

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 should be submitted by March 6, 2020. 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: STEMScholars@swic.edu

Phone: (618) 931-0600 x7451

2500 Carlyle Avenue – Belleville, IL 62221

STEM Scholars Program Application – 2020-2021

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

☐ Earth Science (geology, meteorology, oceanography)

☐ Mathematics

☐ Chemistry

☐ Engineering

☐ Physics

☐ Computer Science

☐ Other _____

☐ Undecided

Which SWIC campus is most convenient for you?

☐ Belleville

☐ Sam Wolf Granite City

☐ Red Bud

Gender

☐ Female

☐ Male

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

- ☐ Fill out the information requested above,
- ☐ Read and sign the statement at the bottom of this page.
- ☐ Answer the questions in detail on the following pages (attach additional pages if necessary).
- ☐ Submit a letter of recommendation from someone who can attest to your interest in science, math, engineering, and/or technology (for example, a teacher or professional). Please give the included form to the person.

Name of person writing your letter _____

- ☐ Write an essay (500 words or less) introducing yourself to the selection committee.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Finalists will be required to attend a group interview at SWIC. This will be held in the evening, on a date yet to be determined.

Return this application and all required information to:

Southwestern Illinois College

Joy Branlund, Professor of Earth Science

2500 Carlyle Avenue - Belleville, IL 62221

Deadline: March 6, 2020

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 _____

Please read and sign the following statement.

I understand that program acceptance and renewal 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 _____

STEM Scholars Program– 2020-2021 – Letter of Recommendation

Applicant: please complete the top portion of this form, then give the form to the person writing the letter of recommendation. The letter can be included with your application, or the person writing the recommendation can send the letter directly to: Joy Branlund, Professor of Earth Science, Southwestern Illinois College, Room 2204 Main Building, 2500 Carlyle Ave., Belleville, IL 62221. The letter must be mailed by March 6, 2019.

Applicant Name _____

Applicant Address:

Street _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

The applicant named above is applying for the STEM Scholars Program at Southwestern Illinois College. To be eligible for the program, students must demonstrate interest in pursuing a degree and career in a STEM (science, technology, engineering, or mathematics) field. Please write a letter describing your knowledge of the applicant's interest and aptitude in STEM.

If accepted, the applicant will be a part of a cohort who will benefit from strong faculty and institutional support and exposure to STEM career and transfer opportunities. Students who demonstrate financial need will also receive a scholarship to pay for all tuition, fees, and a cost of living stipend. (Please see <https://www.swic.edu/academics/academic-divisions/math-sciences/stem-scholar-program/> for more information on the program.)

Your name _____

How do you know the applicant? _____