 

**AugSTEM**

**Application**

**Information**

**Fall 2014**

**S**cholarships for **S**cience **T**echnology **E**ngineering and **M**athematics

AugSTEM Scholarships: Preparing Juniors and Seniors for Careers in STEM

**Application Information for the**

**AugSTEM Scholar Awards for 2014-15**

Applications due: **July 1, 2014**

Completed materials should be submitted via e-mail to

**AugSTEM@augsburg.edu**

This information pertains to completing the application for the AugSTEM Scholar program available through Augsburg College. The AugsSTEM Scholar program is sponsored by a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE-1154096). This program provides scholarships of up to $7,000 per student. Students applying for one of the AugSTEM Scholar awards for the 2013-14 academic year should read and understand all attached materials as they prepare their application.

**Majors Eligible to Apply for an AugSTEM Scholar Award**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Biology** | **Biopsychology** | **Chemistry** | **Computer Science** | **Mathematics** | **Physics** |

**Eligibility Requirements**

AugSTEM Scholarship recipients must:

* Meet NSF’s citizenship and financial need requirements:
	+ Be citizens, nationals, or permanent residents.
	+ Demonstrate financial need, defined for undergraduate students by the US Department of Education rules for need-based Federal financial aid (FAFSA filing).
* Be within five semesters of graduating from Augsburg with a STEM degree.
* Be enrolled full-time at Augsburg and declared a biology, biopsychology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics or physics major.
* Demonstrate progress in the major by enrolling in required courses.
* Have at least a 3.0 GPA in their major field (all STEM courses required for major).
* Demonstrate a commitment to participate in the activities of the cohort. (See AugSTEM Programming, below).
* Agree to participate in the surveys required for internal program evaluation[[1]](#footnote-1).

**Application Materials**

Students meeting the above criteria may apply to the AugSTEM program by providing the following application materials:

□ **AugSTEM Application Form** - Identify your intended STEM major(s), provide demographic information, and authorize release of Augsburg College Financial Aid and academic information, such as transcripts.

□ **Two-page Essay** - Provide a two-page essay describing your goals and motivations for a career in STEM. Your essay may include thoughts on:

* what interests you most about your field
* how this scholarship will help you reach your goals
* anything unique about you or your background that will help the committee make an informed decision

□ **Resume -** Provide a resume of accomplishments and activities related to pursuing a major in a STEM discipline.

□ **STEM Graduation Plan** – Provide a summary of remaining coursework to complete a STEM major at Augsburg. Transfer students are welcome to make an appointment with one of Augsburg’s advising staff for assistance. For students who have completed an Augsburg Graduation Application (<http://www.augsburg.edu/registrar/graduation.html>) you are encouraged to submit a copy.

□ **SAR Financial Need Form**- This form will be sent to you after you complete your FAFSA, as long as you enter a valid email address. If your SAR has not come yet, you may use last year’s report by following these simple instructions:

1. Go to fafsa.gov
2. Click Login & enter your information
3. Click on the tab for the previous year’s taxes
4. Click ‘View Processed Information’
5. Enter your pin number (or request a new pin if you’ve forgotten)
6. Save the file and email along with the rest of your application

□ **Three Letters of Recommendation** -Provide three letters of recommendation (use AugSTEM Reference Form) from individuals who can speak to your potential in a STEM field. You are strongly encouraged to ask STEM faculty who have had you in class or worked with you in an academic context.

The selection committee will rank applications according to merit and financial need. The committee will consider the objectives to support community college transfer and current Augsburg students equally and to broaden diversity within the STEM workforce.

To maintain status, an AugSTEM student must:

* Continue to meet the NSF citizenship and financial need requirements.
* Maintain a GPA of 3.0 or greater within their declared STEM major.
* Participate in AugSTEM events at a satisfactory level including providing evaluation materials for the assessment of the program.

The scholarship selection committee will review student progress in meeting these criteria each fall and spring. Students in danger of failing to meet these criteria, including those who fall below a 3.0 GPA, will receive increased advising and mentoring support and may risk losing funding. Awards will be reviewed on a semester-by-semester basis.

**AugSTEM Programming**

**Required AugSTEM Programming**

*AugSTEM Workshops:* Each semester AugSTEM scholars will attend an advising session facilitated by STEM faculty and staff from advising, the Strommen Career and Internship Center, and the Undergraduate Research and Graduate Opportunity (URGO) office.

*Sverdrup Visiting Scientist Program*: This program, held each spring, brings a scientist of national stature to give public scientific lectures and engage both students and faculty in a dialogue about careers in the sciences.

*AugSTEM seminars:* Each year, five seminars – one sponsored by each participating department – will be held specifically to meet the objectives of the AugSTEM program.

**A la Carte AugSTEM Programming (minimum seven hours required)**

AugSTEM scholars may also earn credit for participating in the following paid and unpaid opportunities that enhance professional opportunities. Examples include:

* Work as a student leader through Augsburg’s Peer Instruction program.
* Work in a summer STEM-related outreach program on the Augsburg campus, such as GEMS/GISE (Girls Exploring Mathematics and Science/Guys Interested in Science and Engineering) or Urban Scrubs Camp.
* Volunteer for STEM-related opportunities. Augsburg was recognized in 2012 as a Presidential Awardee on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. Several opportunities specific to STEM are available, from tutoring Somali immigrants at the nearby community center to working with biology faculty to remove invasive species.
* Submit an application to a named national fellowship (Goldwater, Fulbright, NSF, EPA, etc.).
* Participation in existing campus workshops held by URGO and the Strommen Career and Internship Center for resume writing, GRE prep, fellowship preparation, or graduate school application.
* Participate in an unpaid or paid corporate internship.

**Support for AugSTEM Scholars**

*Travel Awards:* Each AugSTEM scholar may apply for one travel award of $250 to attend regional conferences or to supplement other travel funds for graduate school visits.

*Research Opportunities:* Community college transfer students may apply to participate in Augsburg’s ten-week summer research program. Participants receive a $4,000 research stipend.

*Student Writing Support:* Each fall and spring an advising workshop will include sessions to address professional writing skills and to develop clarity about career and education goals. Mentors will assist students in refining their resumes, personal statements and professional writing samples.

**Application Checklist**

* Students should submit their applications to AugSTEM@augsburg.edu. Don’t forget to include:

□ AugSTEM Application Form

□ Two-page essay

□ Resume

□ SAR Financial Need Form

□ Summary of remaining coursework to complete STEM major at Augsburg

* Evaluators please submit letters of reference to AugSTEM@augsburg.edu.

□ Letter of Reference 1 (using AugSTEM Reference Form)

□ Letter of Reference 2 (using AugSTEM Reference Form)

□ Letter of Reference 3 (using AugSTEM Reference Form)

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For additional information, please contact:

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**If you plan to apply for this award, please email us to indicate your interest at** **AugSTEM@augsburg.edu****.**

1. Students will be provided a waiver through the IRB process to opt out of any external dissemination of both aggregate and individual data. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)