

STUDENT HANDBOOK



West Virginia

**Governor's
Honors Academy**

Appalachia Envisioned

July 12 - 26, 2025



West Virginia University®

WELCOME to GHA
Where every minute is an opportunity
And where Mountaineers Go First!

What an enviable position you are in. You have read about GHA, and you have heard your friends—and maybe even your parents—rave about it. This summer, however, all the hearsay falls into the background as you experience GHA yourself.

We are proud to present the West Virginia Governor's Honors Academy at West Virginia University in Morgantown. This unique program celebrates the achievement and potential of the state's most promising scholars and citizens.

Governor's Schools are truly a community effort. Requested in the governor's budget and funded by the State Legislature, all Governor's Schools of West Virginia are administered by the West Virginia Department of Education. The host institution, West Virginia University, will ensure that GHA is like no other academic experience.

The information provided in this booklet should answer many of the questions parents/guardians have about GHA. Participation in this heralded program provides an opportunity for rising West Virginia high school seniors to meet and interact with other students and adults in a rich academic environment that facilitates and encourages creativity, exploration, and collaboration. In some cases, students may receive scholarships from the college they choose to attend. The colleges - not the Honors Academy itself - award such scholarships.

We are happy to congratulate you not only for exploring the world of academia, but for having the wisdom to know that GHA is where you should spend a portion of your time this summer. The Governor's Schools have long been shining stars in our state's education opportunities. You are now part of that magnificent brilliance.

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Schedule of Events and Activities	6
A Note from your Resident DirectorError! Bookmark not defined.
Policies and Procedures	6
Living Accommodations	8
Packing Recommendations.....	10
Campus Recreation	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Harassment Policies	10
Disciplinary Action.....	11
Get to know Our Faculty and Staff	13
Frequently Asked Questions	26
Contact Information	28
Directions and Campus Map	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Introductions

Dear GHA Student and Parents,

Welcome to the 2025 GHA program at West Virginia University. On behalf of the WVU GHA team, I and our entire staff are looking forward to hosting you on the beautiful WVU Morgantown campus. We have planned an exciting and stimulating two weeks for you, with a variety of academic and social activities. This handbook is designed to give you an idea of what to expect. Our leadership and staff are here to answer any questions you may have. Our goal is to make your stay a positive and unique experience as only Mountaineers know how to do.

Please read the information contained in this handbook carefully. It contains information on just about everything you need to know about GHA and your stay. If you have any questions that are not answered here, you may contact Dr. Yoav Kaddar, Dean, Dr. Michelle Richards-Babb, Associate Dean, or Mr. Dustin Lambert, the coordinator of Governor's Schools.

The Governor's Honors Academy is an excellent opportunity for you to meet and interact with other accomplished students and faculty in an enriching and invigorating academic setting. At GHA, you will explore familiar and less familiar topics of interest to you. You will be living and learning on the WVU campus as a representative of your school and county.

GHA will challenge you academically and spark your curiosity as you explore your dynamic world. Moreover, you will meet other talented and driven young West Virginians and develop friendships that will last the rest of your life. Only students who complete the Academy are known as GHA Scholars.

By accepting a position with this year's Academy, you agree to behave with integrity and treat others with respect. You will be required to abide by all the rules and regulations included in this brochure. These guidelines are necessary for you to have the best possible learning experience, and for all of us to have a gratifying two weeks.

We wish you a successful and enjoyable experience at the Governor's Honors Academy at WVU. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, July 12th!

So, *Let's Go!*

Yoav Kaddar, Dean WVU GHA

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to the Governor's Honors Academy (GHA) at West Virginia University! I am excited to have you join our community, and I look forward to working with each of you throughout this program.

As the Resident Director for the program, I want to ensure that your experience here is both enriching and memorable. This handbook is designed to answer many of the questions you may have about the program, housing, and what to expect during your time in Honors Hall. Whether you're seeking logistical details or curious about campus life, this resource should serve as a helpful guide.

