Activities of the *Elites* program (tentative – update April 24, 2014)

Elites will be a point-based system. Scholarship recipients must earn a minimum of 20 points (10 for community college transfer students) and not more than 15 from any one category. They should show progress towards earning these points each year. The more motivated students will be encouraged to earn a higher number of points. All students who earn the minimum number of points will receive recognition during the degree completion commencement ceremony of CSAT. Listing their name in the CSAT Dean's office will specially recognize high-achievers. Table 2 shows a draft of the key focus components and the points allocated for the *Elites* program. The table also discusses: (a) how a student can easily incorporate an activity into their existing degree completion plan without undue burden and (b) how the students' progress in that activity will be assessed. A few of the activities such as resume development are mandatory.

Table 1: Leadership program in STEM (draft)

Leadership component	Justification	Burden on students to participate in this activity.	Points
1. Focus: Research skills to **prepare future researchers.**			
Independent study (1-6 credits)	Develops research ability: surveying latest research efforts or conducting original research.	Independent studies (when available) can satisfy technical elective requirements.	5 per credit
Honors contract on a course	Develops leadership skills such as: leading class discussions, and engaging in research	Honors contract is by invitation only for academic high-achievers. There is a minimal burden.	2 points per credit
Research assistant (RA) on a STEM project	Develops research skills. *Note: RAs pursuing an independent study cannot double count points for both activities.*	An RA during summer sessions will not pose undue burden. **Points assigned by**: research advisor.	10 points /semester
Attending a conference/ symposium/comp etition in STEM	Motivates students to pursue research, interact with graduate programs and meet graduate students	Many on/off-campus events. E.g., (a) Annual RU undergrad research symposium, (b) Big South Undergrad Research Symposium - University provides travel costs.	5 points /event
Present/publish paper/poster or develop a product (e.g., software)	Develops research skills; communication skills and team participation.	Several opportunities on/off campus (e.g., presentation at an academic STEM club event). **Points assigned by**: the faculty member/advisor.	1-10 points
2. Focus: Communication	**Reason why this is a leadership component: Develops communication skills in STEM.**		

Presentation at an RU outreach event such as an open house; bridge camps for high school	These presentations can range from a course project (e.g., developing a new computer? game) to a report on college life at RU to prospective high school STEM majors.	Many avenues. E.g.: CSAT STEM club, and various academic clubs. Students can accompany the project investigators to student recruitment events and present talks on college life. **Points assigned by:** advisor/Co-PIs.	2-5 points /talk
LEAD contract in a course or take a LEAD certified course	Develops presentation skills in a course or group work. All majors in CSAT offer LEAD certified courses.	LEAD certified courses can be incorporated into their plan of study without needing additional credits over their current program.	2 points per credit
Focus: Career Development	**Reason why this is a leadership component:** Developing career goals and interacting with prospective employers or graduate schools shows that the student is taking charge of their career.		
Creating a resume and an effective professional online-profile.	Based on our (informal) experience many students put this activity off until their senior year. Develops a student's ability to focus on his/her career.	Not an undue burden, as most college students must do this. **Points assigned by:** the Elites Co-PI.	2 points. **Mandatory requirement**
Participation in career focused event.	Develops a student's ability to focus on his/her career. Events include: career development forum/workshop & job and internship fairs.	Not an undue burden. **Points assigned by:** the Elites Co-PI.	3 points /forum
Applying for an internship/co-op position/graduate school	Such applications can be easily made through RU's career services office or in case of graduate school in consultation with the student's advisor.	**Points assigned by:** the Elites Co-PI. Higher points for graduate school since it requires greater effort (preparation of statement of purpose etc.)	1-4 points for the entire activity.
Acquiring an Internship/co-op during summer in STEM.	Provides students with valuable experience – and makes their resumes attractive for future career in STEM.	Not a mandatory requirement, hence not an undue burden. **Points assigned by:** the Elites Co-PI.	5-10 points.
Focus: Management and Service	**Reason why this is a leadership component:** Encourages students to organize or participate in STEM related extra-curricular events setting the trend for future such service to STEM fields.		
Student Peer-Mentor	Students who act as mentors are showing leadership skills	**Not mandatory.** Burden can be reduced with advanced planning: e.g., peer-mentor during summer. **Points assigned by:** the Co-PIs.	1 – 10 points/ semester
Officer in a STEM related academic club.	Officers in these clubs organize events; enroll new members; conduct meetings.	Most students participate in such social campus clubs. **Points assigned by:** Club advisor.	1-5 points

Organize/ Volunteer in a STEM- related event	Develops skills such as planning, organization and interacting with others.	Numerous opportunities: e.g., CSAT Open House; Distinguished speaker; Programming contest; and High School Science Fair. **Points assigned by:** faculty advisor.	1-3 points/ event
Organize/ Volunteer in a community event	Develops skills such as planning, organization, interacting with the community, communication.	Examples: New River cleanup; STEM-related children's activities at the Highlander Festival. **Points assigned by**: advisor.	Max 2 points per event.