

United States Department of Agriculture

USDA/1890 National Scholars Program

APPLICATION



*National Scholars Program*

## 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 graduating high school seniors that exhibit leadership and community service and desire to attend one of the 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 the eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities. The program awards scholarships to students attending one of the 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities, pursuing a bachelor degree in agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, or related academic disciplines, and willing to work full-time with the USDA upon graduation. The eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant 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

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### 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, and natural resource science or other related disciplines
- To offer career opportunities to USDA/1890 National Scholars at the U.S. Department of Agriculture

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### OBJECTIVE

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program offers scholarships to U.S. citizens that 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
- Botany
- Food Sciences/Technology
- Forestry and Related Sciences
- Home Economics/Nutrition
- Horticulture
- Natural Resources Management
- Soil Conservation/Soil Science
- Farm and Range Management
- Other related disciplines, (e.g. non-medical biological sciences, pre-veterinary medicine, computer science)

**AWARD**

Scholarships are awarded annually and must be used at one of the eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institutions. Each award provides annual tuition, employment, employee benefits, and use of a laptop computer, printer and software while on scholarship, fees, books, room and board for each of the 4 academic years, plus a requirement to work in the Student Educational Employment Program. Each annual scholarship renewal is contingent upon satisfactory performance and normal progress toward the bachelor's degree. Upon completion of the scholar's academic degree program, there is an obligation of 1 year of service to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for each year of financial support.

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**WHO SHOULD APPLY**

Applicants must be U.S. citizens that are high school seniors completing a high school Diploma or a G.E.D. Certificate and entering the first year of college pursuing a bachelor's degree.

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**GENERAL ELIGIBILITY**

Applicant must:

- Be a U.S. citizen
  - Be a graduating high school senior or expect to hold a high school diploma or G.E.D. certificate
  - Have a high school cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale)
  - Have a combined verbal/math/written score of 1,500 or more on the SAT (note: 1,000 or more combined for those universities that only accept verbal/math score) or a composite score of 21 or more on the ACT;
  - Must have applied for admission to the 1890 Land-Grant University you plan to attend
  - Intend to study agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, or other related academic disciplines
  - Demonstrate leadership and community service
  - Submit an official transcript with the school seal and an authorized official's signature
  - Submit a signed application (original signature only)
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**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 complete the application process, applicants must do the following:

- Complete the Privacy Act Advisory Statement and Release Form
- Complete Biographical Questionnaire
- Sign and Date the Application
- Obtain a signature from a parent or guardian, if the applicants under 18 years old
- Obtain High School Counselor's report in a sealed envelope and submit with your application package
- Obtain High School Teacher's report in a sealed envelope and submit with your application package
- **Submit all documents in one package at the time of application**
- Mail the application by the postmark deadline of **February 1**

Applicants are responsible for obtaining the reports of the High School Counselor (page 14) and the High School Teacher (page 15). These Assessment Reports should be in a sealed envelope and included with the Application package. 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 by typing the required information or by printing clearly using black or blue 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 this 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 the 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street
City/Town
State
Zip Code

Telephone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

(Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a U.S. Citizen?    Yes    No                      Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Education

1. Name of High School currently attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street
City/Town
State
Zip Code

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

GPA (on a 4.0 unweighted scale) \_\_\_\_\_ ACT Composite Score \_\_\_\_\_ SAT (Math and Verbal) \_\_\_\_\_ Combined \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Grade point average and standardized test scores should match supporting documentation submitted by counselor. Only applicants meeting minimum GPA criteria and standardized test scores 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 schools that you attended in the last 4 years. List the schools in order of attendance, with the one you attended most recently first.

Name of School	Address	Dates of Attendance

3. List any advanced or special program, courses, or summer courses you have taken. List the most recent course or program first.

Course or Program	Name of School	Address	Dates of Attendance	Hours Per Week

4. Name of the 1890 University to which you are applying: \_\_\_\_\_

5. If applying to multiple 1890 Universities, please list in order of preference (i.e. 1-Most Preferred, 3-Least Preferred)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

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

6. What course of study (major) will pursue?

1<sup>st</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Related Discipline/Unlisted Major (Please Identify): \_\_\_\_\_

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

7. Have you made career decisions related to agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, or related disciplines?

Yes No If Yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

### C. Activities

1. List activities (prioritize) in which you have participated in or outside your school (such as academic, publications, debating, dramatics, sports, music, art, student government, and clubs).