Honors Hall is one of the top choices for freshmen, providing a unique and supportive environment that helps students thrive. Our goal is to foster the same sense of belonging and to support your growth during your stay at WVU.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out. I am here to help you every step of the way.

Once again, welcome to GHA—I'm excited to see what we will accomplish together!

Warm Regards,

Chris McBride
Resident Director, Governor's Honors Academy
West Virginia University

WVU GHA Theme

Appalachia Envisioned

During the 2025 West Virginia Honors Academy at WVU, students will participate in academic and extracurricular activities that explore the embedded theme: **"Appalachia Envisioned."** Through this theme, students will explore a wide range of contemporary issues with an eye to the future and the aspirations for their generation. The WVU GHA program will enable these Generation Z students to better understand the historical, present realities and how they may better contend with the world they will inherit. The program will present students with practical and theoretical knowledge and best practices as they create a new world of their own. Programming will enable students to explore critical historical and contemporary realities at the local, state, national, and global level so that they can best determine what aspects of our shared past they wish to keep and revitalize in the future and which elements are best left behind.

Schedule of Events and Activities

Opening and Closing Dates

The West Virginia Governor's Honors Academy will begin on Saturday, July 12th. Students will sign up for a check-in time between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on that day. Families will be invited to dine with their child in the dining hall before the Opening Session, which will be held beginning at 1:00 p.m. Families will bid farewell to their student during the Opening Session.

The West Virginia Governor's Honors Academy will conclude on Saturday, July 26th. Parents/ guardians may arrive beginning at 9:00 a.m. for the closing Academic Showcase that will be held at the WVU Mountainlair beginning at 9:30 a.m. Students must be checked out by 1:30 p.m. that day.

Typical Daily Schedule

A typical day during the WV GHA at West Virginia University will look like this:

- 7:15-8:00 Wellness Activity
- 7:30-8:30 Breakfast
- 8:30-9:00 Morning Meeting
- 9:00-10:30 Broad-Based Class 1
- 10:45-12:00 Broad-Based Class 2
- 12:15-1:15 Lunch
- 1:30-4:30 Intensive Class Time
- 4:45-5:30 Afternoon Activities
- 6:00-7:00 Dinner
- 7:00-9:00 Evening Activities
- 11:00 LIGHTS OUT

Special Events and Off-Campus Outings

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| • Saturday, July 12 | Opening Session (1:00 p.m.) – move-in will begin by 9:00 am |
| • Tuesday, July 15 | Dynamic Earth Show, WVU Planetarium (Repeated on 7/16 & 7/17) |
| • Wednesday, July 16 | Creek Farm Pickling Workshop, WVU Museum Education Center |
| • Thursday, July 17 | Chemistry Demonstration Show |
| • Saturday July 19 | WV Adventure Program Day at Chestnut Ridge |
| • Sunday July 20 | WVU Recreation Center Day (Climbing Wall, Pool, Court games) |
| • Wednesday, July 23 | Washington D.C. Trip – National Mall and Museums |
| • Thursday, July 24 | WVU Undergraduate Research Symposium |
| • Saturday, July 26 | Closing Ceremony and Academic Showcase / Farewell, and Check-out |

Policies and Procedures

Residency Policy

- Students are expected to remain on campus. Parents, family, and friends are **NOT** to visit. Emergency leave requests should be sent to the deans.
- Students may **NEVER** leave campus alone and without informing the appropriate GHA staff.
- Students are not permitted to have food deliveries (GrubHub, Instacart, DoorDash, etc) to the residence halls.

Visitation Policy

- Students may not entertain visitors, including family.
- If a student forgets something at home, parents may contact the Resident Director to set up a time and place to drop off the forgotten items.
- Students are NOT permitted to visit other groups or residence halls while on WVU's campus.
- Students may visit with members of a different sex **ONLY** in the residence hall lounges or common areas, not in student rooms.

Motor Vehicles

- Students may neither ride in nor operate a motor vehicle unless driven by appropriate GHA staff.
- GHA students are not permitted to bring a vehicle to GHA.

