

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

HB Section(s): 2.075

Missouri Scholars Academy (MSA)

Program is found in the following core budget(s): Missouri Scholars and Fine Arts Academies

1a. What strategic priority does this program address?

Success-Ready Students & Workplace Development

1b. What does this program do?

Missouri Scholars Academy (MSA) is a three-week residential program held on the University of Missouri - Columbia campus for Missouri's students who are academically gifted and ready to begin their junior year in high school. The mission of MSA is to offer unique opportunities for students for learning and personal development that cannot be provided or achieved through curriculum and instruction in a traditional high school environment. MSA is designed to allow students with advanced intellectual abilities to flourish with peers and to assist these students realize their full potential. The scholars are selected based on standardized test scores, high school GPA, student essays, and letters of recommendation. Students join with a carefully selected faculty and staff to experience specially designed interdisciplinary curriculum that focuses on creativity, critical thinking, and problem solving. Further, social-emotional curriculum was designed specifically for the scholars in the wake of COVID, and extra-curricular activities are carefully planned to provide students with as many opportunities as possible in three weeks.

2a. Provide an activity measure(s) for the program.

| | FY 2020** | FY 2021 | FY 2022 | FY 2023 | FY 2024 | FY 2023 |
|---|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Actual | Actual | Actual | Projected | Projected | Projected |
| Missouri Scholars Academy participants | 0 | 0 | 295 | 330 | 330 | 330 |

Note: These numbers are not reflective of the high participation rates throughout the years, pre-COVID-19.

*** Funding in FY 2020 was restricted. In response to COVID-19, the 2020 Academy was a volunteer virtual event. A handful of teachers and resident assistants (RAs) created a virtual event for identified scholars. Of the 330 identified scholars, 240 participated in an online distance event. 2021 was also virtual. 2022 represents a return to an in-person residential academy.*

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2b. Provide a measure(s) of the program's quality.

Comments from the Scholars:

2022 Course Evaluations

In 2022, course evaluations for each major and minor class were distributed to scholars. Students rated their class and their instructor on a scale from 1 to 4, and also answered a series of questions about their major, minor and Cor: Personal and Social Development (Cor:PSD), which provided qualitative feedback. Scholars were generally very satisfied with their courses and instructors.

Selected quotes from the Cor:PSD evaluations, which were qualitative.

"I learned a lot about who I am as a person through Cor and I really couldn't have imagined it being better than it was."

"Cor was way out of my comfort zone (in a good way)."

"[The co-facilitators] never made us do anything we didn't want to – it built trust."

"It wasn't as evident in the beginning, but now I see how this community will benefit me."

Students had opportunities to write comments:

"MSA has such a loving atmosphere where scholars see each other's versatile accomplishments and become inspired. Personally, because of MSA, I am interested in becoming more involved with volunteering, taking action against social injustices, and starting a club at school. MSA truly brings out the best in a person. Being surrounded by such talent makes everyone want to be the best version of themselves." – Kirkwood Sr. High School, Kirkwood

"My experience at MSA has helped me have a vision of what I want my future to look like. Getting a preview of what a college education means and what campus life is like was enlightening. The alternate learning environment at MSA felt more comfortable than ordinary public schooling. I returned motivated to further my education. The unique social environment at MSA gave me a group of friends I will have for the rest of my life." –Central

The table below shows the overall average scores for major and minor classes and instructors.

| | Class Score | Instructor Score |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Major Classes | 3.7 | 3.89 |
| Minor Classes | 3.68 | 3.9 |

Based on a scale of 1 to 4, with 4 being high.

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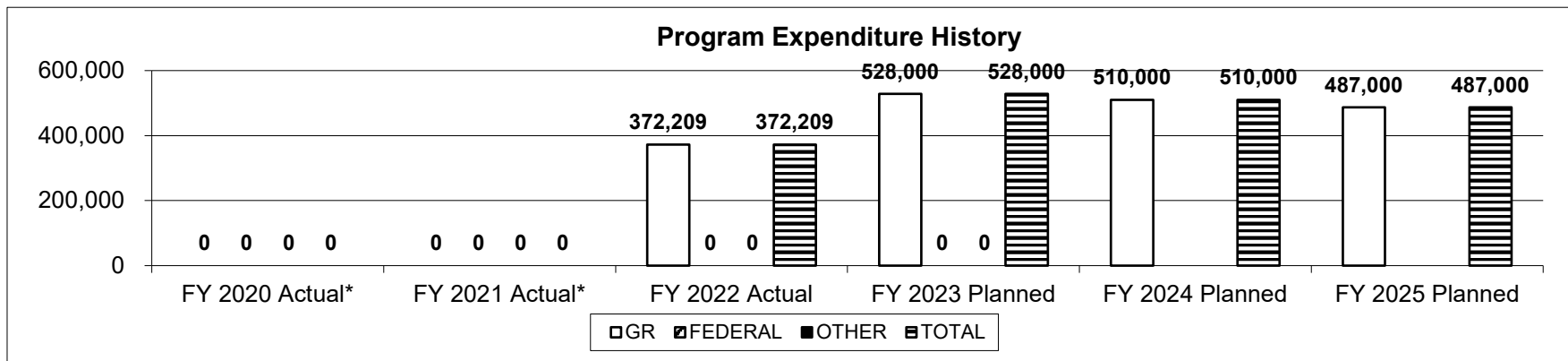
2c. Provide a measure(s) of the program's impact.

Missouri Scholars Academy has impacted 10,000+ scholars who grow up to be entrepreneurs, academics, professionals, and even state policy makers. "Missouri Scholar's Academy, for me, can be defined as a single word: growth. What MSA sets out to do, and has done for me, is foster an environment in which gifted individuals from around the state can come together to learn, change, and grow as people. Going into the Academy I wasn't sure what to expect, but after completing the program I can confidently say that it has had a significant impact on my life. MSA has given me an incredibly unique and important opportunity to grow. It has improved my confidence, as well as opened my mind to new experiences and cultures that otherwise I may not have been able to experience. It's hard to capture in words just how impactful the program has been for me. I can assuredly say that I am a different and better person than I was thanks to the Academy. I have grown wiser, smarter, and more compassionate due to the incredible experiences provided to me by this wonderful program. – Nevada High School, Nevada

2d. Provide a measure(s) of the program's efficiency.

The Missouri Scholars Academy achieves excellence while managing costs responsibly. The work of the Academy continues throughout the following academic year, as the team reviews all written feedback and suggestions within the responses of the open-ended items in the MSA's survey data. The Missouri Scholars Academy is reviewing and refreshing curriculum and the program components through collaboration, and with stakeholders and experts in the field. A model program for targeted investment, MSA leaders model the intentionality conscientiousness, and problem-solving that will help students to persevere and succeed for years to come. The Academy has a history of expending 100% of the appropriation each year. In 2022, 295 scholars from 55 different counties, 18 on full scholarship, 2 on partial scholarships. In 2023 MSA faculty and staff are working to have nominations from all counties in Missouri.

3. Provide actual expenditures for the prior three fiscal years and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year. (Note: Amounts do not include fringe benefit costs.)



* Due to COVID-19 the 2020 and 2021 academies were held virtually

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4. What are the sources of the "Other " funds?

N/A

5. What is the authorization for this program, i.e., federal or state statute, etc.? (Include the federal program number, if applicable.)

H.B. Section 2.075

6. Are there federal matching requirements? If yes, please explain.

No

7. Is this a federally mandated program? If yes, please explain.

No.