

STEM Scholars Program Conditions – 2020-2021

STEM Scholars

A program funded by the National Science Foundation that provides financial support (covering tuition, fees and cost of living) as well as academic support to approximately 10 selected students who meet the following requirements:

1. Current SWIC students who can complete their A. S. or A. E. S. degree by the end of summer 2020. Students must earn at least a B in MATH 112 (College Algebra) before being accepted into STEM Scholars.
2. The student must be planning on transferring to a four-year school and majoring in STEM. STEM refers to, “science, technology, engineering, and mathematics that includes biological sciences (except medicine and other clinical fields); physical sciences (including physics, chemistry, astronomy, and materials science); mathematical sciences; computer and information sciences; geosciences; engineering; and technology areas associated with the preceding disciplines (for example, biotechnology, chemical technology, engineering technology, information technology, etc.),” according to NSF’s S-STEM solicitation.
3. The student must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) listing Southwestern Illinois College, (School code:001636) as a school choice in the college release section. The student’s EFC must be less than SWIC’s cost of attendance to be eligible for financial support.
4. All recipients of this scholarship must be a resident of SWIC District 522 or East St. Louis at the time of application and during attendance at SWIC.
5. All recipients of this scholarship must be U. S. citizens, nationals (as defined in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act), permanent resident aliens, or aliens admitted as refugees (as defined by section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act).
6. The scholarship is for tuition for classes that appear on student’s academic transcripts, as well as fees, books, and living expenses.
7. The student must be enrolled full-time each semester (minimum of 12 semester credits) to receive the scholarship. The scholarship pays for a maximum of 18 credits per semester.
8. With permission, the scholarship may cover a summer course.
9. The student must maintain satisfactory progress (minimum 2.75 semester and cumulative GPA, and minimum 3.0 in STEM classes) and complete program requirements (attend > 80% of enhancement events and study sessions, complete and submit > 80% of all mentor logs, submit >75% of all instructor evaluations) to receive the award for additional semesters.
10. Applications will be accepted until all scholarships are awarded. Apply early for the best chance of being selected. Please submit all application materials together (see checklist on the Application). SWIC employees can help you with the application process. At the SWIC campus, the Success Center offers workshops on applying for scholarships and the Financial Aid Office can help you fill out the FAFSA.
11. The SWIC STEM Scholars Advisory Committee will select the recipients based upon the above criteria and information provided in the application, and will notify applicants in writing of their decision.

Direct inquiries and all required information to:

Southwestern Illinois College

Joy Branlund, Professor of Earth Science

Email: Joy.Branlund@swic.edu

Phone: (618) 931-0600 x7451

2500 Carlyle Avenue – Belleville, IL 62221

STEM Scholars Program Application – 2020-2021

Instructions: Fill in the grey boxes. You can type as much as you want in each box – they'll expand to accommodate what you write. You can hit Tab to move from one box to the next. Save this when you're done and attach it to an email to joy.branlund@swic.edu

Name _____ Email _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # (_____) _____

High School Attended _____

High School

Graduation Date (Month/Year) _____

GED taken in (county) _____

GED Completion

Date (Month/Year) _____

Anticipated premajor – select one

☐ Biology

☐ Chemistry

☐ Computer Science

☐ Earth Science (geology, meteorology, oceanography)

☐ Engineering

☐ Other _____

☐ Mathematics

☐ Physics

☐ Undecided

Which SWIC campus is most convenient for you?

☐ Belleville

☐ Sam Wolf Granite City

☐ Red Bud

Gender

With what gender to you identify? _____

Race/Ethnicity

☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native

☐ Asian

☐ Black or African American

☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

☐ White

Are you Hispanic or Latino? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have either of your parents or guardians completed a Bachelor's degree? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Application Checklist

1. Fill out the information requested above,
2. Read and sign the statement at the bottom of this page.
3. Answer the questions in detail on the following pages (you can type as much as you want into the form – be detailed and thorough – the committee will use your answers to pick the scholarship awardees).
4. Write an essay (500 words or less) introducing yourself to the selection committee.
5. Return the application, essay and letter of recommendation to Joy Branlund, Professor of Earth Science, Room 2204 Main Building, 2500 Carlyle Avenue, Belleville, IL 62221 or by email Joy.Branlund@swic.edu
6. Make sure that SWIC has received the results of your processed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the award year that you wish to receive the scholarship. The FAFSA is available on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov. SWIC's school code is 001636. You can also complete the FAFSA in SWIC's Financial Aid Office.

Return this application and all required information to:

Joy.Branlund@swic.edu

1. One of the purposes of this scholarship is to provide enough support to allow students to attend college full time. If awarded the scholarship, would you be able to be a full-time student? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Funds provided by the scholarship are meant to be adequate enough so that you will have to work off campus only minimal hours, if at all. If you are awarded the scholarship, would you plan on working while attending SWIC? If so, please explain your work plans (number of hours and type of work).

3. If you are not eligible for financial support, would you still like to be part of the STEM Scholars Program, and receive the social and academic supports that accompany the program? ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Scholarship awardees must attend some activities held during non-class hours (such as in the evening or off-campus day-long trips). Describe any obligations that would prevent you from attending these events.

5. Describe your interest in science, math, engineering, and/or technology.

6. The scholarship recipients are expected to earn an Associate's degree from SWIC and then transfer to a four-year college where they will complete their Bachelor's degree. If you've thought about where you'd like to transfer, and/or what career you'd like after completing college, please tell us about those plans.

7. Participants in the STEM Scholars program need to work as a group (they will take courses together, study together, and attend enrichment activities together). Describe how/what will you contribute to the group.

8. Describe your commitment to college education.

9. Why do you think you deserve this scholarship?

10. How did you find out about this opportunity?

- ☐ Teacher/ faculty member ☐ Advisor ☐ Website ☐ Newspaper
☐ Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) ☐ Other _____

11. Please provide the name and email address or phone number of a reference – someone who can attest to your interest in science, math, engineering, and/or technology (for example, a teacher or professional).

Name _____

Email address or phone number _____

Please read and sign the following statement.

I understand that program acceptance requires the following conditions be met:

- Use scholarship money to pay for all aspects of school (should not take out student loans or work more than 15 hours a week)
- Enroll and maintain full time status (12-18 credits per semester, not including the required special topics course)
- Each semester, enroll in the 1-credit special topics course for SWIC Scholars students taught at Belleville
- Maintain residence requirements and be eligible for financial aid (submit a FAFSA)
- Be enrolled in a A.S. or A.E.S. degree with a plan to transfer to a four-year college to major in biology, chemistry, computer science, earth science, engineering, mathematics or physics
- Maintain a minimum 2.75 semester and cumulative GPA; and a minimum 3.0 GPA in STEM classes
- Attend enhancement events (approximately six held per year outside of class time)*
- Attend weekly study sessions* in the Success Center
- Meet with the assigned Academic Advisor for help picking classes, and consult that advisor as well as your faculty mentor to make decisions regarding your degree plan, class selection for additional semesters, and transferring to a four-year college
- Meet with the assigned faculty mentor at least three times a semester
- Complete and submit required paperwork for the STEM Scholars program, including surveys, mentor logs, logs of enrichment events, and instructor progress reports

I authorize the release of information concerning my acceptance into the STEM Scholarship Program to the media for general distribution. I certify the information reported on this application is true to the best of my knowledge. I have read the conditions of this scholarship as outlined above and agree to abide by them:

Student's signature _____

Date _____

(Type your name to indicate you've read the expectations)

*Some of these might be changed slightly to accommodate social distancing and other health precautions.