Cell Phones, Computers, and Personal Electronics

- Use of cell phones and other electronic devices is limited to trips and free time **ONLY**, unless otherwise approved or instructed by GHA staff. Students may keep their cell phones on them but should not use them during class or activity time.
- Our goal is for you to connect with other GHA students during the academy.
- Participants might be asked to use their phones to communicate with their class peers for class purposes and/or extracurricular activities. This will be optional and further details will be given at registration.

Attendance and Participation

- Students are required to attend and actively participate in all regularly scheduled classes and events.
- Students should notify resident staff regarding any absence from any event or class for any reason. All absences need to be approved by GHA resident staff.

Field Trips and Leaving Campus

- Students are required to follow established travel schedules, residence hall curfews, and established town ordinances regarding curfews for minors.
- When off-campus, students **MUST** stay in an RA-or faculty-chaperoned group at all times.
- Students may **NOT** leave the dorm hall or classrooms without permission, and not at all after dark.
- Students **MUST** travel in groups of three (**3**) or more on campus if no RA or staff member is present.

Drug Policy

- Tobacco, alcohol, drugs, and other chemical substances (apart from prescription or OTC drugs that GHA staff have been made aware of) are **PROHIBITED**.
- Any application of medications needs to be coordinated at initial check-in with the GHA staff and the resident GHA nurse.

Other Policies

- GHA photo ID must be worn at all times.
- If the fire alarm sounds, everyone is to exit the building and assemble at designated safe areas for roll call.
- Business casual attire is required to be worn at the Academic Undergraduate Symposium and closing Academic Showcase.
- GHA t-shirts are to be worn as instructed on trips. Offensive writing or images on clothing is prohibited.
- Appropriate attire is required in classrooms, activities, field trips, and the dining hall. Proper foot attire (no flip flops or slides), or pajama pants are to be worn for any academic class activity.

Living Accommodations

The WVU Honors Hall is your home for the two weeks of the program. Please be respectful of each other, the building, GHA staff, and **ESPECIALLY** University Housekeeping. The RD, RAs, and Deans reserve the right to revoke privileges such as afternoon activity time should facilities not be kept up to standard.

- Students in the WVU Honors Hall have the luxury of living in a suite style room. The suite includes a private bathroom facility shared between four students. Each suite has two bedrooms, four beds, two sinks, one shower room, and one restroom facility. Housekeeping does not clean student rooms or student restrooms. Therefore, during your time at GHA, you will be responsible for maintaining a clean space.
- You can view photos of the suite style rooms in [Honors Hall](#).
- Stairwells are to walk from one floor to the next, not a place to hang out. Please keep them clean and clear.
- You will be issued a key to your room. A fee of \$30 will be charged to replace if the key is lost or not returned. Payment is due immediately and must be in the form of a debit or credit card.
- Students are to be in their rooms and in bed by **11:00 p.m.**, unless otherwise instructed by GHA faculty and staff. This means if an RA walks the halls, they should not be able to hear noise from your room or see light. The bathroom light is okay to leave on.

Mail

Care packages from home are acceptable, but please limit package delivery from websites such as Amazon. Please use the address below to mail packages or letters to a GHA student. **Do not use the PO box listed on the webpage for Honors Hall.** The resident director or RAs will help distribute mail to GHA students. Outgoing mail can also be dropped off during the day for pick up.

Address letters in the manner that follows:

[Student Name]
WV Governor's Honors Academy
c/o Honors Program at WVU
250 2nd Street
Morgantown, WV 26506

Trash

All students are responsible for removing trash from their rooms. Students will have a chance to clean their rooms and empty room garbage, several times during the program, in coordination with the RAs and resident staff.

Laundry

Laundry facilities are located on the first floor of Honors Hall. In order to pay for laundry facilities, please download the [Speed Queen app](#). Add funds with a credit card and operate the laundry machines through the app. The laundry room is locked and requires a key to get in. If your room key is not working, see the front desk manager.

Cafeteria

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served in the [Summit Cafe](#). Hours will be announced when you arrive. A salad bar is available for lunch and dinner. Vegetarian options are offered at all meals, and every effort will be made to accommodate special dietary needs.

