



University Studies

A great place to start!

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Question **EXPLORE**
Imagine *attain* **LEAD**
ENHANCE *analyze*
investigate *dream*
evaluate **EXAMINE**



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In the Know: Honor Societies

The tradition of honor societies dates back to 1776, when five students at the College of William and Mary founded Phi Beta Kappa during the American Revolution. Most traditional honor societies focused on recognizing individuals who achieved academic excellence or exhibited exemplary leadership. Memberships in honor societies were (and are) usually by invitation only. These societies often provide networking opportunities, informal or formal leadership training, and the chance to engage in scholarship with other academically high-achieving scholars. Some societies might also have scholarships available for which members can apply.

At UD, there are fifteen honor societies that have been recognized as Registered Student Organizations (RSOs). They can be found at www.udel.edu/RSO > **Organizations>Honor Society**. Some honor societies are open to all students who meet a certain GPA requirement, such as Alpha Lambda Delta, while others are specific to major such as Psi Chi in the Psychology Department. Many of them participate in both academic and social activities throughout the school year. Some bring in guest lecturers or provide members with the opportunity to do community service. UD also has several honor societies dedicated to leadership on campus.

Students often ask advisors whether or not joining these societies will provide a tangible benefit. The reality is that some societies are more well-known than others. Phi Beta Kappa is clearly one of most respected honor societies as it has been around the longest and is highly selective. However, that does not mean that some of the newer organizations would not be beneficial as well. (continued on page 5 . . .)

Use the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics'

Occupation Finder to search job titles by salary level, growth rate, and educational requirements. Go to <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/occupation-finder.htm>.

According to the BLS, **geographers** study the nature and use of areas of the Earth's surface, relating and interpreting interactions of physical and cultural phenomena. Conduct research on physical aspects of a region, including land forms, climates, soils, plants, and animals, and conduct research on the spatial implications of human activities within a given area. In 2013, the median wage for this job category was \$74,750. Projected growth in this occupation is much faster than average at 22% through 2020.



GET THE FACTS ON: MINOR IN GEOGRAPHY

A minimum of 18 credits of course work in **geography** must be completed for a minor. Students complete (9) credits from designated classes representing three core areas, including physical geography, human geography, and geographic methods, as well as (9) additional credits of coursework at the 300 or 400 level.



VOLUNTEER AND INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Conservation involves *protecting* and *preserving* natural resources, and *preventing* their over-use, destruction, or neglect. **Delaware's Division of Parks and Recreation** at <http://www.destateparks.com/volunteers/> Individuals and groups can make a difference in as little as two hours, or make a weekly commitment for several months. Environmental conservation in Delaware can range from restoring important wildlife habitats to maintaining h biking trails and creating rain gardens. There are many ways to volunteer for DNREC environmental conservation projects and programs.

The **Delaware State Parks Internship Program** provides opportunities for qualified students and career-focused graduates to apply learned theory and experience to practical situations and observe an organization first-hand. A quality field experience facilitates and enhances educational and vocational processes. The Delaware State Parks Internship Program is a training program that provides practical work experience and valuable training in the many and varied careers in the State Park system.

What can you do to help?

- Maintain and construct nature trails
- Help teach environmental education
- Assist in Nature Centers
- Bring history to life as a Living History Volunteer
- Keep grounds beautiful through gardening and maintenance

GET THE FACTS ON: MAJOR IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Environmental Studies (ENVR) assists students in gaining a deeper understanding of, and appreciation for, the environment and environmental systems, the impact of humans on the environment and the environmental impacts on humans, and the importance of environmental understanding when making economic, political and other policy choices.

Students are required to take a body of core courses in the social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences with a focus on broadly understanding the environmental field. A minimum of 124 credits is needed to complete this degree. Students may take upper-level elective courses that are focused in their areas of special interest. Students can choose from one of four concentrations: International Environmental Politics & Policy; Environmental Law; Policy & Politics; Environmental Economics & Resource Policy; and Environment, Society & Sustainability. Graduating students may pursue employment in environmental planning, consulting companies, and county, state, and federal agencies. Some students pursue graduate studies in law, public policy, or the natural sciences.



For more information, contact ceoe-info@udel.edu.

According to **UD's Major Resource Kit**, a B.A. in Environmental Studies can help you secure an entry level position in jobs such as forest/park ranger, outdoor trip leader, lobbyist, fundraiser, or legislative assistant. To view a list of relevant professional associations and environmentally-focused organizations, go to <http://www.udel.edu/CSC/students/mrk/envstudies.html>.

According to **O*Net**, there is a "bright outlook" for faster-than-average job growth in related occupations such as aquacultural managers, landscape architects, recycling coordinators, and environmental restoration planners.



Earth Day

Each year, Earth Day is celebrated on April 22 to mark the anniversary of what many consider the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. The idea came to Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, after witnessing the ravages of a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California.

**Ag Day is Saturday,
April 25, 2015**

**10:00 am—4:00 pm
Townsend Hall**

**This year's theme is
"Farm to Table."**





STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Hannah Gaston

If you are feeling overwhelmed, reach out! There are numerous resources on campus and in the surrounding community.

