



National Science Foundation NSF S-STEM Scholarship Program

College of Southern Maryland's NSF S-STEM Scholarship Program is designed to support full-time and part-time (greater than ½-time students) majoring in any of the following content areas: **Bioinformatics, Biology, Biotechnology, Cybersecurity, Computer Science, Life Sciences, Engineering, Environmental Science, Information Technology, Physical Sciences (Chemistry, Geology, Physics) and Mathematics.** Scholarships will be awarded for up to two years based on the lifetime of the grant. New students and current CSMD students are eligible to apply. Scholarships vary in amount but have a maximum of \$10,000 per year (based on financial need) and can be used for tuition, fees, books, supplies, equipment and other needs. Scholarship recipients will be part of a learning community and as such they will be assigned a faculty mentor and will have the opportunity to actively participate in faculty-mentored undergraduate research.

Eligibility Criteria:

To qualify students must:

- Be a United States citizen, permanent resident, or an eligible non-citizen;
- Have financial need (as defined for undergraduate students by the U.S. Department of Education criteria for Federal Financial Aid); If no financial need is determined, you may write a 250-word essay explaining why the S-STEM scholarship is essential to your student success, specifically emphasizing the financial hardship if the scholarship is not awarded. The essays will be reviewed by the PI and the Associate Dean of Financial Assistance. If the PI and Associate Dean concur that the essay indicates financial-hardship, then S-STEM funding can be awarded. If you meet the FAFSA requirement, then the needs essay is not required.
- Maintain full-time enrollment (minimum of 12 credits per semester) or part-time enrollment (greater than ½ time)
- Have and maintain at least a 3.0 GPA;
- Agree to participate in a one credit seminar, which would include an undergraduate research component, and participate in scholarship program activities. You are expected to attend 4 of the 5 meetings in both the fall semester and spring semester plus the fall presemester jumpstart (two-day orientation).

Application Process

A. Complete and submit the following directly to College of Southern Maryland:

Dr. Melanie Osterhouse at
mdosterhouse@csmd.edu

OR

NSF S-STEM Scholarship Program
Dr. Melanie Osterhouse
8730 Mitchell Road
P.O. Box 910
LaPlata, MD 20646

1. The completed scholarship application form (Be sure a current FAFSA is completed and send the application directly to mdosterhouse@csmd.edu first and your eligibility can be determined before seeking the letter of recommendation and completing the essay).
2. An essay written by the applicant (450-500 words, typed, double-spaced) explaining your interest in your field of study, your qualifications and how you will benefit from this award. This essay is required by all applicants.
3. Complete College of Southern Maryland's Placement Exam or submit appropriate SAT, ACT, AP or IB scores or demonstrate completion of college level English and Mathematics courses.
4. Letter of recommendation**
5. Official Transcript (high school or college, as appropriate)**

***Students who have previously submitted letters of recommendations and/or transcripts to the Office of Admissions and Advising do not need to re-submit these documents. (Please let Dr. Osterhouse know to retrieve the documents from admissions)*

B. Complete the **2024-2025 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. If you do not have access to the internet, please use a computer at CSMD, your high school, and/or a public library.

The FAFSA may be completed by accessing the Financial Aid Services Website (CSMD's Federal School Code is 002064 and must be included on the FAFSA)*:

- Please go to <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- Log into your FAFSA account and select “Start 2024-2025 FAFSA”.
- Follow the easy step-by-step instructions

Application Form
National Science Foundation
NSF S-STEM Scholarship

Items with an asterisk () are required and must be completed before you submit your application.*

PART I. GENERAL INFORMATION (Please type or print in ink)

Name* _____ Social Security Number or Student ID Number _____

Address* _____

Telephone (home) _____ Email Address _____ Gender: ___ Male ___ Female

Citizenship/Residency:

Are you a US citizen* ___ Yes ___ No

If you are NOT a U.S. citizen, please indicate:

Country of Nationality _____ Immigration/Visa Status** _____

**Original documents verifying status are required at the time of application if you have NOT previously submitted them to the Office of Admissions and Advising.

Check your planned area of study:

() Bioinformatics () Computer Science () Engineering () Information Technology () Mathematics
() Biotechnology () Environmental Science () Life Sciences () Physical Sciences

Check all that apply:

___ Other Current CSMD Student with 12 or more credits ___ New student with 12 or more transfer credits
___ Other _____

Your primary campus: () La Plata () Leonardtown () Prince Frederick

PART II: ESSAY

The NSF S-STEM Scholarships will be awarded based on several factors including academic achievements and goals, financial need, extracurricular activities, work experience, and others. Please attach an essay (450-500 words, typed, double-spaced) highlighting why you are interested in your particular area of study, your qualifications and how you will benefit from this award.

PART III: CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

Please read and sign.

If I receive a NSF S-STEM Scholarship, I understand that in order to maintain the scholarship, I must:

- Participate in all program activities including the orientation sessions, mentoring program, undergraduate research and other co-curricular activities.
- Maintain a 3.0 GPA at the end of the first scholarship/academic year.
- Maintain greater than ½ time student status in one of the eligible areas of study.
- Completion of a one credit seminar including an undergraduate research component
- I certify that the information contained in my scholarship application is true and correct. I give the Financial Aid Office permission to release my name, address, telephone number, GPA, and essay to share with the NSF S-STEM scholarship selection

committee. I also give permission to CSMD to use my image and information about my choice of major, academic progress, participation in STEM activities, transfer institution and choice of major upon transfer, for publications and presentations related to this project. My name will not appear on any data reported to the National Science Foundation.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

**National Science Foundation
NSF S-STEM Scholarship Program
RECOMMENDATION FORM**

Instructions to applicant: Please complete the information below and then give the form to the individual who will complete the recommendation on your behalf.

Applicant: _____
Last Name First Name Middle

Address: _____
Street Address City State Zip Code

Telephone (home) _____ Email Address _____

Instructions to recommender: The person whose name appears above has applied for the National Science Foundation NSF S-STEM Scholarship Program at College of Southern Maryland. Please complete both sides of the recommendation form and **place it in a sealed envelope and write your signature across the back flap or email it directly to mdosterhouse@csmd.edu**. Return this form to the applicant, or mail it to NSF S-STEM Scholarship Program, c/o Dr. Melanie Osterhouse, 8730 Mitchell Road P.O. Box 910 LaPlata MD 20646 or email directly from the recommender to mdosterhouse@csmd.edu.

Name: _____

Name of facility/organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Please describe your relationship with the applicant and how long you have known him or her.

What do you consider to be the applicant's strengths?

What do you consider to be the applicant's weaknesses?

How do you think the applicant's strengths and weaknesses may affect the applicant's performance in this program?

(Over, please)

Please evaluate the applicant on the following items:

	Superior <i>Top 1-2%</i>	Excellent <i>Top 10%</i>	Good <i>Top 25%</i>	Average <i>Top 50%</i>	Below Average	Unable to Assess
Analytical ability						
Oral communication						
Written communication						
Breadth of knowledge						
Intellectual ability						
Judgment and maturity						
Enthusiasm for learning						
Overall potential						

Comments:

We appreciate your assessment of the applicant's scholarship, character, and professional promise. Please emphasize characteristics and accomplishments that suggest the applicant will be successful in the NSF Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Scholarship Program. Please use the space below for your comments, or you may use your own letterhead stationary.