

## General Criteria

**1. Each applicant should have:**

- Demonstrated academic achievement, leadership, and intellectual and emotional maturity and have the personal commitment and responsibility to meet the daily expectations of the program.
- The ability to cope successfully with a curriculum focusing on theory, abstraction, and self-expression.

**2. Each applicant should exhibit many of the following characteristics:**

- Be flexible enough to explore new ideas and approaches, adapt to new situations, and view problems from more than one perspective.
- Be willing to participate energetically in the academic, social, and residential life aspects of the program.
- Be inquisitive, intellectually curious, and eager and willing to get involved.
- Be willing to think in conceptual terms.
- Demonstrate ability to think analytically and to generate many alternatives.
- Have genuine intellectual potential and a broad range of interests – not to be confused with a range of activities.
- Be a responsible self-starter and enjoy developing and creating projects. Be independent and willing to take risks.
- Be emotionally stable and socially mature; use common sense. Be honest, considerate of others and be ready to shoulder responsibility for personal behavior and for full, daily participation in classes and activities.
- Be able to express himself or herself in writing, orally, and/or in the arts.

**3. Commitment is a major requirement.**

**Each applicant should be committed to participate enthusiastically in the program and to remain for the entire five weeks without interruption, except for illness or emergencies.** Undivided time and continuity in the Scholar community is essential to maintain the momentum to grow intellectually and personally, to gain self-confidence, and to stimulate curiosity and creativity. **Students unlikely to uphold this commitment should not apply.**

Students must be able to handle their freedom responsibly for the sake of their own health and to meet their commitments.

**Each accepted student must sign a learning contract agreeing:**

- (1) To stay for the entire five weeks of the program without interruption; and,**
- (2) To attend classes daily and to participate fully in classes and the life of the community, including weekends on campus.**

Students who fail to meet this commitment will be in violation of their contract with the Governor's Scholars Program. They may, therefore, **be dropped from the program and their school so notified.** Individual exceptions may be allowed for emergencies, illness, or overriding personal reasons or events.

Most students understand and respect these requirements. A few with major conflicts that would take time from the five-week session choose not to attend the program; they make a difficult choice. **It is unethical and unfair to these honest students for an applicant to accept designation as a Governor's Scholar knowing beforehand that during the session he or she will seek permission to be absent because of a scheduling conflict.** Students who know of scheduling conflicts in advance should contact the Governor's Scholars Program to discuss the conflict before accepting designation, or should not apply.