

For further information and to apply visit:
<http://stemcats.as.uky.edu/>

What is the STEMCats program?

STEMCats is a university wide program that is meant for freshmen entering college to pursue a degree in the STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). The program consists of early start courses, a multidisciplinary seminar, research experience, co-curricular activities, and a living learning program. This program is funded by the Harvard Hughes Medical Institute.

What are the main goal of the program?

- **Increase retention** to ensure students complete college and earn a degree
- **Increase academic success** to ensure students perform exceedingly well in college and are on an excellent career path after graduation
- **Increase diversity** by encouraging minority and underrepresented social groups in the STEM fields

How are these goals achieved?

There are 4 main components to the STEMCats program that are key to achieving the program goals

1. **FastTrack program:** the STEMCats enroll in the FastTrack program...
 - starts two weeks before the fall semesters
 - crash course in some of the core courses
 - get used to the rigor of college and the challenges of living away from home; *studies have shown that the anxiety of starting college and other associated lifestyle changes stress freshmen more than learning course material.*
2. **Living Learning Program:** nearly all the STEMCats will be housed in the same residence hall (Woodland Glen IV). STEMCats will participate in various academic (study sessions) and non-academic activities (picnics, sports, etc.) led by peer mentors who will also be living in the same residence hall.
3. **BIO 101 seminar:** this Fall semester course consisting of a series of seminars and hands-on activities, exposes freshmen to various academic path and career opportunities in the STEM fields.



Students get to meet and hear from experts in academia and industry about their personal experiences, they also get some great career advice.



4. **BIO 199 research project:** In the Spring semester, the STEMCats participate in group projects in the research laboratories of professors in various STEM fields chosen from a list of over 30 projects that have been pre-arranged. Students commit a minimum of 3 hours a week towards working in the research laboratories.

BIO 199 is an excellent opportunity to:

1. Get exposed to research in scientific laboratories in the STEM field of their interest—the process of designing experiments, developing methodology, using associated equipment and technology and communicating research findings.
2. Work as a team and develop collaboration skills
3. Interact with professors on a one-on-one basis. These professional interactions boost self-confidence, and greatly advances knowledge and emotional maturity.

All these factors contribute to enhance professional skills needed to succeed in your chosen STEM field in college and the real world



The STEMCats are required to communicate their research experience and findings through a poster which they will present at the Undergraduate Research Showcase at the end of the Spring semester.

