

KESSLER

SCHOLARS

Kessler Scholar Commitment Form Template

This template is intended to support development of a Kessler Scholars Commitment Form for campus partners as part of the onboarding process for all incoming Kessler Scholars. This form, required for all Kessler Scholars, should communicate the benefits and expectations of program participation to students selected to be Kessler Scholars. The inclusion of campus-specific expectations and requirements is encouraged.

The questions highlighted below in red are necessary to include to support consistent Kessler Scholars program execution across all of our 16 partner campuses and should be incorporated into your student commitment form. All other questions are suggested, but not required. We encourage you to adapt this form for your campus needs and have indicated specific areas where customization is suggested. We recommend using Google Forms or Qualtrics to distribute the commitment form electronically to incoming Kessler Scholars.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact your Collaborative staff lead.

Congratulations and Welcome

Welcome to the Kessler Scholars Program at [\[INSTITUTION\]](#). We are excited to support you throughout your college journey. To help us learn more about your interests and goals and to ensure you are aware of the program expectations, please complete this Kessler Scholars Commitment Form by [\[DATE\]](#).

General Student Information

First Name

Last Name

Middle Initial

Preferred Name

Personal Pronouns

Home Address (city, state, zip code, and apartment # if applicable)

University Mailing Address (if known)

University E-mail address

University ID number

Phone number (provide the best number to reach you)

Date of birth

T-shirt size

Dietary restrictions

Accessibility needs

Intended major (If you aren't sure about your major yet, just enter "Undecided")

College or School (if applicable)

Kessler Scholar Benefits and Expectations

The Kessler Scholars Program is a four-year comprehensive student support program that provides [\[DESCRIPTION HERE\]](#). When enrolled full-time at [\[Institution Name\]](#), scholars should expect the following resources from the Kessler Scholars Program):

Financial Support:

- [\[Include specific details of the financial support your campus offers to Kessler Scholars\]](#)

Individualized Student Support:

- Dedicated Kessler Scholars staff members will meet individually with you to ensure your academic, personal, and professional success at [\[INSTITUTION\]](#). You are expected to meet with Kessler Scholars staff a minimum of [\[customize here - we strongly encourage at least once per semester\]](#).

Peer Mentorship:

- [\[Include specific details of the peer mentoring program or any other related programmatic components like pre-orientation bridge program, first-year seminars, etc. for Kessler Scholars on your campus\]](#)

Cohort-Based Activities:

- Students who are part of the Kessler Scholars Program at [\[INSTITUTION\]](#) join a robust community of support. As part of the program, scholars attend workshops and meetings to develop skills in areas such as academic planning, leadership, wellness, and professional development.

National Network of First-Generation Leaders:

- Students who join the Kessler Scholars Program are part of a powerful community of first-generation student leaders, connected across 16 colleges and universities through the national Kessler Scholars Collaborative. As a Kessler Scholar, you not only will have access to comprehensive support at [\[INSTITUTION\]](#), but you also are connected with a diverse network of Kessler Scholars and alumni nationwide.

Media and Contact Information Release

By agreeing below, you permit and authorize [INSTITUTION] and the Kessler Scholars Collaborative to create and/or obtain and use your photograph, voice or quotes/excerpts of your written or verbally expressed works, your name, or biographical information, a video and/or audio recording of yourself for purposes related to the educational mission of [INSTITUTION] and the Collaborative, including instructional and/or educational purposes, publicity, and marketing of [INSTITUTION] and Collaborative.

I have read and understand the terms and conditions of this authorization and agree to such terms and conditions.

- Yes, I agree
- No, I do not give permission to share my photos/videos for marketing purposes

By agreeing below, you permit and authorize [INSTITUTION] to share your contact information (Name, email, phone) with the Kessler Scholars Collaborative for their student mailing list.

- Click here to opt out of the mailing list

Evaluation Acknowledgement

The Kessler Scholars Program values student feedback and is committed to continuous improvement. To that end, [INSTITUTION] works in partnership with the Kessler Scholars Collaborative and an external evaluation team, Ithaca S+R, to collect data from Kessler Scholars to help meet students' needs. As part of the evaluation, you will be asked to complete surveys and participate in focus group conversations. The [INSTITUTION] also has agreed to share student education records for Kessler Scholars with the Collaborative and Ithaca S+R to support program evaluation activities in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) research study exemption.

Program Commitment

As a Kessler Scholar, you will benefit from many opportunities to build your social network, explore new academic and personal interests, and participate in memorable experiences with other scholars and program staff. As a Kessler Scholar, you are expected to fully participate, which includes attending required events and workshops, meeting individually with Kessler Scholars Program staff, participating in peer mentoring, contributing to the program and continually seizing opportunities to grow personally, socially, and academically as a Kessler Scholars during your four years at [INSTITUTION].

In addition to your active participation, you should work to maintain good academic standing (at least a [X.XX GPA](#) each semester) and comply with institutional politics throughout your participation in the Kessler Scholars Program. [\[Add any additional campus-specific requirements, such as annual completion of financial aid forms, etc.\]](#)

Please click "I agree" below to indicate your understanding of the Kessler Scholars Program expectations.

- I agree to comply with program expectations

[Student signature here]

[OPTIONAL] Program Onboarding

Please complete the questions below to help us get to know you better.

Which of the following issues is a top concern for you as you prepare for your first year at [\[INSTITUTION\]](#)? (check all that apply)

- Academic preparedness
- Social life in college
- Managing finances as a student
- Preparing for a career
- Racial/ethnic diversity on campus
- Managing family relationships
- Responsibilities at home
- Making friends
- Personal wellness
- Other _____

As part of the Kessler Scholars Program, you will be paired with a peer mentor to support you throughout your first year in college. What is the #1 thing you would like to get out of peer mentorship? (Circle your response)

- General academic guidance
- Expand my network
- Discuss my professional goals and plans
- Someone to talk to about personal interests and hobbies
- Someone I can turn to for advice about college

What qualities are you looking for in a peer mentor? Check all that apply.

- Meet with regularly
- Meet with as needed
- Connect me with campus resources

Help me meet other people

How often do you hope to connect with a peer mentor?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Bi-weekly
- Monthly
- As needed

What is your preferred method of communication?

- Text
- In-Person
- Phone

How important is it to be matched with a peer mentor by the following qualities/characteristics?

Shared academic interests

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

Shared personal interests and hobbies (Examples: Music, reading, working out, etc.)

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

Racial or ethnic background

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

Gender identity

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important

Do you plan to work during your first year of college?

Yes

No

If yes, how many hours per week do you anticipate working this year?

1-10 hours per week

11-20 hours per week

More than 20 hours per week

Did you work with a college access or nonprofit organization before enrolling at [\[INSTITUTION\]](#)?

Yes

No

If yes, please share the name of the organization who assisted you with the college application and/or enrollment process. [open-ended]

What are you most looking forward to about college? [open-ended]

What are you most worried about as you begin college? [open-ended]

Is there anything else you would like the Kessler Scholars Program staff to know about you? [open-ended]