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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program. The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program was established in 1992 as part of the partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities.

The goal of the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is to increase the number of minorities studying agriculture, food, natural resource sciences and other related disciplines. Each year, hundreds of students apply for the program that provides full tuition, room, board, internships, and full-time employment upon graduation.

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is available to rising college sophomores and rising college juniors attending any accredited university in the U.S. that exhibit leadership and community service and desire to attend one of the eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities.

Again, thank you for your interest and best wishes in your pursuit of academic excellence.

Sincerely,

USDA/1890 National Scholars Program

USDA/1890 National Scholars Program

Overview

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is a partnership between of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities. The program awards scholarships to students attending one of 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities, pursuing a bachelor's degree in agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, or related academic disciplines, and willing to work full-time in the USDA upon graduation. The eighteen 1890 Universities are as follows:

- Alabama A&M University
- Alcorn State University, Mississippi
- Delaware State University
- Florida A&M University
- Fort Valley State University, Georgia
- Kentucky State University
- Langston University, Oklahoma
- Lincoln University, Missouri
- North Carolina A&T State University
- Prairie View A&M University, Texas
- South Carolina State University
- Southern University, Louisiana
- Tennessee State University
- Tuskegee University, Alabama
- University of Arkansas Pine Bluff
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- Virginia State University
- West Virginia State University

PURPOSE

The purpose of the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is:

- To strengthen the long-term partnership between USDA and the 1890 Land Grant Universities
- To increase the number of students studying agriculture, food, natural resource sciences or other related disciplines
- To offer career opportunities to USDA/1890 National Scholars at the U.S. Department of Agriculture

OBJECTIVE

The National Scholars Program offers scholarships to U.S. citizens who are seeking a bachelor degree at one of the eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institutions in any field of study in agriculture, food, natural resource sciences or other related disciplines. National Scholars are required to study in the following or related disciplines:

- Agriculture
- Agricultural Business/Management
- Agricultural Economics
- Agricultural Engineering/Mechanics
- Agricultural Production and Technology
- Agronomy or Crop Science
- Animal Sciences
- Other related disciplines, (e.g., non-medical biological sciences, pre-veterinary medicine, computer science)
- Botany
- Food Sciences/Technology
- Forestry and Related Sciences
- Home Economics/Nutrition
- Horticulture
- Natural Resources Management
- Soil Conservation/Soil Science
- Farm and Range Management

USDA/1890 National Scholars Program

Overview

THE AWARD

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program scholarship is awarded annually and must be used at one of the eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institutions. Each award provides annual tuition, fees, books, room and board, employee benefits, use of a laptop computer, printer and software while on scholarship, for each of the 4 academic years. The scholar is required to work in the Student Educational Employment Program during school breaks (typically during the summer) and agree to 1 (one) year of service with the U.S. Department of Agriculture for each year of financial support at the completion of the scholar's bachelor degree program. Each annual scholarship renewal is contingent upon satisfactory performance and normal progress toward the bachelor's degree.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

Applicants must be U.S. citizens currently attending an accredited college/university in the United States, completing their freshman or sophomore year of college, and willing to attend or currently attending one of the eighteen 1890 Universities.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

Applicant must:

- Be a U.S. citizen
 - Be interested in attending one of the eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institutions
 - Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better
 - Intend to study agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, or other related disciplines
 - Demonstrate leadership and community service.
 - Submit current official transcript with the school seal and an authorized official's signature (preferably through the most recent fall semester)
 - Submit a current resume
 - Submit two letters of recommendations from the following:
 1. Department Head, Dean of College, or a University Vice President, and a
 2. College Professor who has taught the applicant
 - Submit a 500-800 word essay describing 1) your interest in USDA 2) how you envision the scholarship will impact you and your future as a public servant, and 3) your experience and perceptions about agriculture, food, and natural resource sciences
 - Submit a signed application (original signature only)
-

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All application materials must be postmarked no later than **February 1** and sent to the university(s) selected by the applicant to attend.

INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants should read the application materials thoroughly before completing and submitting the application. Only complete application packages submitted by the application deadline will be considered for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program scholarship. To begin the application process, applicants must do the following:

- Complete the Privacy Act Advisory Statement and Release Form
- Complete the Biographical Questionnaire
- Prepare a current resume
- Prepare 500-800 word essay on the designated topics
- Obtain a recent official transcript with seal and signature of an authorized college/university official
- Sign and Date the application
- Mail the application by the postmark deadline of **February 1**

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the college/university prepares a current official transcript and the document is submitted by the application deadline. All materials must be originals, with original signatures and seals/stamps. ***Photocopied signatures and transcripts will not be considered for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program scholarship.***

Please note: The selection of scholarship recipients will be influenced by the completeness, neatness, and legibility of replies. **The application may be filled out electronically by typing the required information or print clearly using black ink.**

**Privacy Act
Advisory Statement**

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with this request for information. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements for the Act, please be advised:

1. The authority for the collection of these data is Executive Order 11155.
2. Furnishing the information requested is voluntary.
3. The data will be used for selection of USDA/1890 National Scholars, printing of certificates, and related activities.
4. Other routine uses of the data are for preparation of the public affairs and press releases to news media.
5. Failure to complete the form will mean that you cannot be included among those candidates being considered for designation as USDA/1890 National Scholar.

**Affirmation of Candidacy
and Authorization for
Release of Information**

I, _____, understand that I am a candidate for the honor of USDA/1890 National Scholar, have read the Privacy Act Advisory Statement, and affirm my wish to be considered. In the event I am named a National Scholar, permission is hereby given for the release of materials submitted by me for the use of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institutions as deemed appropriate for purposes of the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program.

I further consent to the release of photographs which may be taken of me, by or for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in connection with the Program. I am (*check one*) willing _____ unwilling _____ to appear on radio and/or television if such arrangements can be made by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in connection with the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Enter date format as mm-dd-yyyy

Candidate's Biographical Questionnaire

The questions that follow are designed to collect information about your background, your interests, and your plans. Your answers to these questions will be used only in connection with your application for this scholarship program and will be divulged only to qualified persons who must see them in the course of their duties.

A. Biographical Information

(Please print)

Legal name in full _____
Last
First
Middle
Sex: F M

Permanent home address _____
Number and street
City/Town
State
Zip Code

Telephone _____ Age _____

Are you a U.S. citizen? Yes No E-mail address: _____

B. Education

1. Name of college now attending _____ Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

GPA (on a 4.0 scale) _____

Note: Grade point average should match supporting documentation submitted with the application. Only applicants meeting minimum GPA criteria will be considered for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program scholarship. Please do not submit an application if you do not meet the criteria.

2. List any other colleges/universities that you attended. List the schools in order of attendance, with the one you attended most recently first.

Name of School	Location (City and State)	Dates of Attendance

Candidate's Biographical Questionnaire

3. Name of the 1890 University to which you are applying _____

Note: Applicants applying to more than one 1890 University must submit separate applications and send to each school of choice.

4. What course of study (major) will you pursue?

1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

Other Related Discipline/unlisted major (please identify) _____

Note: All academic disciplines may not be available at each 1890 University. Check the university's academic offerings before applying.

5. Have you made career decisions **related to** agriculture, food, natural resources sciences, or other related disciplines?

Yes No If Yes, explain: _____

6. Do you plan to go to graduate or professional school? Yes No If YES, field of study _____

7. List volunteer services and jobs you have held in the past 4 years (including summer employment).

Volunteer services or jobs	Name of organization or employer	Dates of service or employment	Hours per week	Special awards

Note: Please be concise and limit your responses to the space provided.

C. Essay

(If completing essay section manually, please attach a type written copy of the essay to the application)

Please review this form to make sure you have answered all questions completely. Proofread your responses.

I certify that I completed this application and that all statements made are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, and that a false statement could eliminate me from consideration for this scholarship.

Applicant's Signature

Date

This form must be returned to each 1890 University(s) of your choice.
MUST BE POSTMARKED BY FEBRUARY 1

How did you hear about the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program Scholarship? (select all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|-------|
| College fair(s) | Name of event(s) | _____ |
| Informational Session | Location | _____ |
| Public Service Announcement | Stations | _____ |
| Direct Mail/e-mail | Source of communication | _____ |
| USDA Employee | Name of employee(s) | _____ |
| Church or place of worship-Name of Facility | | |
| Website(s) | Name of website(s) | _____ |
| Other | | _____ |
| | | _____ |

USDA/1890 National Scholars Application Checklist

1.	I have read the eligibility requirements and meet all eligibility criteria.
2.	I am submitting an original application and official transcript to each 1890 University of interest (see addresses on page 12 of this application)
3.	I have applied for admission or am currently enrolled at the 1890 Land-Grant University of interest.
4.	I have read and filled out Section II, Candidate's Biographical Information section. I understand Section II must be postmarked no later than February 1 , in order to meet the eligibility requirements.
5.	I have enclosed a current resume.
6.	I have enclosed two letters of recommendation from the following: 1. Department Head, Dean of College, or one of the University Vice Presidents and, 2. College Professor who has served as an instructor in one of my courses
7.	I have included an official transcript with grades through the fall semester.
8.	I have enclosed a 500-800 word essay describing 1) your interest in USDA, 2) how you envision the scholarship will impact you and your future as a public servant, and 3) your experiences and perceptions about agriculture, food, and natural resource sciences.
9.	I have signed and dated the application (original signature only)

USDA/1890 National Scholars Program Scholarship Applicant's Authorization to Release Academic Information

Applicant's Legal, Full Name _____
Last
First
Middle
Suffix

To comply with the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, a school must obtain signed authorization before it can release student information for use in this scholarship program. Permission is hereby given to school officials to release school record and other requested information for consideration in the scholarship program named above.

