

Astronaut Scholarship Foundation

PHILOSOPHY AND PROCEDURES

Applicable to Nominations for the Astronaut Foundation Scholarships, 2012-2013

History: The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation, a nonprofit organization, was created by the Mercury 7 astronauts in 1984 to aid the United States in retaining its world leadership in science and technology by providing scholarships to the very best and brightest college students pursuing these degrees. The Mercury astronauts have since been joined by more than 100 astronauts from the Gemini, Apollo, Skylab and Space Shuttle programs making the Foundation a true legacy of America's space pioneers. The Astronauts remain strongly committed to the Foundation and participate actively in building the best possible program dedicated to the encouragement of outstanding young Americans pursuing careers in science and engineering, especially in fields with strong research and applied components. Just as they were pioneers in space, the Founders wished to encourage and nurture potential pioneers in all aspects of science and technology. The first seven awards, worth \$1,000 each, were disbursed in 1986. That number and value has grown tremendously, and the Foundation has now awarded 390 scholarships worth more than \$3.2 million.

Institution Selection: Identification of America's finest and potentially most creative and productive young science and technology students is a challenging undertaking. Thus, it was decided early on to select institutions having strong undergraduate and graduate research programs with histories of producing significant numbers of professional scientists, academic scientists, engineers and researchers. Because it is impossible to predict the disciplines where cutting edge research is going to be, the Foundation seeks nominations from all fields of science and technology. Further, because the best research laboratories and libraries are found in colleges and universities with full academic programs through the doctoral level, selections are limited to such institutions. In practice, once selected to receive an Astronaut Scholarship, it is the Foundation's intention that the institution remains in the program unless a cause may arise to terminate the association. The Foundation will conduct an internal review on a periodic basis, at least every five years, of cooperating institutions.

Institution's Role & Committee: Institutions selected to participate in the Foundation's scholarship program are expected to play an active role in the dissemination of information about the scholarship to ALL qualifying departments and in the selection process for the scholarship. The Foundation requires that the selection process on campus be undertaken with review of the nominees by an inter-departmental committee, usually comprised of 3-5 members, that includes several authorities in the science, engineering and math fields. The function of the campus committee is to select two nominations to be forwarded by the institution to the Foundation Scholarship Committee for the final selection. In the unlikely case where neither nominee is acceptable to the Foundation, the scholarship will be withheld for that year. Submission of unacceptable candidates for two consecutive years will result in termination of the program to that campus. For 2012-2013, the amount provided for a single scholarship is \$10,000.

Student Eligibility: To qualify and compete for an ASF award, students must: be a U.S. citizen (birth certificate, US passport or naturalization papers required); have completed two years of full time study at the ASF designated campus (sophomores nominated to receive the award as juniors must demonstrate truly exceptional accomplishments during their first three semesters); be a junior or senior at the time their scholarship begins at that same Foundation-supported school; be majoring in Natural or Applied Science, Engineering or Mathematics; be a full-time student during both terms of the ASF-supported academic year (one-semester students are not eligible); have conducted a considerable amount of research in their field; and have been nominated for consideration by a professor at that institution who knows the student well enough to identify a special drive or talent that foreshadows a creative career leading to the advancement of scientific knowledge and technology. In addition, ideal candidates will have exhibited motivation, imagination and exceptional performance in their fields, as well as intellectual daring and a genuine desire to positively change the world around them, both in and out of the classroom. An awarded scholarship may not be transferred to another degree program or institution.

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Although need is given consideration if both nominees are deemed equal, it is not a driving force in the selection process. It is the desire of the Foundation to encourage the most creative and innovative candidates who have the drive and ability to move into unknown territory. Please note that emphasis is placed upon demonstrated potential or ability and a drive to do research and to develop new ideas, inventions and innovative technology. Astronaut Scholarships are not awarded for pre-medical studies, so clinical medical research is not considered in the research selection criteria. However, biomedical research is included. Incomplete nomination packets will not be considered and will disqualify the institution for that academic year.

Scholarship Application Process: The Foundation requires that participating institutions review at least eight student nominations from faculty members as outlined in the Institution's Role & Committee section of this document. Accordingly, a summary of all nominations reviewed by the institution's committee, to include the student's name, grade level, department, and degree pursued should be submitted along with the two nominations. The selection of the two candidates is at the discretion of the campus selection committee. However ASF requires that nominees have proven themselves by both their academic and research achievements at the nominating institution. Actual research accomplishments should be highlighted in student applications.

Two nominations meeting ASF requirements as outlined in Student Eligibility, as well as complete nomination packages for both are necessary and must reach the ASF office by the posted deadline before the Foundation will consider the nominations.