Packing Recommendations

What to Bring	Suggested Items	What NOT to Bring
Bedding (Twin XL sheets, pillow, blankets) Towels, wash cloth Beach towel Swimsuit Hand soap Trashcan (trash bags provided) Cleaning supplies (Clorox wipes, bathroom cleaner) Shower caddy Toiletries Clothes hangers Laundry detergent Laundry bag Two dress outfits Comfortable shoes Refillable Water Bottle	Laptop or tablet Umbrella Sunscreen Musical instrument Board Games Hat Chargers for electronics Power strip Desk lamp Mini-Fridge (4.6 cubic feet max) Headphones Light jacket Fan (the building is air conditioned) Snacks Foam mattress pad	Microwave Any open flame items Pets Extension cords Small cooking appliances (anything with a heating element)

Self-care and Wellness

During the 2-week program there will be ample opportunities for participants to engage in some physical activity. Activities will also depend on weather conditions. Participants will begin each morning with a group wellness activity (yoga, outdoor walk, etc.). Other activities will include a day at the WVU outdoor adventure facility, an afternoon of organized activities at the WVU Recreation Center and some social activities outdoors (weather permitting).

Harassment Policies

Harassment of all kinds will not be tolerated at GHA. Harassment includes any action or behavior that mocks, demeans, puts down, disparages, or ridicules another person or group. Bullying of all kinds is considered a form of harassment. Sexual harassment is any sort of discrimination, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

If you are a victim of harassment, please report to your immediate RA or any other RA, or the RD. In these situations, you should report to whomever you are most comfortable speaking to. Together you can discuss the incident and create a plan to address the issue at hand.

Disciplinary Action

Certain behavior is incompatible with the philosophy of GHA. As representatives of your schools, communities, counties, and the state of West Virginia, you are expected to be exemplary citizens. All staff members are responsible for disciplinary action in response to misbehavior. In other words, every staff member is the "boss." There are three levels of discipline, determined by the nature, frequency, or severity of the infraction and they are not necessarily sequential:

1. Verbal reprimand by staff with written notice to the Dean.
2. Written warning by the Deans. Parent/guardian will be notified, with
3. Dismissal from GHA.

The Dean and Associate Dean, in consultation with the appropriate faculty, resident staff, and the State Director, will make final decisions regarding dismissal from GHA.

Should a student be dismissed, the Dean will immediately contact the student's parents or guardians. A dismissed student must be picked up by a parent/guardian within 12 hours of dismissal. While waiting to be picked up, the student will pack personal belongings under staff supervision and be separated from other Academy members. A letter stating the reason for dismissal will be sent to the parent/guardian, high school principal, and county superintendent of schools.

Be advised that WVU and the West Virginia Governor's Honors Academy will cooperate with all university, local, and state authorities regarding investigations or illegal activities.

Causes for Disciplinary Action

Students who leave campus without authorization, leave the room after "room check" wander off during off-campus travel, engage in activities threatening the safety of themselves or others including leaving assigned groups when off campus, or who violate the tobacco, alcohol and controlled substance abuse rule will be dismissed immediately. There will be no second chances.

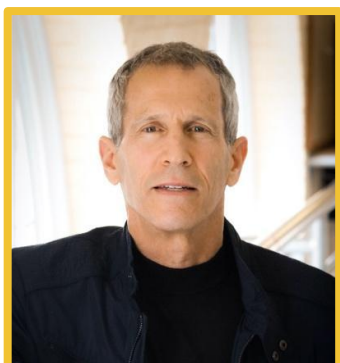
Other reasons for dismissal include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Unexcused absence
- Disobeying visitation policies
- Unauthorized use of a vehicle
- Unauthorized riding in a vehicle with another person
- Tampering with fire alarms or security systems
- Harassment/ bullying
- Failure to follow faculty, staff, or campus security's directions
- Behavior unbecoming of a

member of GHA.

