

S-STEM SCHOLARSHIP: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Read these carefully BEFORE applying for the S-STEM scholarship!

What is the S-Stem Scholarship?

The S-Stem Scholarship is a grant provided by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to the University of North Georgia College of Science and Mathematics. This grant allows UNG to provide freshmen and sophomores with scholarships that last the duration of their four-year undergraduate degree. These scholarships are awarded to students that are seeking a STEM degree with the intention of beginning a STEM career or furthering their education upon graduation.

What are the eligibility requirements?

- You must be a full-time college freshman or sophomore on the UNG Gainesville or Dahlonega Campus
- You must be planning on going into a STEM field in mathematics, chemistry, biology, or physics
 - Due to NSF requirements, clinical and health-science majors such as nursing, medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy, as well as k-12 education and computer science are excluded from this award.
- Have a 3.0 or higher GPA from high school and maintain that 3.0 or higher GPA while at UNG
- Graduate from UNG with a STEM major
- Show financial need (see below for further detail on this)

Is there a necessary SAT/ACT score to be eligible for the scholarship?

No.

What is considered a “STEM” Field?

A STEM field is any discipline pertaining to science, technology, engineering or mathematics. This includes (but is not limited to) biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics.

What if I want to be a health sciences professional?

Even though you may be a biology or chemistry pre-med, pre-dental, pre-veterinary, pre-PT/PT, or pre-pharmacy major, the NSF considers these to be “health professions”, which makes you ineligible for this scholarship.

How about dual-degree students? I plan to be an engineer.

The scholarship will cover you until you transfer to the engineering school you’ve been accepted to; however, you must also obtain a degree from UNG.

If I get the scholarship and change my major halfway through my bachelors to a non-STEM degree, what will happen?

You will no longer be eligible for the scholarship.

What are my requirements if I get awarded the scholarship?

You will need to maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher in all college courses at UNG. You will be required to attend and participate in events that assist in furthering your academic and professional achievement. Lastly, you will be paired with a professor who will act as your mentor throughout your degree program.

What are the benefits of this scholarship?

- Scholarships of \$4,362 per academic year will be awarded on an ongoing basis for up to 3 consecutive years as long as you meet the financial need requirements and maintain a 3.0 GPA.
- This scholarship can be added to other scholarships & grant funding (such as HOPE and Pell).
- You will be given opportunities for involvement in undergraduate research, career counseling, peer-tutoring, internships, and other academic activities.
- Early, priority registration each semester as an S-STEM scholar.

If I already receive other forms of financial aid, how will this scholarship affect those awards?

This scholarship can be added to the other scholarships (such as HOPE and Pell) and/or grant funding.

What does it mean to be “financially needy” or “show financial need”?

To be considered financially needy, a student must demonstrate unmet financial need. This means you still need money to cover the cost of school that other scholarships, loans or grants you are receiving aren't paying for. This information can be found under the student's banner account.

- From UNG.edu, go to “myUNG”
- From “myUNG”, select “Banner” (link at top middle of page) and then “UNG Bannerweb”
- Log in with your user name and password
 - If you have not received these yet, you can call Financial Aid for assistance with this process.
- Once logged into your Bannerweb account: select the Financial Aid Menu; select Award; select Award by Aid Year; select Award by Aid Year (select most recent year), click submit; select Award Overview Tab
- Under the "Need Calculation" heading, there should be a financial list of need calculation.
- Copy and paste that section into the application section II where indicated.
- If there are extenuating circumstances that are not reflected in your “need calculation”, please feel free to expand on them in this section as well.

What if I am an international student?

The NSF only allows this scholarship to be awarded to US citizens and legal residents.

Will having a job or planning to keep a job if awarded this scholarship affect my chance of getting it?

Stop working to pay for school and study more! Although neither circumstance will hurt your application, this scholarship is intended to help you work less so that you can study more. We strongly recommend you reduce your work hours if awarded this scholarship.

What if I am planning to further my degree at Dahlonega because Gainesville doesn't offer the major I need?

You are able to do this with the scholarship.

If for any reason I need to transfer to another school, will my scholarship go with me?

No it will not. This scholarship is only for those students who will complete their degree here at UNG.

Who should I ask for a recommendation letter?

You can ask for a letter from a high school teacher (science teacher preferred) or a current professor from one of your classes at UNG. The more recently the teacher or professor has had you in their class, the better for the purposes of the letter. Have your letter writer send their letter directly to either Dr. Hyslop (Gainesville campus) or Dr. Holliday (Dahlonega campus); their email addresses are on the application.