Scholarship Renewal: A student receiving an Astronaut Scholarship may have the scholarship continued to completion of the undergraduate degree program for which the award was made with a maximum of two awards. Renewal is based upon continued excellence in academics and research, as documented by the required reports. These are a nomination form, a current transcript documenting satisfactory performance and a letter report from the scholar directly and from the supervising professor after conclusion of the first term. Formal nominations are requested only when a new scholar must be named.

Liaison Officer: The Foundation requires that each institution maintain a Liaison Officer to be the sole correspondent with the Foundation. The liaison on each campus performs the critical functions of distributing information and nomination materials to science and engineering faculty, collecting and collating the nominations to determine that they are complete and will be acceptable. Once nominations are submitted, the selection committee should convene to determine the two nominees to forward. The checks for the scholarship and other correspondence will be transmitted via the Liaison Officer. The student grade and progress reports are also to be transmitted by the Liaison Officer. Early in each calendar year the Liaison Officer of record is contacted by a Scholarship Committee representative to confirm the assignment of the scholarship and the identity of the Liaison Officer for the coming year. Please notify the Foundation office of any changes in the Liaison Officer in order to avoid unnecessary delays in communication.

Scholar Status Reports: The Foundation requires an annual and a terminal report including a copy of the Scholar's academic records, which must be released as a condition of acceptance. Informal reports are welcome from either the Scholar or professor at any time outlining the progress of the work or future plans as well as reports at the end of the term. Such reports, including recent developments or successes and any published papers, are most helpful to the Foundation for publicity purposes as it seeks to increase both the number and value of the scholarships.

Scholarship Check Disbursement: The Foundation wishes to be apprised at once of any special problems with the enrollment of Astronaut Scholars. The Foundation will release funds in two equal parts during the academic year at the beginning of each term with first priority to tuition and fees. Should the total amount available exceed the demand for tuition and fees, the remainder is to be released to the student for purchase of books, personal equipment, attending scientific meetings, or other appropriate uses to meet other academic expenses. The checks for the scholarship are normally issued in August and December and are transmitted to the Liaison Officer of record in the Foundation office. Before the December disbursement, the Foundation requires a statement from the Liaison Officer that the Scholar is still eligible under the Foundation's guidelines. Therefore, the Foundation

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needs to be apprised when Liaison Officers are changed. Please note that the Foundation pays no overhead expense and the full amount is an award to the student. Participating institutions must certify to the Foundation the awarding of an Astronaut Scholarship will not in any way reduce other scholarship support to which the student had previously been entitled.

The Foundation's Communication Director will provide some basic information for press releases when the scholarships are awarded. Please utilize the information provided to bring public recognition to your institution as well as the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation. Also, submit copies of any reports of recognition given to your institution related to the scholarship winner in the press or other publications. Such press releases are of value to the Foundation for raising money to support its growing scholarship program and will not compromise your institution's fund-raising efforts. The Foundation may opt to send a representative and/or an astronaut member to present the Scholar with their check at a public ceremony. The Foundation will aid as much as possible with media and on-campus awareness; however, it expects the university to use its best efforts in publicizing such an event on and off campus. Your assistance with such arrangements is much appreciated. If your school wishes to arrange for an astronaut to participate in a public program, the Executive Director should be contacted as soon as possible for detailed information.

Astronaut Scholar Alumni: Being selected as an Astronaut Scholar is the beginning of a life-long bond with the Foundation and other Astronaut Scholars. Past scholars, now over 270, representing all scientific and technological fields, have formed a very strong alumni association. They meet annually at the time of the Foundation Board of Directors meeting and the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame Induction in Florida and participate in special programs, including a technical conference. Most schools chose to fund their student for these activities. A tradition has developed for holding a luncheon limited to astronauts and Scholars where they can get acquainted with each other on a one-on-one basis and without external distractions from others. Scholars are important to the future of the Foundation, and two chairs on the Board of Directors are presently held by past Scholars. Participation is strongly encouraged.

We are pleased to have you in our scholarship program as we pursue the common goal of educating promising young American men and women in the fields of science and technology. Please feel free to contact the ASF office should any questions or problems arise where we might be of assistance.

2012-2013 ASTRONAUT SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION INSTITUTIONS

University of Arizona

Brown University

University of Central Florida

Clemson University

University of Colorado at Boulder

Georgia Institute of Technology

Harvey Mudd College

University of Kentucky

Massachusetts Inst. of Technology

Miami University

University of Michigan

University of Minnesota

North Carolina State University

North Dakota State University

University of Oklahoma

Pennsylvania State University

Purdue University

University of Rochester

University of South California

Syracuse University

Texas A&M University

University of Texas at Austin

Tufts University

University of Virginia

Washington University

University of Washington

University of Wisconsin

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