If you have any questions or concerns about these policies, feel free to ask your RA or any other member of the GHA staff. These policies are in place to provide you with a safe, fun, and enriching experience.

Get to know Our Faculty and Staff



Dr. Yoav Kaddar, Dean

Dr. Kaddar is the director of the WVU Dance Program and founder and director of the WVU Summer Dance Academy. He received his BFA from The Juilliard School in NYC, his MFA from University of Washington, Seattle, and his PhD in Educational Administration from the University at Albany, NY. He has been a member of leading US modern dance companies performing around the country and abroad. Dr. Kaddar is a Fulbright Scholar, and teaches nationally and abroad. He has been a member of the American College Dance Association Board of Directors, served on the US Fulbright Selection Committee for the Arts and is the Immediate-Past President of the National Dance Education Organization. Dr. Kaddar chairs the WVU Rhodes

Scholar Committee and is a member of the WVU Fulbright Selection Committee. He is a recipient of the WVU Outstanding Faculty/Staff Advisor – Lifetime Achievement Award, and the WVU Faculty Award for Outstanding Global Contributions. Most recently he was awarded the WVU Distinguished Undergraduate Research Mentor Award. At WVU he has and continues to merge dance with other disciplines across campus creating new movement and dance related programs in education and the health sciences. In his off time Yoav enjoys swimming, and cooking for family and friends. Dr. Kaddar is honored to have been chosen to lead the WVU GHA program as Dean.



Dr. Michelle Richards-Babb, Associate Dean

Dr. Richards-Babb is a Professor and the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies in the C. Eugene Bennett Department of Chemistry. She received her B.S. in Chemistry from Ursinus College in Collegeville, PA and her Ph.D. in Chemistry from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA. Dr. Richards-Babb was the founding and previous director of WVU's Office of Undergraduate Research that (i) provides institution-wide undergraduate research programming and (ii) assists students from any major in engaging in research as soon as they are ready. Currently, she teaches in the chemistry department and especially enjoys teaching courses in organic chemistry, undergraduate research, and graduate-level pedagogy for college chemistry. Her research focuses on practical aspects of chemistry education research that facilitate students as chemistry learners by encouraging frequent,

applied practice and metacognition. Her research has been published in peer-reviewed chemistry education journals that reach both national and international audiences. She is recipient of the 2023 Elbert K. Fretwell Outstanding Educator Award from the Mountaineer Area Council of the Scouts of America and the 2013 WVU Eberly College Outstanding Teacher Award. Outside of the work environment, Michelle enjoys gardening, home renovating, reading, spoiling her three dogs, and staying fit by walking, working out, and biking. Dr. Richards-Babb is excited to assist in leading GHA in collaboration with Dr. Kaddar.



Chris McBride, Resident Director

Chris McBride is a middle school science teacher at Olson Middle School in Bloomington, MN. Although he resides in Minnesota, he is from Beckley, WV and a Mountaineer at heart. He received his B.A. in Chemistry and his M.A. in Secondary Education from West Virginia University. While a student at WVU, he was a resident assistant in Honors Hall. Upon Graduation, Chris was a Residence Life Specialist for Dadisman and Stalnaker Halls for 3 years. Chris has been working with West Virginia Governor's Schools at WVU since 2014, serving as Resident Director of the STEM Institute, School for Entrepreneurship, and Computer Science Institute. In addition to Chris's work with the Governor's School programs, Chris serves as a volunteer for WV and MN's Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminars. Outside of his work in education, Chris enjoys spending time with his family, his cats, traveling, finding new hiking trails, and relaxing with a

good book.



Keyzar Dominguez, Head Resident Assistant

Keyzar Dominguez is a first-year graduate student in the Department of Chemistry at West Virginia University. Keyzar recently graduated from West Virginia University with a B.S. in Biochemistry with a minor in Communication Studies. Throughout her undergraduate career, Keyzar was very active on campus, serving as the Secretary of the Health Sciences and Technology Academy Alumni Network and as a Resident Assistant at Oakland Hall. Keyzar also worked as a Student Co-Chair for the NSF funded First2 Network, which involved collaborating with universities across West Virginia to increase persistence in STEM majors. In her free time, she likes hanging out with her friends, gaming, trying new foods, and solving puzzles. She is very excited to serve as the GHA Head Resident Assistant and mentor this year's students!



