

**ACT A-18-16**  
**The University of Alabama**  
**21st Student Senate 2016-2017**

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**Support Our Scholars Act**

*Be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Government Association assembled:*

Section 1. Findings

The University Scholars Program allows students that have excelled in undergraduate studies at the University of Alabama to begin, and possibly complete, a graduate degree by undergraduate graduation. Criteria for the program includes maintaining a certain GPA, which is dependent on the department in which a student is enrolled, as well as completing at least 91 hours of coursework.

The program, however, is under-utilized by students on campus. In an effort to increase awareness and enrollment for the program, the senate must work to incentivize students towards the program. The University Scholars program can be a powerful recruitment tool for our campus, as well as an asset for students who are wishing to enhance their education in a more time efficient manner.

Also, enhancement of the University Scholars Program is essential to the Graduate School portion of the university's strategic plan. In order for the graduate school to reach its benchmark by 2021, the university must retain more undergraduates to earn graduate degree(s) from UA. Fulfilling the strategic plan is essential for the future growth and continued excellence of the Capstone.

Section 2. Legislation

*WHEREAS*, the University of Alabama Student Senate strives to foster academic success in all students through the many programs found at the Capstone; and,

*WHEREAS*, the University Scholars program is one of the programs through which students can excel, as well as challenge themselves academically; and,

*WHEREAS*, the University Scholars program is not publicized enough to reach a majority of students that it is designed to benefit.

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*, that the SGA Senate will appropriate \$500.00 to be used as a scholarship for a student accepted into and starting the University Scholars program for the Fall 2017; and,

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, No former or current SGA member is eligible to receive any scholarship established through this funding; and,

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that a standing committee will be appointed by Vice President for Academic Affairs to create an application, advertise the scholarship, and select the scholarship winner; and,

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that the scholarship will be awarded no later than one (1) week after the final registration day for Fall 2017 semester.