# What Makes a Strong Kemper Scholar

Students accepted to the Kemper Scholar Program meet a number of criteria based on scholastic achievement, career interests and demonstrated maturity. The Kemper Scholars Program evaluates candidates based on the following considerations:

[Academic standing, achievement and potential](http://www.jskemper.org/kemper-scholars-program/what-makes-a-strong-kemper-scholar/#academic)

[Academic major/Career Interests](http://www.jskemper.org/kemper-scholars-program/what-makes-a-strong-kemper-scholar/#major)

[Availability for post-sophomore and post-junior summer experiences](http://www.jskemper.org/kemper-scholars-program/what-makes-a-strong-kemper-scholar/#availability)

[Leadership in school and community](http://www.jskemper.org/kemper-scholars-program/what-makes-a-strong-kemper-scholar/#leadership)

[Commitment to citizenship and service](http://www.jskemper.org/kemper-scholars-program/what-makes-a-strong-kemper-scholar/#commitment)

[Intellectual curiosity and independence](http://www.jskemper.org/kemper-scholars-program/what-makes-a-strong-kemper-scholar/#intellectual)

[Openness to being mentored](http://www.jskemper.org/kemper-scholars-program/what-makes-a-strong-kemper-scholar/#openness)

[Unusual maturity, openness and flexibility](http://www.jskemper.org/kemper-scholars-program/what-makes-a-strong-kemper-scholar/#unusual)

[Need and opportunity](http://www.jskemper.org/kemper-scholars-program/what-makes-a-strong-kemper-scholar/#need)

[Diversity](http://www.jskemper.org/kemper-scholars-program/what-makes-a-strong-kemper-scholar/#diversity)

[Parent or guardian support](http://www.jskemper.org/kemper-scholars-program/what-makes-a-strong-kemper-scholar/#parent)

## Academic standing, achievement and potential

Candidates will have completed less than 25% of the credits required by their institution to graduate at the time of application. Students who have transferred into Kemper Scholars Program Partner Institutions with credits from other schools or Advanced Placement courses sufficient to gain them sophomore standing are not eligible to apply, even though they are in their first year of enrollment at that institution. Kemper Scholars must maintain a minimum 3.25 grade point average. However, most Kemper Scholars will graduate with a 3.50 or better. Students who achieve less than 3.25 during a semester or show a cumulative grade point average of less than 3.25 for two semesters will be dropped from the program.

## Academic major/career interests

The Kemper Scholars Program is designed for students who are pursuing, or intend to pursue, a business-related degree program such as accounting, data science, finance, risk management, economics, statistics, math and/or actuarial science. Students who combine course work in any of these areas with courses in computer science are strongly encouraged to apply.

Prospective Kemper Scholars must have a demonstrated strong interest in pursuing a business career and be open to exploring career options in the insurance industry.

## Availability for post-sophomore and post-junior summer experiences

Kemper Scholars must commit at least ten weeks between the end of the spring term and the fall term after their sophomore and junior years, plus time for travel to their internship sites. Students hoping to study abroad for a full year or in the spring term in an international study program that do not end until mid- or late-June should not apply to the Kemper Scholars Program unless they are willing to alter their international study plans.

## Leadership in school and community

Kemper Scholars demonstrate a capacity for leadership by their activities and involvement both in high school and in college.

## Commitment to citizenship and service

Service is an underlying principle of leadership. Prospective candidates must display a commitment to helping others and serving society. A record of community service activity in high school or college is important.

## Intellectual curiosity and independence

The Kemper Scholars Program is most satisfying to students who are eager to learn new things and can relate their experiences to academic preparation and career aspirations.

## Openness to being mentored

The impact of the program is largely achieved from two key aspects:

1. Interaction with and peer learning from the other Kemper Scholars
2. Structured activities and mentoring by Kemper Foundation staff and work supervisors.

Because the program awards neither college credit nor grades, Scholars benefit most when open and committed to mentorship from the Kemper Foundation staff. Scholars must be willing to engage fully in program activities, to reflect upon and talk with staff about their personal goals and development and to openly consider mentors’ advice.

## Unusual maturity, openness and flexibility

During Summer Experiences, Kemper Scholars live and work as independent adults. They must be able to relate well to adults in the workplace, to adjust to unexpected events and to make wise decisions about life away from work. Kemper Scholars become part of a very diverse group and must be open to and accepting of fellow Kemper Scholars with differences in economic background, politics, religion, ethnicity, culture, interests and sexual orientation.

## Need and opportunity

For many participants, the Kemper Scholars Program provides their first chance to work alongside adult professionals, to live independently away from home and to test out a professional career. For these students, the program often has the greatest value and makes the greatest impact. While they are not the primary criteria, personal background and financial need may be considered in the selection process.

## Diversity

The Kemper Foundation seeks to recruit Scholars from diverse economic, ethnic and geographical backgrounds. We seek also to achieve a group balanced, preferably equally, between male and female participants.

## Parental or guardian support

Kemper Scholars must have the permission of their parent(s) or guardian(s) to participate in the program. Before they apply to the program, prospective Kemper Scholars are responsible to ensure that their parent(s) or guardian(s) will be comfortable with their travel to and from Chicago as well as their living in working in Chicago for the summer.  The Kemper Foundation staff deals directly with students and will consult parents or guardians only in unusual circumstances.