Teresa Dietz, Intern

Teresa Dietz is a high school math teacher at East Fairmont High School in Fairmont, West Virginia. Teresa graduated from West Virginia University in 2022 with a B.A. in mathematics and a minor in psychology. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Teresa assists in coaching Vex Robotics teams at her school. Although this is Teresa's first year as intern for the Governor's Honors Academy, she has previously served in both intern and faculty roles for the Governor's STEM Institute and Governor's Computer Science Institute. Having participated in GHA as a student in 2017, she is very excited to play a part in providing students with the memorable, enriching summer program she recalls from her own experience. Teresa's other hobbies outside of work include reading books,

carving stamps, playing piano, and designing floral arrangements.



Isabel Al-Zoubi, Social Media and PR Intern

Isabel Al-Zoubi is a Senior Dance and Multidisciplinary Media Studies double-major at West Virginia University from Teays Valley, West Virginia. She has experience managing and building social media accounts, curating creative social media content, and developing strategies to achieve marketing goals. Isabel has also choreographed for the WVU student dance showcases three separate times, as well as instructed a variety of dance classes at her home studio in Hurricane, West Virginia.

2025 GHA Resident Assistants



Fiona Bechtel, Resident Assistant

Fiona Bechtel is a sophomore at West Virginia University majoring in Social Studies Secondary Education and minoring in Hospitality & Tourism Management. She is a member of the WVU Honors College, as well as the History and Crochet Clubs here at WVU. After graduating, Fiona intends to pursue a Master's degree while working as a high school history teacher, and hopes to spend her summers running an AirBnB someplace in Appalachia. Fiona spends her free time crocheting, reading, cooking, watching documentaries, calling her family, and hanging out with friends.

Jonathan Cook, Resident Assistant

Jonathan Cook recently graduated from West Virginia University this past Spring semester, receiving a B.S in Biology with minors in General Business and Secondary STEM Education. Jonathan is a native of West Virginia, pursuing many hobbies in outdoor recreation, including golfing, playing basketball, fishing, and skiing in the winter. Some notable extracurriculars he was involved in include collaborating as a science coordinator for the University Rover Challenge, working as a First Year Leadership Academy mentor, and becoming an undergraduate cancer researcher for the ophthalmology school at WVU. Jonathan also advised for the WVUTeach program, guided students as a biology teaching assistant, and was elected as the Treasurer of the Pre-Dental Club. Jonathan looks to take the next step in his academic journey by attending the WVU School of Dentistry in the Fall.



Susan Hanson, Resident Assistant

Susan is a junior at West Virginia University majoring in Biology Pre-Med with a minor in Forensics. At WVU, Susan is involved in various clubs on the WVU campus, such as the Vice President of the Remote Area Medical club, Social Media Coordinator of the WVU chapter Network of Enlightened Women, Mountaineer fentanyl education task force, Cheddar Bay biscuit club at WVU, Country Line Dancing club at WVU, and is a University of Pittsburgh Medical Center RAISE ambassador. Susan previously was an RA in Honors Hall on the WVU campus last year, served as an Honors Advance RA for this summer, and is an Honors Foundations mentor of the WVU Honors College. Susan's post-graduation plans include going to PA school for emergency medicine. At home she is a volunteer EMT and public relations officer of Cave Spring Rescue Squad in Roanoke, VA. In her free time, Susan enjoys printmaking, handmade cards, and working outside with her dad.