Activity	Participation Dates	Offices Held	Special Awards



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## Candidate's Biographical Questionnaire

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

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

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

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### D. Leisure-Time Activities

1. What is the most stimulating book or article (other than those for school assignments) you have read in the last 6 months?  
Why did you find it stimulating?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What do you do for relaxation and fun?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Describe your leadership role in activities in both your school and community.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Please describe any characteristics of yourself or your family that have been important to your personal development.

## Candidate's Biographical Questionnaire

### E. Candidates Self-Assessment

1. Describe a recent experience that has given you a sense of satisfaction or pride. Explain why you were not satisfied or proud.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Briefly discuss why you want to study agricultural, food, natural resource sciences or a related discipline in college.

\_\_\_\_\_

**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 are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, and a false statement could eliminate me from consideration for this scholar**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**This form must be returned to each 1890 University(s) of your choice and 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 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 record and other requested information for consideration in the scholarship program named above.

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' or Legal Guardians' Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant: If you have attended this school less than 2 years, you must copy this form and ask someone from your former school to also complete a copy for you.

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ City State Zip Code Phone Number

**Note for the counselor:** 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 and SAT and/or ACT scores of the student's secondary school 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 and a combined SAT score of at least 1500 or 1000 (math & verbal) or ACT score of at least 21 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](mailto:1890init@usda.gov) or (202) 260-8415.

*Duplicate form as necessary*

USDA/1890 National Scholars Program Scholarship  
Secondary School Report  
**High School Guidance Counselor**

**A.**

*Please type or print using black ink*

Name of Counselor \_\_\_\_\_  
Last
First
MI
Suffix

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**B.**

Are you confident that the student will receive a high school diploma during the current academic year?    Yes    No

If no, please explain.

**C.**

Student's class rank \_\_\_\_\_ How many students are in the class? \_\_\_\_\_

**D.**

Students cumulative grade point average (unweighted on 4.0 scale) \_\_\_\_\_ **Do not enter GPA on a scale of 0-100**

**E.**

ACT Composite Score \_\_\_\_\_ SAT Score (combined) \_\_\_\_\_ SAT Score (math and verbal) \_\_\_\_\_

**F.****Secondary School Record**

The applicant's SAT and/or ACT scores, along with an official secondary school transcript (**with seal and signature by an authorized official**), including grades 9 through 12 must be attached to this section of the application. If the official transcript and SAT and/or ACT scores are not provided, the candidate **will not be considered** for the scholarship.

Counselor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

This form and the candidate's transcript and SAT and/or ACT scores **must** be returned with the student's application package for submission to each 1890 Land-Grant University(s) of interest and be **POSTMARKED BY FEBRUARY 1.**

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**USDA/1890 National Scholars Program Scholarship  
Secondary School Report  
School Teacher Assessment**

*The application for the USDA/1890 National Scholars program scholarship requires a carefully considered character and ability assessment by a teacher who knows the student well, including a summary of other teachers' judgments of the student.*

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**A.**

*Please type or print using black ink*

Name of Teacher \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI Suffix

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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**B.**

Length of Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

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**C.**

Considering this student's interests, work habits and life goals, what is your assessment of the chances that the student will be motivated to take advantage of the opportunities available in college? Please give reasons for your assessment.

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**D.**

What special features are a part of your school's curriculum (e.g., AP and honors courses, college study, independent study)? Has the student taken advantage of the most challenging opportunities your school has to offer?

## School Teacher Assessment

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**E.**

Has the student shown exceptional talent or originality in agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, and/or other related disciplines?

Yes

No

Please explain:

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**F.**

Describe this student's strengths and weaknesses.

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

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**G.**

Sometimes special circumstances should be considered when evaluating a student's achievement records and test scores. If in your opinion, this student may have been disadvantaged by any such circumstances, please specify.

## School Teacher Assessment

### H.

In the spaces below, please summarize comments made by teachers about the student:

- |   |   |  |                               |
|---|---|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>1. Participation in discussion:</b>  | always involved, often initiates discussion<br>seldom participates  | occasionally participates<br>not applicable        |                               |
| <b>2. Involvement in classroom activities:</b>  | active, usually shows genuine interest<br>languid, attention often wanders<br>poor understanding          | mild, politely attentive<br>vacillates gently      |                               |
| <b>3. Pursuit of independent study:</b>   | considerable study and major project(s)<br>no evidence of independent study                               | some study and minor projects(s)<br>not applicable |                               |
| <b>4. Evenness of performance:</b>  | even, varies no more than one mark<br>uneven, often varies two marks<br>inadequate opportunity to observe | slightly uneven<br>erratic, fluctuates greatly     |                               |
| <b>5. Critical and questioning attitude:</b>  | often challenges<br>rarely questions  | occasionally probes<br>not applicable              |                               |
| <b>6. Depth of understanding:</b>   | excellent insight<br>some insight<br>not applicable   | good understanding<br>little understanding         |                               |
| <b>7. Personal responsibility:</b>  | always accepts fully<br>sometimes refuses   | usually accepts fully<br>often refuses             |                               |
| <b>8. Consideration for others:</b>   | always considerate of others' rights and feelings<br>sometimes inconsiderate                              | usually considerate<br>often inconsiderate         |                               |
| <b>9. Population of the community in which your school is located:</b>  | less than 500<br>5,000 – 25,000   | 500 – 1,500<br>25,000 – 100,000                    | 1,500 – 5,000<br>over 100,000 |
| <b>10. What economic or social conditions characterize your community and most of the parents of the children in your school?</b> | rural farming area<br>large, metropolitan area  | industrial small town or city<br>other             |                               |

Teacher's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

This form **must** be returned to the student for inclusion in their application package for submission to each 1890 University and be **POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 1.**

## 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 transcript to each 1890 University of interest ( <b>see addresses on page 16 of this application</b> ).
3.	I have applied for admission to each 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Institution of interest.
4.	I have read and completed the Candidate's Biographical Information section.
5.	I have included the Secondary School Report from my High School Counselor and explained the need to have all official transcripts with a seal and signature and SAT and/or ACT scores enclosed with this response.
6.	I have included the School Teacher Assessment completed and signed by my teacher.
7.	I have signed and dated the application (original signature only).
8.	I understand that the application package must be <b>postmarked no later than February 1</b> for consideration for the USDA/1890 Scholars Programs Scholarship.



**1890 Universities**

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Alabama A&M University  
Dawson Extension Bldg., Room 300 or  
Post Office Box 1087  
Normal, AL 35762

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Alcorn State University  
1000 ASU Drive, Room 1139  
Agriculture Science Building Rm. 104  
Lorman, MS 39096

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Delaware State University  
College of Agriculture & Related Sciences  
1200 North Dupont Highway  
Baker Building Annex, Room 102  
Dover, DE 19901

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Florida A&M University  
1740 South Martin L. King Jr., Boulevard  
Room 217, S. Perry-Paige Building.  
Tallahassee, FL 32307-4100

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

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Kentucky State University  
Cooperative Extension Building, Room 221  
400 East Main Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Langston University  
School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences  
100 Success Drive, Room V115  
P.O. Box 846  
Langston, OK 73050

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Lincoln University  
108 Bennett Hall  
818 Lee Drive.  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
North Carolina A&T University  
1601 East Market Street  
107 B.C. Webb Hall  
Greensboro, NC 27411

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Prairie View A&M University  
E. E. O'Banion CARC Building, Room 119  
P. O. Box 2736  
Prairie View, TX 77446

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
South Carolina State University  
300 College Avenue, N.E.  
P.O. Box 7246  
Orangeburg, SC 29117

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Southern University and A&M College  
College of Agriculture, Family & Consumer Sciences  
Fisher Hall, Room 102  
Baton Rouge, LA 70813

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Tennessee State University  
3500 John Merritt Boulevard.  
Ag Science Dept., Room 112  
P.O. Box 9629  
Nashville, TN 37209-1561

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Tuskegee University  
College of Agricultural,  
Environmental and Natural Sciences  
Campbell Hall, Room 103  
Tuskegee, AL 36088

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
University of Arkansas Pine Bluff  
1200 North University  
Mail Slot: 4806  
Pine Bluff, AR 71611-2799

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
University of Maryland Eastern Shore  
Trigg Hall, Room 1137  
Princess Anne, MD 21853

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
Virginia State University  
P.O. Box 9416  
Carter G. Woodson Avenue  
Owens Hall, Room 101C  
Petersburg, VA 23806

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison  
West Virginia State University  
302 Curtis R&E Complex  
P.O. Box 1000  
Institute, WV 25112-1000

# Application Must Be Postmarked by

# February 1

**For all questions, please contact:**

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration  
Office of Advocacy and Outreach  
USDA/1890 Programs  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Stop 9821  
Washington, DC 20250  
Telephone Number: (202) 260-8415  
Fax Number: (202) 720-7136  
Email: 1890init@usda.gov

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