



HBCU and HSI Bridge Scholarship Program

The Bridge Scholarship is a merit-based, full-tuition award for graduating seniors of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic-Serving Institutions who would benefit from a year of academic study at a leading research university. Scholarship recipients enroll in 2 courses per quarter, earning a total of 600 units of credit for the academic year.

About the Scholarship

- The Graham School began the program in Autumn 2015 with 50% tuition scholarships, expanding it to full-tuition scholarships in 2016-17. The scholarship was active for 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and will continue on for 2019-2020.
- Subject to availability and their qualifications, students are eligible to enroll in graduate or undergraduate-level courses in the University's graduate divisions and schools, with the exceptions of the Booth School of Business, the Pritzker School of Medicine, and the Law School. Academic advisors work closely with departmental advisors and area deans of students to provide ongoing support.



Program Objectives

- Enable students to pursue research, lab, or volunteer experiences on or off-campus, in addition to formal coursework
- Encourage students to develop ties to graduate faculty mentors
- Provide students with an opportunity to hone their research skills and academic interests

Scholarship Requirements

- Institutional letter of nomination
- BA or BS from an HBCU or HSI at time of matriculation
- Students should be in their final year of undergraduate studies at time of application
- Minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0

Application and Selection Process

- To apply, students must be graduating seniors of either an HBCU or HSI and will need to submit the following:
 - Institutional letter of nomination
 - 3 letters of recommendation, at least two of which are from faculty
 - Official undergraduate transcript
 - Statement of purpose
 - Resume
- Institutions may nominate up to 3 candidates
- The selection committee includes: Graham School Dean, Graham School academic associate deans, University faculty, and University Vice Provost for Academic Leadership, Advancement and Diversity
- Up to 10 scholarships will be awarded for the 2019-20 academic year



March 1, 2019	Deadline for institutional nominations, completed student online applications, and letters of recommendation
May 1, 2019	Dean's meetings for decisions
May 4, 2019	Admissions decisions are relayed to students
May 15, 2019	Deadline to accept or decline Bridge Scholarship



2016-17 Bridge Scholar Profiles

Ruben Bautista graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a degree in Economics and Political Science. During his time as a Bridge Scholar, he took courses at the Booth School of Business, the Harris School of Public Policy, and law courses. Upon completing the program, Ruben was granted admission to the Kent Law School.

Laura Caballero graduated from the University of the Incarnate World with a degree in Psychology. She chose to focus her coursework in the School of Social Service Administration during her time as a Bridge Scholar, with a foray into the Center for Latin American Studies for a course on Latin American cinema. Laura gained admission to the Master's Program at SSA with a scholarship; she matriculated in Autumn 2017.

Anabelen Diaz graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a degree in Public Health. Anabelen chose to focus her coursework at the University of Chicago in Biomedical Informatics as well as the School of Social Service Administration. Anabelen was admitted to the Jane Addams School of Social work upon completing the Bridge Scholarship program.

William Guzman studied Business Administration and Computer Information Systems at the University of Puerto Rico – Rio Piedras. His autumn and winter quarter coursework was focused in the Departments of Computer Science, Mathematics, and Statistics. He began the Graham School's Master of Science in Analytics program in Spring 2017. William is the first Bridge Scholar to complete a Graduate degree from the University of Chicago, after the Bridge Scholarship.



Mariah Levy graduated from Howard University with a degree in

Philosophy. During her year at the University of Chicago, she took courses at the School of Social Service Administration, as well as the course "Conceptual Drawing" with the Department of Visual Arts. She has been admitted to the Master's Program at SSA with a scholarship, and matriculated in Autumn 2017.

Courtne Mack graduated from Spelman College with a degree in Psychology. She spent two quarters taking courses at SSA and in the departments of Sociology and Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies, and has been admitted to the SSA Master's Program with a scholarship, matriculating in Autumn 2017.

Mateo Uribe Rios graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a degree in Political Science. While a Bridge Scholar, he took courses in the Centers for Human Rights and Latin American Studies, as well as the School of Social Service Administration. He was accepted to the Master's Program at SSA with a scholarship; he matriculated in Autumn 2017.



2017-18 Bridge Scholar Profiles

Leah Castleberry graduated from Howard University with a degree in International business/Finance. During her year at the University of Chicago, she took courses at the Harris School of Public Policy as well as courses in the graduate social sciences division, with most focused on community organizing and race relations. Leah gained admission to the Public Policy Master's Program at the Harris School with a scholarship; she matriculated in Autumn 2018.

Nicole Davila studied Business Anthropology at the University of Puerto Rico – Rio Piedras. Her autumn and winter quarter coursework was focused in Art History and Anthropology as she pursued graduate programs in museum conservation. She gained admission to the conservation program at George Washington University beginning in the Fall of 2018.

Jori Fortson graduated from Howard University with a degree in Strategic, Legal, and Management. During her year at the University of Chicago, she took courses at the Harris School of Public Policy, School of Social Service Administrations as well as courses in the graduate social sciences division, with most focused on community health and health policy. Jori gained admission to the Masters of Public Health Program at Boston University; she matriculated in Autumn 2018.



Maribell Heredia graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a degree in Neuroscience. She chose to focus her coursework in the School of Social Service Administration during her time as a Bridge Scholar, focusing her course interests around global and community health. She was accepted to Rush Medical School and matriculated in Autumn 2018.

Celina Hernandez graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a degree in Economics. She chose to focus her coursework in sociology as well as related work at the School of Social Service Administration during her time as a Bridge Scholar. Upon completing the scholarship program, she continues to work on an application to Sociology PhD programs both at University of Chicago and beyond.

Dominique James graduated from Howard University with a degree in English. During her year at the University of Chicago, she took courses that focused on race and queer studies. Upon completing the scholarship program, Dominique continues to work on applications to PhD programs.



Edoardo Ortiz graduated from the University of Puerto Rico – Rio Piedras with a degree in Business Administration. He chose to focus his coursework in the Harris School of Public Policy during his time as a Bridge Scholar, with a foray into an MBA education with a course in Financial Accounting. Edoardo gained admission to the Public Policy Master's Program at the Harris School with a scholarship; he matriculated in Autumn 2018.

Kassandra Rodriguez graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a degree in Psychology and Chemistry. She took courses at the School of Social Service Administration during her time as a Bridge Scholar, focusing her course interests around global and community health policy. She continues to pursue medical school applications for 2019-2020.

Alejandra Merlos Villegas graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a degree in Sociology/ Latin American Studies. She chose to focus her coursework in the School of Social Service Administration during her time as a Bridge Scholar. She was accepted to the AM program at the School of Social Service Administration with a scholarship and matriculated in Autumn of 2018.

Mariella Metz Yevevino graduated from University of the Incarnate Word with a degree in English. During her year at the University of Chicago, she took courses in English literature and Creative Writing with a foray into the Center for Latin American Studies for a course on Latin American literature. She is currently working toward an application to the Masters of Arts Program in the Humanities at the University of Chicago for the 2019-2020 academic year.

