The UofSC College of Education Holmes Program

The American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education’s (AACTE) Holmes Scholars Program supports students from historically underrepresented groups to pursue careers in education. As an AACTE-affiliated institution, the College of Education supports several full-time doctoral students serving 3-year terms as Holmes Scholars.

As the College’s signature recruitment initiative for diversifying the professoriate, Holmes Scholars are awarded tuition, $2K for conference/travel funding, as well as $20K for a 20-hour per week assistantship. Through a partnership between the College’s Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and the College’s academic departments, our Holmes Scholars garner unique opportunities to develop as instructors and scholars while also engaging in diversity leadership in higher education.

Additional program benefits include attending the AACTE annual meetings, participating in a meeting of the Holmes Scholars Summer Policy Institute, and support to attend at least one discipline-specific conference. Scholars are also invited to participate in Holmes-related activities and meetings held during the annual conference and to present their work on a self-guided project that authentically engages them in advocacy, policy, or research that furthers high-quality, equitable educator preparation.

Application Requirements

Each CoE department supports a limited number of Holmes Scholars. Before applying to the program, potential applicants should reach out to their home department to inquire about available Holmes slots.

To apply to the Holmes Scholars program, applicants must:

1. Receive acceptance into one of the College of Education’s doctoral programs
2. Complete the Graduate Assistant Application Form (found on CoE’s website)
3. Submit two letters of recommendation from faculty members to the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

2021-2022 UofSC Holmes Scholars

- Shelby Gonzales, Counselor Education, 3rd Year
- Crystal Rouse, Teaching and Learning, 1st Year
- Tempestt Johnson, Language and Literacy, 1st Year

Valuing the Holmes Program

Networking with scholars across the country and learning about their efforts to push boundaries around teacher education, diversity, social justice, racial equity, and interdisciplinary studies is the real benefit of the Holmes program.
~ Ayan, Holmes Graduate

As a Holmes Scholar, connecting with linguistically diverse professors around the nation and making connections in my home language allows me to feel more connected to the research and practice within my field.
~ Lydia, Holmes Graduate

For me, the mentoring I receive, the opportunity to be part of meaningful projects within the College of Education, and the camaraderie found in my cohort are the essence of being a Holmes Scholar at the UofSC.
~ Priscila, Holmes Graduate

The program has provided me the ability to network at the national level, attend and present my work at conferences, and obtain a leadership position on the National Holmes Board.
~ Reena, Holmes Graduate

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