Dean’s Scholars Program Overview

Coursework Descriptions
Students are required to complete three Dean’s Scholars courses throughout their four years in CBS. The courses are designed to be manageable when combined with the course load of a typical CBS major. Each class is 1-2 credits, meets once per week, and is graded pass/fail.

BIOL 1301: Introduction to Leadership, 1 credit
This course is designed for students to learn about leadership theory and concepts, explore personal views on leadership, and understand the value of self-reflection in personal development. The course will provide students with a framework to increase their understanding of leadership and examine how they can be more intentional about their leadership development as a college student studying science.

BIOL 2301: Critical Service Learning, 2 credits
This course is designed for students to reflect on the importance of civic responsibility and service in leadership, understand how personal values, experiences, and identity influence perspectives on social issues, and learn techniques for effective work with diverse communities. The course provides students an opportunity to volunteer with a local community organization throughout the semester based on articulated service outcomes.

BIOL 3302: Leadership Capstone Experience, 1 credit
This capstone course is designed to synthesize the work students have completed during their participation in the Dean’s Scholars program and throughout their undergraduate career. Students will consider personal paradigms as a leader while exploring perspective taking, emotional awareness, and societal impacts of leadership.

Peer Mentoring
Dean's Scholars first-year students have the opportunity to build relationships with other peers and a Dean’s Scholars Peer Mentor, who is a current junior or senior in the program, by taking part in a small group discussion series throughout the fall semester. Juniors and seniors are eligible to apply for the Peer Mentor role, and if selected, enroll in BIOL 3303: Peer Leadership Development, a one credit course designed to teach peer leadership theory, skills, and strategies.

Celebration and Recognition
The Dean’s Scholars Program emphasizes high standards and strong engagement. Students are brought together as a large Dean’s Scholars group several times throughout the year. The venues for these community building activities include: a welcome reception, a first-year leadership summit, a spring closing reception, and multiple leadership seminars throughout the year.