Daniel Kaddar, Resident Assistant

Daniel Kaddar is a sophomore Honors College student at West Virginia University majoring in Immunology and Medical Microbiology. He plans to declare minors in Medical Humanities and Health Studies, as well as Leadership Studies. On campus, Daniel is a member of WVU's chapter of Global Medical and Dental Brigades, facilitating healthcare clinics in rural, resource-reduced regions of the world, including eastern Panama this past spring break. He also volunteers in a SARS-CoV-2 research lab in his major's department. Daniel attended the Governor's STEM Institute as a student in summer 2019. He is also an Eagle Scout of Boy Scout Troop 93 here in Morgantown. Daniel's current goal after undergrad is to earn his M.D., hopefully at WVU, to become a trauma surgeon while staying involved in rural healthcare. In his free time, Daniel enjoys going to WVU's Reynolds Hall gym, playing soccer, slacklining, cooking, and spending time with his friends and family. He is looking forward to being a part of GHA this summer!

Molly Krupa, Resident Assistant

Molly Krupa recently graduated from West Virginia University this past Spring semester with a degree in Physics. During her time as an undergrad, Molly was a member of the Outdoor Adventure Club and the Red Cross Club. In the upcoming Fall, she is beginning her master's degree in Biomedical Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. Outside of class, Molly enjoys swimming, painting, and camping. For the past two summers, Molly has served as a mentor with the Governor's STEM Institute and the Computer Science Institute here at WVU!





Liam McCarthy, Resident Assistant

Liam McCarthy is a Sophomore at West Virginia University double majoring in Piano Performance and Chemical Engineering. Liam works as a Student ambassador for the College of Creative Arts and Media, and is an active performer in WVU's Jazz and commercial music ensembles. During the summers, Liam loves to travel and work as a highschool marching band instructor. As a 2023 GHA graduate, Liam is eager to work as a resident assistant for this year's program. When not making noise, Liam likes to snowboard, cook, read, and hike.



Laynie Miller, Resident Assistant

Laynie Miller is a current junior at West Virginia University, majoring in Social Studies Secondary Education and Political Science. She is a current Resident Assistant at Boreman Hall North where she has implemented many programs surrounding mental health education. Laynie also volunteers her time to the Appalachian Prisoners Book Project, a program that grants book requests from various prisons across Appalachia. On campus, Laynie is an executive board member of the Resident Assistant Council, a WVU Honors Student, as well as a member of Kappa Delta Pi, a fraternity for educators. After graduating, Laynie plans to pursue an M.A. in History and Political Science and her P.h.D in Appalachian History. Outside of school, Laynie enjoys listening to music, painting, cooking, reading, and researching different historical and political events.

Efe Omodior, Resident Assistant

Efe Omodior is a sophomore at West Virginia University majoring in Computer Engineering. On campus, Efe is a Resident Assistant at Honors Hall, a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers chapter, and the National Society of Black Engineers. After graduating, Efe plans to work as a computer hardware engineer for companies like Microsoft and Nvidia. Outside of school, Efe enjoys playing soccer, working out, and spending time with family and friends.



Aaron Reedy, Resident Assistant

Aaron Reedy is a sophomore at West Virginia University double majoring in History and Sustainability Studies with a focus on Environmental Studies. He is also minoring in Native American Studies. On campus, Aaron is a member of the WVU Honors College and History Honors Society Phi Alpha Theta. He is a member of student organizations, such as the Appalachian Advocacy Network, and rides on the university's English Equestrian Team. In the fall, Aaron will be studying at Cardiff University in Wales, United Kingdom for a full academic year under the WVU exchange program. Aaron plans to pursue a M.A. and Ph. D. in history after graduation. In his free time, Aaron enjoys riding horses, reading, comic books, cats, and music.



Alexa Triplett, Resident Assistant

Alexa Triplett is a Junior at WVU studying Exercise Physiology, and is planning on attending medical school after she graduates. She works with the competitive sports department here so she spends most of her time working with minor sports and playing intramurals. She is an ambassador for the WVU School of Medicine and is involved in a few academic clubs related to her major. Alexa loves to travel and spend time with her family and friends. She had a great experience when she attended GHA as a student at Marshall University in high school and is looking forward to being back as an RA this summer!

