

Fenwick Scholar Program, Class of 2026

Instructions for Preparation and Application

First, review the description of the Fenwick Scholar Program in the [College Catalog](#): “The Scholar designs, with one or more advisors, a program of independent research or a project that will [stand in for most of the curriculum] for the senior year. **Projects are expected to complete the Fenwick Scholar’s undergraduate education in the most challenging, creative, and meaningful way.** At the end of the fourth year, the Fenwick Scholar is required to give a public presentation to the College community, and to present an appropriate record of this achievement to the College library.”

Important Dates:

1. **Friday, 22 November 2024: Final day** to contact **Director of Scholar Programs** with a statement of interest and a 1-page description of your interests as a prospective Fenwick Scholar. Submit via email to collegescholars@holycross.edu. (**Highly recommended:** meet with Director to discuss your interest **before** this date).
2. **Friday, 6 December 2024:** recommended deadline for initiating a conversation with your department chair(s) about a Fenwick nomination (see details below).
3. **Monday, 3 February 2025:** department nominations due to Director of Scholar Programs via email at collegescholars@holycross.edu. (**Departments may require nominees to submit draft proposals before this date.**)
4. **Monday, 10 March 2025:** Complete Fenwick applications due to Director via email at collegescholars@holycross.edu. **Late submissions cannot be accepted.** See details about application components below.

Instructions Part A: Preliminary Work

1. **Spend some time thinking about your ideal yearlong Fenwick project.** The earlier you can begin this work, the better. It’s never too early to start talking with faculty members about this work. **In order to move forward with your application, you must submit a statement of interest and a 1-page description of your interests as a prospective Fenwick scholar** to the Director of Scholar Programs. (See #1 above)
2. **Discuss your proposed project with your Department Chair, any faculty who may advise you, and the Director of Scholar Programs.** You will need to secure a letter of nomination from your Department Chair, and each department may only make one nomination. If you are a **double major**, you’ll need to secure a nomination from **both** departments. The recommended deadline for you to approach these faculty members is Friday, 6 December 2024, before the exam period and winter break, but earlier is better.
3. **Begin drafting your proposal.** Again, it’s never too early to begin, and if you can approach your Department Chair, potential advisors, and Director of College Scholars with some material already drafted, you’ll have much more useful conversations and can likely receive some feedback on your ideas from these faculty members. **Your department may require you to submit a draft proposal before 3 February to help them make final decisions about which students to nominate.**

Instructions Part B: Application

Please submit the following materials to the Director of College Scholar Programs by **Monday, 10 March 2025**. Late applications cannot be considered. Send all materials to collegescholars@holycross.edu:

1. Fenwick Cover Sheet
2. Project Proposal
3. Work Sample
4. Unofficial Transcript
5. Letters of Support

Details about application components:

1. **Fenwick Cover Sheet**: after you gather the requisite signatures, scan the hard copy and include it with your application.
2. **Project Proposal**: The proposal should offer a detailed description of the project, including each of the elements listed below. Most applications are about 10–15 pages long, with some variation depending on the primary academic field involved. Please include numbered and titled subheadings, indicating which section of the application your reviewers are reading:
 - a. **Project Title**
 - b. **Overview or “executive summary” of the project**. In a handful of sentences, what kind of work will you do, and what makes it meaningful?
 - c. **Description of the project, including a review of relevant critical and/or creative materials**. How will you situate this project in relation to the work that has already been done in this area? Proposals are by necessity discipline-specific, but they should have in common a clear description of the existing scholarly or creative landscape, and an articulation of the stakes of the project. That is, why must this work be done? In addition, all proposals should describe the method(s) involved, as well as an explanation of why these approaches are appropriate. Remember that the audience for your application includes faculty and administrators, so be sure to make the project accessible for non-specialists, at the same time that, **in consultation with an advisor**, you include all components that would be standard for your field (i.e. a project in biology and one in French would need to include some different components, but both should be framed in terms that non-specialists can understand and evaluate).
 - d. **Detailed budget, with evidence of financial feasibility within the amount allowed**. Ordinarily, up to \$4,000 may be awarded to carry out the project, but proposals do not require such expenditures to be competitive.
 - e. **Academic Plan, with explanation for any waivers of core requirements or course load you are seeking**. The Fenwick Scholar Award traditionally exempts talented students from the usual academic requirements so that they can devote much of their senior year to a special project. In this section, please describe the courses you’ll take next year to fulfill any remaining requirements for a major, minor, or concentration. In addition, please describe courses you plan to take to complement your Fenwick project, and **please indicate the number of courses**

you will replace with your Fenwick project, with an explanation of how this time will support your project work. Typically, students replace 3–6 courses with their projects (out of the usual count of 8). Please note that the Fenwick committee is unlikely to approve projects that will occupy more than the equivalent of 6 courses.

- f. Study Plan, with goals and timelines.** In this section, describe the areas you plan to study under the supervision of one or more professors who have agreed to work with you. In addition, provide a timeline for your original research or creative work, along any other activities necessary for completing the project. The timeline should offer a tentative, but detailed, account of the steps necessary for making your way toward the end result of your work, the ultimate form of which will be field-dependent (e.g. work(s) of art, article-length research manuscript, etc.). Most importantly, this section should show that you have devoted serious thought to how you plan to use your time as a Fenwick Scholar.
 - g. Preparation, i.e. relevant experience to date.** What prior coursework, research, jobs or internships on or off campus, intellectual experiences, or other opportunities have prepared you for this project? In addition to reflecting on subject-area knowledge and expertise, please also describe how you have acquired such relevant skills as managing a project independently, working steadily and resiliently toward a goal, and adapting to academic setbacks or other emergent properties in long-term work. Finally, if the Fenwick project is rooted in prior academic work (a paper, project, etc. in a course, for instance), please indicate that history here.
 - h. Your expectations and personal goals for the project.** Why is this work so meaningful to you that you'd prefer to pursue it instead of the typical 8-course load for your senior year? How and why will this project be important for your intellectual development?
- 3. Additional Materials:**
- a. Work sample.** Please include a substantive example of your written work in a field relevant to your proposed project.
 - b. Unofficial Transcript.** Send your transcript to yourself, save as a PDF, and forward it to collegescholars@holycross.edu as part of your application.
 - c. Letters of Support.** Please arrange for faculty to send the following letters to the Director of College Scholar Programs at collegescholars@holycross.edu no later than Monday, 10 March 2025.
 - i. Letter(s) from advisor(s) and reader(s)** who have agreed to support your project.
 - ii. Letter from the nominating department chair.** If you are a double major seeking credit for a Fenwick project that would count toward both majors, you will need letters from each chair. If the departmental nominations (submitted in February) have already addressed the student's qualifications and capabilities, then the nominating chair(s) may submit a brief letter indicating support here.

General information

Remember, all applications must be submitted to collegescholars@holycross.edu no later than Monday, 10 March 2025. Interviews for finalists will be held in April, either in person or on zoom. The selection process typically concludes at the end of April.