The Clark Scholars Program at Samford University prepares students for a career in an exciting new area of research at the nexus of biology and computational science. Computational biology unites the fields of biology, computer science, mathematics, and information technology. The ultimate goal of this emerging discipline is the discovery of new biological insights and the creation of a global perspective from which to discover unifying principles in biology, pharmacology, and medicine.

The Clark Scholars Program, which combines interdisciplinary classes with research experiences and personal mentoring, enhances employment opportunities, and provides significant advantages for those considering graduate schools or professional training such as medical school.

Scholarship
This scholarship is available on a competitive basis to students interested in pursuing interdisciplinary studies in computational biology. The scholarship is in the range of $2,000 to $5,000 per year, and may be renewed for two additional years. In the summer following the junior year, students who are successful in the program would automatically be eligible for an undergraduate research scholarship in the summer (approximately $2,500). This capstone research experience is expected to lead to conference presentations and/or publications.

Scholars Club
Periodic social and academic events will be promoted in an effort to foster camaraderie and academic success among participants.

Mission
The Clark Scholars Program at Samford University exists to 1) develop research-oriented math and science students; 2) foster a supportive research-based culture; 3) increase the number of students studying topics in computational biology; 4) enhance student interest in this powerful interdisciplinary field.

Sample Schedule:

Freshman
Fall: Foundations of Biology I (BIOL 203)
Spring: Introduction to Programming (COSC 110)

Sophomore
Fall: Genetics (BIOL 333)
Spring: Principles of Bioinformatics (BIOL 306/COSC 306)

Junior
Fall: Data Structures and Algorithms (COSC210)
Spring: Advanced Bioinformatics (BIOL 407/COSC 407)

Summer
Student is eligible to participate in Samford Undergraduate Research Program under direction of Bioinformatics faculty.

Student must maintain the following standards to continue in the program: 1) take at least one of BIOL 203 or COSC110 during the freshman year 2) complete the first four courses by the end of the sophomore year 3) complete all required courses by the end of the junior year 4) earn a C or better in the required courses 5) maintain a 3.0 GPA.

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