

Edgar Fellows Program Student Testimonials

For me, the value of the Edgar Fellows Honors Program lies in the freedom it gives you to take courses centered on critical reasoning. Through the program, you will choose a collection of courses that are not focused on a specific topic or discipline but, instead, are focused around the important practice of inquiry. It is not a minor in a specific discipline; it is a minor in 'thinking.' As a double major in economics and mathematics, Honors at Geneseo allows me to pair the disciplines I love with a program that keeps the joy of 'thought' at the forefront of my mind.

--Stephanie Allen, Class of 2017 (Majors: Economics & Mathematics)

The Edgar Fellows program's courses are often interdisciplinary or experimental; they transcend regular departmental offerings or are on the forefront of scholarship. Recent honors seminars, for instance, have impelled students to thread together the fragmented narratives surrounding the 2007 Housing Crisis or to manage and analyze an array of Big Data sets. It is often those courses that don't fit in an easy-to-wrap package or check a box on a list which are the most edifying.

--Greg Palermo, Class of 2014 (Majors: English & Physics)

Only through the Edgar Fellows program could you take a course on post-apocalyptic developmental psychology one semester, and a tour of the origins and impact of quantum mechanics the next. For me, the most rewarding aspect of Geneseo's Honors program is the wide variety of classes and pedagogical styles, each of which stimulates us to not only branch out into a new and challenging field, but also find connections between these disciplines and our own. My time in the program and the lessons I have learned have made me a better accountant and, more importantly, a better scholar.

--Ben Juchniewicz, Class of 2018 (Majors: Accounting & Philosophy)

What is particularly valuable about the Edgar Fellows program is the ways in which it helps to frame many of your other activities at Geneseo. The program is very collaborative and the courses and capstone project encouraged me to reflect on my learning, constantly think between disciplines, and ultimately find the problems I was most interested in investigating.

--Suraj Uttamchandani, Class of 2014 (Major: Mathematics; Minor: English)



The interdisciplinary approach of the Edgar Fellows program fostered my love of exploring the places in academia where our disciplines either become porous or fuse together into something new and rare. The unique Honors classes I took, with peers who were highly motivated and professors who created extraordinary classroom experiences, helped me think critically about my majors. I never would have had the skills, or the confidence, to attempt my most ambitious projects - a Phi Beta Kappa Writing Internship, studying abroad, becoming president of my sorority - without these classes developing my sense of self in and out of the classroom, all within a positive, intellectually powerful environment.

--Meghan Barrett, Class of 2016 (Majors: Biology & English/Creative Writing)



My EF Capstone has allowed me to successfully wrap up my experience at Geneseo. I have continued a research project that I had worked on throughout the previous two years. Having had the opportunity to pursue a project with a mentor of my choosing gave me the motivation and support to sustain a project of deep meaning and value to me.

--Carsen Sulzer, Class of 2015 (Major: Biology; Minor: Mathematics)

The Edgar Fellows Program prepared me to merge my interests in Philosophy and Women's & Gender Studies into a unified Capstone Project. Because the Capstone spans the academic year, it has allowed me to pursue a truly original research project that pushes the boundaries of my research and writing abilities. More than this, the Capstone Seminar allows Edgar Fellows the unique opportunity to engage with each other's work across interdisciplinary lines. Receiving feedback from my peers in the humanities and sciences alike has been valuable in refining the scope of my project.

--Jes Heppler, Class of 2017 (Major: Philosophy; Minor: Women's & Gender Studies)



Dante House is a small community where friends are easy to make, and the environment of learning is contagious. It provides for everything I ever wanted in a freshman experience- a close knit and diverse group of friends, support for a rigorous education, and a stimulating environment for the mind.

--Gurnaina Chawla, Class of 2016 (Major: Accounting; Minor: Spanish)

I remember Dante House most fondly for its community. The culture of the open door, the quickly-made friendships, and the sense of belonging were unique benefits of living in Dante House. Residents of the hall were always congenial and mingled with each other, and almost everyone knew everyone else's name. Surrounded by Fellows, international students, and other first-year students, I was fortunate to call Dante House my home for my fledgling year at Geneseo.

--Lucien Sigal, Class of 2019 (Majors: International Relations & Economics)