly attainment in the liberal arts and sciences. Undergraduate members of Phi Beta Kappa are chosen from the top 12 percent of the fourth-year class and the top 4 percent of the third-year class. Students must have earned at least 60 hours at UVA to be eligible (credits earned elsewhere are not counted). Students chosen will have consistently chosen courses that reflect a commitment to the breadth and depth of the liberal arts; demonstrated proficiency in advanced-level courses; carried a challenging course load (14-15+ credits most semesters); taken at least two courses in each of the following areas: humanities, social sciences, natural/physical sciences; at least one intermediate course in a foreign language; and one course in mathematics, logic, or statistics.

5. **Theses and Commencement Honors:** Degrees with distinction, high distinction, and highest distinction are awarded by the Committee on Special Programs to students who have a grade point average of 3.400 or higher and have been recommended by the departments or interdepartmental programs in which they have completed a Distinguished Majors Program (DMP) or the equivalent. The committee also awards distinction (but not high or highest distinction) to students who have not enrolled in, or who have discontinued a DMP, but who complete their degree with a grade point average of at least 3.600.

6. **Other Scholarship Opportunities:**
 - a. College Scholarships & Grants: <http://college.artsandsciences.virginia.edu/scholarships>

 - b. Alumni Association Scholarships: <http://alumni.virginia.edu/student-programs/scholarships/>

 - c. Center for Undergraduate Excellence: <http://www.virginia.edu/cue/>

I hope this proves useful as you advise students regarding course selection for the spring 2014 semester.

Best,

KvD

Cc: Association Deans, Dean Meredith Woo, Dean Greg Roberts