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

(if applicant is under 18 years old)
 Parents' or Legal Guardians' Signature _____ Date _____

Applicant: If you have attended more than one college/university, you must copy this form and ask someone from your former school to also complete a copy for you.

School Name _____

_____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone Number _____

We appreciate the time you are taking to support your student. The student named above is a candidate for the honor of United States Department of Agriculture/1890 National Scholars Program scholarship. To process this application, we need the following:

- An official transcript of the student's college/university record with a seal and signature by an authorized school official

Thorough responses will greatly enhance your student's candidacy. This information will be used only in connection with the selection of Scholars and will be seen only by qualified persons involved in the selection process. Please note, however that only students with a GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale are eligible for the 1890 Scholars Program. Please delete all personal identifiable information, such as complete social security numbers and complete dates of birth from any supporting documentations.

For questions or more information about the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program Scholarship, please contact us at 1890init@usda.gov or 202-205-4307.

Duplicate form as necessary

1890 Universities

Attn: USDA Program Manager
Alabama A&M University
Dawson Extension Bldg., Room 300 or
Post Office Box 1087
Normal, AL 35762

Attn: USDA Program Manager
Alcorn State University
1000 ASU Drive, Room 1139
104 Agriculture Science Building.
Lorman, MS 39096

Attn: USDA Program Manager
Delaware State University
College of Agriculture & Related Sciences
1200 North Dupont Highway
Baker Building Annex, Room 102
Dover, DE 19901

Attn: USDA Program Manager
Florida A&M University
1740 South Martin L. King Jr., Boulevard
Room 217, S. Perry-Paige Building.
Tallahassee, FL 32307-4100

Attn: USDA Program Manager
Fort Valley State University
USDA/1890 Liaison Office
1005 State University Drive
Pettigrew Center, Room 244
Fort Valley, GA 31030

Attn: USDA Program Manager
Kentucky State University
Cooperative Extension Building, Room 227
400 East Main Street
Frankfort, KY 40601

Attn: USDA Program Manager
Langston University
School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
100 Success Drive, Room V115
P.O. Box 846
Langston, OK 73050

Attn: USDA Program Manager
Lincoln University
108 Bennett Hall
818 Lee Drive.
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Attn: USDA Program Manager
North Carolina A&T University
1601 East Market Street
107 B.C. Webb Hall
Greensboro, NC 27411

Attn: USDA Program Manager
Prairie View A&M University
E. E. O'Banion
P. O. Box 2736
Cooperative Agricultural Research Center
Prairie View, TX 77446

Attn: USDA Program Manager
South Carolina State University
300 College Avenue, N.E.
P.O. Box 7246
Orangeburg, SC 29117

Attn: USDA Program Manager
Southern University and A&M College
College of Agriculture, Family & Consumer Sciences
Fisher Hall, Room 102
Baton Rouge, LA 70813

Attn: USDA Program Manager
Tennessee State University
3500 John Merritt Boulevard.
Ag Science Dept., Room 112
P.O. Box 9629
Nashville, TN 37209-1561

Attn: USDA Program Manager
Tuskegee University
College of Agricultural,
Environmental and Natural Sciences
Campbell Hall, Room 103
Tuskegee, AL 36088

Attn: USDA Program Manager
University of Arkansas Pine Bluff
1200 North University
Mail Slot: 4806
Pine Bluff, AR 71611-2799

Attn: USDA Program Manager
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Trigg Hall, Room 1137
Princess Anne, MD 21853

Attn: USDA Program Manager
Virginia State University
L. Douglas Wilder Building, Room 204B
P.O. Box 9081
Petersburg, VA 23806

Attn: USDA Program Manager
West Virginia State University
302 Curtis R&E Complex
P.O. Box 1000
Institute, WV 25112-1000

Application Deadline February 1

**Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration
Office of Advocacy and Outreach
USDA/1890 Programs**
1400 Independence Ave., SW, STOP 9821
Washington, DC 20250
Telephone Number: (202) 205-4307
Fax Number: (202) 720-7136
Email: 1890init@usda.gov

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