Center for Counseling & Student Development

(302) 831-2141

www.udel.edu/Counseling/

Student Wellness & Health Promotion

(302) 831-3457

www.udel.edu/studentwellness/

Student Health Services

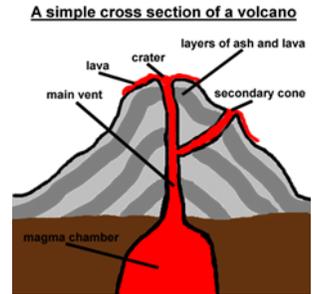
(302) 831-2226

www.udel.edu/studenthealth/

CONTACT Delaware

24 hour crisis hotline

1-800-262-9800



Hannah Gaston is a Delaware native who decided to attend UD partly because it is close to home. Although she entered the University as an aspiring mechanical engineer, she found that the program was not a good fit for her. Through participating in many student organizations, holding a summer job at a children's camp, taking a variety of courses, and discussing her options with her UST advisor, Sharon Goldstein, Hannah reached her decision to major in Geological Sciences with a minor in Music. This summer, she will explore her options for graduate school.



A highly involved student, Hannah balances her coursework with participation in the UD Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Opera Group, Marching Band, and the Horticulture Group. She also enjoys skating at the Fred Rust Ice Arena, listening to classical music, baking, reading science fiction, and crocheting. Hannah thinks that the best things about the University of Delaware are the many resources

available to students and the availability of support systems that include peers and professors.

Hannah's advice to other students is: "There is something out there for you! Be open to anything and try everything while you can. You never know what you might find interesting so don't write off a subject because it sounds silly or it's just to fulfill a requirement. Seek help if you need it; as long as you're polite, professors and staff will want to help you. Finding a creative outlet is helpful to release stress. Doing little things that make you happy every day, even if it's taking an extra stroll around the green, is a great way to stay optimistic."

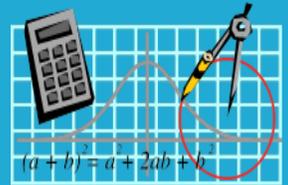


Honor Societies, continued

The National Society of Collegiate Scholars, for instance, has an active chapter on campus with students who meet on a regular basis for meetings and events. The benefits of each organization can vary, so it is important to do your homework and ask yourself what you are hoping to achieve by joining. Julia Hamill, Junior Psychology major, says, "I joined Psi Chi to experience the undergraduate psychology program at a higher level, and to meet students that want to attend graduate school. I volunteered for Brian Week by educating about the brain, which was very fun."

There are several tips that you can use to determine whether or not the organization will be beneficial to you.

- ◆ **Make sure the organization is a legitimate one.** There is a national organization that maintains a list of honor societies that meet the highest standards called the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS). You can check their website to see if the organization that you received an invitation from is on the list.
- ◆ **Research whether or not the society is a for-profit or non-profit.** Almost all honor societies charge a membership fee. Simply charging a fee does not mean that the organization is not legitimate. However, you should read about where your dues are going and how they will be used. Also, consider if the money is worth the purpose for which you are joining. For instance, if you are interested in learning more leadership skills and the honor society you are considering has several conferences a year, it might be worth spending the money to join. Legitimate honor societies will be non-profit and will provide access to an annual report and financial information when requested.
- ◆ **Decide what your purpose is in joining.** Do you want to join so you can get to know other students on campus? Are you looking for an organization where you can secure a leadership role? Are you joining because being a member could provide access to future jobs or other career benefits? Does membership just give you something to add to your resume? Consider why you are joining and then look for organizations that offer the level of involvement you feel comfortable meeting.
- ◆ **Check the RSO website to see if the organization is registered on our campus.** One of the biggest benefits honor societies can provide is the opportunity to meet and interact with other scholars. You can contact the Executive Board Members through the site to ask about their events and find out how much of a presence they have on campus.
- ◆ As a final step, you can **check out the ACHS website** for more tips on "How to Judge the Credibility of an Honor Society."



The Undergraduate Research Program at the University of Delaware, located at 180 South College Ave., guides undergraduates to work as assistants or junior members of faculty research teams. The URP helps to foster faculty-student collaboration. The URP is open to all interested students.



For more details, contact an advisor at 302-831-8995 or UndergradResearch@udel.edu.

REMINDER:

Make your pre-registration advising appointment now to discuss summer and fall 2015 course selection. Advisors will send more information about scheduling soon.



UST Explorer April 2015

IMPORTANT DATES SPRING 2015



April 6 Classes resume after Spring recess at 8:00 am

April 6 Summer session registration begins

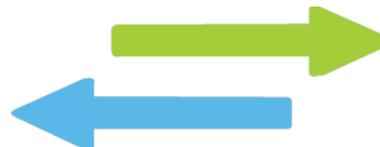
April 8, 9 Academic Management Workshops at 3:30 pm

April 13 Last day to change registration or to withdraw from courses without academic penalty

May 18 Last day of classes

May 19 Reading Day

May 20 Final exams begin.



For More Information:

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Dare to be first.