John Wansack, Resident Assistant

John Wansack is a Junior at West Virginia University studying Exercise Physiology with an area of emphasis in Aquatic Therapy and a possible minor in either Health Coaching or Nutrition. On campus, John is an active member of Project 168 and FirstGen Initiatives and works at the Downtown Campus Library. After graduation, John plans to get his DPT after attending the Physical Therapy Program at WVU. Outside of classes, John enjoys playing soccer and basketball with friends, listening to music, spending time outdoors, traveling, and cooking new recipes.



Kinslee Watkins, Resident Assistant

Kinslee Watkins is a junior at West Virginia University, majoring in Communication Sciences & Disorders. She is a president of her own student organization called "Sending Sunshine WVU". The club's focus is to make and disperse greeting cards to hospice and nursing home patients. Kinslee has worked as a resident assistant at Oakland Hall for three semesters and is planning on continuing for the 2025-2026 school year. She also works and teaches pottery at the WVU Craft Center in her free time. She creates and sells her own pottery at local vendor events around Morgantown. Kinslee is excited to work as a GHA resident assistant this summer!



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I miss any part of GHA?

No. Our program is only 2-weeks long. The commitment to GHA is for the full program, and you will be excused only for a verified emergency. Everyone is expected to attend the entire time with no exceptions for weddings or other planned events. Extenuating circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Deans of the GHA.

2. Will there be time to check e-mail?

Yes. There are times during the day when students may go to a number of places to check e-mail or to do computer research. In addition, the campus has Wi-Fi, so you can use your personal devices to check for messages.

3. Can my parents or friends visit during GHA?

No. GHA is designed so that you can be totally focused on the activities planned for you. Parents, other family members, and friends are not permitted to visit. Those from the Morgantown and surrounding immediate areas need to pay special attention to this.

4. Will I get the classes I request?

Probably. The program is designed so each student will receive as much exposure to the wealth of disciplines and courses that WVU has to offer. This will be achieved through the "Broad-based courses" that participants will attend daily. Through the "Intensive Courses" each student will have the opportunity to go into depth and focus on specific areas that interest them. We strive that students are enrolled in their first or second choice for their intensive class. Although you may not get your top choice, there are no bad choices. Remember, the program is here to expand what you already know and present you with new and exciting programs that otherwise you would not have access to.

5. Can I choose my roommate?

No. GHA assigns roommates on a random basis, and deliberately attempts to separate students who attend the same school or county. This is designed to encourage you to meet new people and engage with others outside of your comfort zone.

6. Will attending GHA enhance my scholarship opportunities?

Some colleges and universities award financial aid over and above other scholarships for students who complete GHA. You will need to check with the respective institution's financial aid office to see if they offer such a scholarship. Scholarships are not financed by the Governor's Schools--neither are they guaranteed. That said, attending the GHA program at WVU will give you the opportunity to interact and study with WVU faculty, which is a great way for WVU to get to know you, your interests and talent.

7. Will I really enjoy living with all these rules?

Of course you will. The rules are only if and when needed. They are there to give all of us a structure and framework in which to work, live and have fun. If you come with the mindset to gain as much new knowledge as possible, learn new things, be willing to try new classes, and interact with respect and humanity with your fellow GHA community, there is no need for these rules. Students who attend GHA say that it is the best experience of their high school career. You will not be "giving up" your summer; instead, you will be gaining for a lifetime.

8. Will I receive college credit for the GHA classes?

No. The classes at GHA are for your enjoyment and intellectual and academic enrichment tools and making memories. Although you will work hard in the classes, they are not designed to meet the requirements of a college-credit course.

Contact Information

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GETTING TO THE WVU HONORS COLLEGE

The Honors College is located on WVU Downtown Campus

[250 Second Street, Morgantown WV 26506](#)

A WVU Downtown WVU Campus Map can be found at the following link:

<https://campusmap.wvu.edu/files/d/5aee35ae-3a4e-47b8-8d66-daff0ed8beb4/downtown-map.pdf>.

(Note that the Honors Hall dorm is shown in red near the top of the Downtown Campus Map. Honors Hall is just across the street from Summit Hall (wherein is located the cafeteria).