

## **Aquinas Scholars Honors Contract**

Incoming Aquinas Scholars are asked to acknowledge their acceptance of these terms via electronic signature on the Aquinas Scholars Canvas site.

The following sets forth the conditions under which the undersigned student will be a member of the Aquinas Scholars Honors Program at the University of St. Thomas.

1. I understand that, to graduate as an Aquinas Scholar, I must complete a minimum number of honors sections and/or regular courses converted to honors-level sections based on the number of transfer credits I have. Scholars with 26 or fewer transfer credits must complete at least four honors sections; those with 27–59 transfer credits must complete at least three honors sections, and those with 60 or more transfer credits must complete at least two honors sections.
  - a. Exceptions to this requirement are granted only under extraordinary circumstances and usually require a substitution (e.g. extra honors seminar) rather than a complete waiver. Any such arrangement must be made with the director of the honors program and affirmed in an email to the scholar.
  
2. I understand that I will be required to take a minimum of three honors seminars to graduate as an Aquinas Scholar.
  - a. These three seminars must be taken for a grade, not pass/fail. If a fourth seminar is taken, it can be taken pass/fail.
  - b. Exceptions to this requirement are granted only under extraordinary circumstances and usually require a substitution (e.g. extra honors section) rather than a complete waiver. Any such arrangement must be made with the director of the honors program and affirmed in an email to the scholar.
  - c. I have the right to take honors seminars tuition-free.
  - d. Credits earned in honors seminars do count toward the 132-credit graduation requirement at the University of St. Thomas.
  - e. Aquinas Scholars may enroll in a maximum of two seminars per semester. Students who want or need to take more than two seminars during a semester need to obtain approval from the director.
  
3. I understand that I will need to maintain an overall G.P.A. of 3.6 or above to remain a member in good standing of the Aquinas Scholars Honors Program.
  - a. If my overall G.P.A. falls below 3.6 during a given semester, I understand that I will be placed on probation and will have one additional semester to raise my overall G.P.A. to 3.6.
  - b. I understand that if my overall G.P.A. is below 3.6 for two consecutive semesters I will be removed from the program and will need to reapply if I wish to be reinstated.

4. I understand that I must complete an Honors Signature Work Assignment in my last year of studies and submit this material to the program for review prior to graduation.

5. I understand that all Aquinas Scholars are bound by the University's Academic Integrity Policy as specified in the Undergraduate Catalog. Aquinas Scholars who are found to be in violation of that policy may incur additional program-specific consequences.

6. I understand that I have the right to request from the director of the program at any time an audit of my progress in the completion of the requirements for the honors program, but that I am otherwise responsible for monitoring my own progress. I will receive no written communication about the number of honors sections and seminars I have taken or about whether I have fulfilled the necessary requirements unless I specifically request this information from the director of the program. I have been notified that my progress in the completion of these requirements is being tracked in the St. Thomas Banner system and that this information is available to me through the "Degree Evaluation" option in Murphy Online.

7. As a member of Aquinas Scholars I have the right to run for positions in the student leadership of the group.

8. As a member of Aquinas Scholars I have the right to use Aquinas Scholars physical facilities in the Aquinas Scholars Lounge, located in the Anderson Student Center, room 316. Use of the Lounge includes use of the PCs, printer, and to partake in refreshments offered by Aquinas Scholars. I agree not to allow non-Aquinas Scholars to utilize this space or consume products intended only for Scholars. I agree to keep my printing at a recommended monthly limit of 100-125 pages. I understand that my St. Thomas ID is encoded to gain access to the lounge during Anderson Student Center hours. I understand that I will be financially responsible for any damage I do to this room or the equipment in it.

9. As a member of Aquinas Scholars I have the right to participate in all academic, social, and service activities of Aquinas Scholars, subject to the conditions set forth by the student organizers of these events.

10. I understand that in order to encourage Scholar participation and community-building, all Scholars are required to earn at least 4 points by attending events or participating in Scholars sponsored activities. Each event and activity will have a point value based upon the amount of time or effort required for participation; in general, off-campus events (e.g., volunteering with Second Harvest Heartland) will be worth 2 points and on-campus events (e.g., Pizza with a Prof) will be worth 1 point. Upcoming events and their individual point values will be advertised each month.

Note: Aquinas Scholars who are part of the Aquinas Scholars LLC can earn their four points with LLC-specific events or program events or a combination of both. LLC and program points are interchangeable for the purposes of the LLC and the program.

Failure to attain the required point total for a specific semester will result in a one-semester probation period. Students on probation will have the opportunity to attain the next semester's 4 points. Failure to attain the required point total in two consecutive semesters will be sufficient grounds for removal from the Aquinas Scholars Honors Program.

11. I understand that any funds expended for the Aquinas Scholars Honors Program must have the prior approval of the faculty director of the program, and that I may not be reimbursed for funds expended without this approval.

12. I will be included on the Aquinas Scholars e-mail distribution list and will receive all e-mails related to the program. I understand that this distribution list is for the business of Aquinas Scholars only and is not to be used for personal or commercial purposes.

13. Upon graduation, I have the right to be recognized as an Aquinas Scholar at the Honors Convocation, at which time I will receive the honors cords that will mark me as an Aquinas Scholar at my graduation ceremony.

14. After graduation, if a final check reveals that I have completed all of the requirements of the program, I have the right to have it noted on my transcript that I successfully graduated from the Aquinas Scholars Honors Program at the University of St. Thomas.

15. Photo/Video Release Policy. I hereby authorize and grant permission to the University of St. Thomas to reproduce my photographic or video images and/or first name for the Aquinas Scholars Honors Program. I agree that such reproduction may be edited as desired and used in whole or in part for any and all print, audio-visual, online, multimedia, and/or exhibition purposes in any manner or media, in perpetuity, throughout the world. I understand that I have no rights to any benefits derived there from. I consent to the use of my first name and image in any promotional materials.

I have the right to enter into the Agreement and that my rights I have granted in this Agreement will not conflict with or violate any commitment or understanding I have with any other person or entity.

I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the University of St. Thomas from and against all claims, losses, expenses and liabilities of every kind including reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of the inaccuracy or breach of any provision of this Agreement. I expressly release the University of St. Thomas from any and all claims arising out of the use of my photographic or video images and/or my first name.

This Agreement represents the entire understanding of the parties and may not be amended unless mutually agreed to by the parties in writing.

*I understand all my rights and accept all my responsibilities as an Aquinas Scholar.*