

**KEMPER SCHOLARS PROGRAM**  
**James S. Kemper Foundation**

**Facts in Brief**

**\$3,000-8,000/year scholarship for three years**  
**\$2,000-\$6,900/year summer project stipends for two years**  
**Annual Kemper Scholars Conference for three years**  
**Non-profit Internship in Chicago after sophomore year**  
**For-Profit Internship after junior year**

*“Education is a kind of insurance. It enables the individual to draw on the experiences of the many to live with integrity, dignity, and usefulness.”*

*James Scott Kemper, 1967*

In 1912, James Scott Kemper founded an insurance company based on responsibility, understanding, and integrity – values which ever after marked the Kemper Insurance Companies. As the quotation above from the James S. Kemper Foundation’s 1967 annual report shows, Mr. Kemper placed a high value on the communal nature of education. He compared education to what he knew best: insurance. He understood that becoming an educated person depends upon one’s access to the shared repository of learning, much the same way that insurance lessens one’s risk by having many people contribute to a repository of resources upon which those who have suffered a loss can draw.

The repository of human knowledge and experience is, of course, accessible through reading, study of books and works of art, and through the labor of teachers. But James Kemper also knew learning comes by one’s being actively involved with a mentor in gaining active experience in the world of work. This philosophy encouraged the creation of the Kemper Scholars Program in 1948.

The program prepares students for leadership and service, especially in the fields of administration and business. The Foundation believes that undergraduate study of the liberal arts offers the best preparation for life and career; thus the program aims to promote education in the liberal arts while providing opportunities for career exploration, practical experience, and professional growth.

**Benefits for the Scholars**

- Kemper Scholars receive scholarship financial assistance for three years of \$3,000-\$8,000 a year depending on demonstrated need.
- Scholars receive \$6,500-\$6,900 as a summer project stipend for the post-sophomore summer and \$2,000-\$6,000 for the post-junior summer.
- They attend the annual Kemper Scholars Conference for three years.
- Scholars are placed in an internship at a non-profit organization in Chicago during their post-sophomore year summer.
- Scholars secure their own post-junior year internship in any for-profit setting.

## **Summer Project Support**

Kemper Scholars receive \$6,000+ stipends for work in major non-profit organizations in Chicago during the summer following their sophomore year. After discussions with Foundation staff, Scholars will be placed in full-time administrative positions where they can learn about financial management, organizational strategy, fund-raising, and non-profit administration. Because the Kemper Foundation has relationships with many major non-profit organizations in Chicago, positions can be offered in a wide variety of fields. Students have completed internships at such organizations as the Art Institute of Chicago, the Chicago History Museum, the Field Museum, the Joffrey Ballet, the Office of the Mayor, Lookingglass Theatre, the Shedd Aquarium and WTTW public broadcasting.

Scholars live in furnished apartments in the same residence building in downtown Chicago. They participate in several group activities and a weekly seminar with staff while having many opportunities to explore the Chicago metropolitan area's educational, cultural, nature, sports, and entertainment offerings.

During the summer following the junior year, scholars are eligible for summer internship grants ranging from \$2,000-\$6,000 (level of support depends on expenses associated with the internship). While the scholars' summer internships must be full-time in a for-profit setting, scholars will have great latitude in choosing the location and organization, including overseas placements.

## **Foundation-Sponsored Activities**

Each fall, the Kemper Scholars attend a national conference, currently in Chicago, to discuss summer projects, meet with current Kemper Scholars, and consider topics in administration, leadership and business. Scholars meet quarterly (usually by phone) with Kemper Foundation staff. These meetings focus on the scholars' academic and professional goals, as well as their hopes for future internships and learning opportunities.

## **Eligibility**

Only students at Kemper Scholar Institutions (listed below) are eligible to become Kemper Scholars. Colleges and universities must be invited by the Foundation to become a Kemper Scholar Institution.

Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia  
Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin  
Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois  
La Salle University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Illinois  
Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois  
Pitzer College, Claremont, California  
Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas  
University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, Texas  
Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pennsylvania

Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana  
Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina  
Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia  
Willamette University, Salem, Oregon  
Xavier University, New Orleans, Louisiana

## **Candidacy**

Eligible candidates must be first-year students enrolled full-time at a Kemper Scholar Institution. The Kemper Foundation is looking for unusually mature students with broad interests and a record of academic achievement, extracurricular activity, community service, and demonstrated leadership ability. Successful candidates will have a commitment to the liberal arts and must be able to maintain at least a 3.00 grade point average. They will have an interest in exploring careers in organizational leadership and management in business or the non-profit sector. The Foundation hopes to foster future leaders who pursue a vigorous, broad undergraduate education while participating in community service, engaging in campus activities, and exploring their vocational calling outside the classroom.

The Foundation commits financial support and personal assistance to each Kemper Scholar. Scholars commit themselves to regular contact with the Foundation, service in their community, participation in foundation-sponsored activities, maintaining good grades, the sophomore summer in Chicago, and a post-junior year summer internship.

Students apply for selection through the Kemper Scholars Program coordinator at their local institution. The local campus committee screens applicants and selects finalist candidates. Following its interviews with the finalists, the Foundation normally selects a Kemper Scholar at each college each year.