

United States Department of Agriculture

USDA/1890 National Scholars Program

COLLEGE 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 rising college sophomores and juniors 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 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's 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

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

OBJECTIVE

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program offers scholarships to U.S. citizens that are seeking a bachelor's degree at one of the eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities 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 Universities. 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 academic years the scholarship is awarded, 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.

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 attending or currently attending one of the eighteen 1890 Universities.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

Applicant must:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Have applied for admission or currently attending one of the eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale)
- Intend to study agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, or other related disciplines
- Demonstrate leadership and community service
- Submit a 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 recommendation from the following:
 - Department Head, Dean of College, or a University Vice President
 - College Professor who has instructed 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 complete the application process, applicants must do the following:

- Complete the Privacy Act Advisory Statement and Release Form
- Complete Biographical Questionnaire
- Prepare a current resume
- Submit two letters of recommendation from:
 - Department Head, Dean of College, or a University Vice President
 - College Professor who has instructed the applicant
- Prepare a 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
- **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 ensuring that the college/university prepares a current official transcript and that 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 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 College / University currently attending: _____

Address: _____
Street
City/Town
State
Zip Code

Telephone: _____

GPA (on a 4.0 unweighted 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 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

Candidate's Biographical Questionnaire

3. Name of the 1890 University to which you are applying: _____
4. 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.

5. 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 at each 1890 University. Check the University's academic offerings before applying.

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

Activity	Participation Dates	Offices Held	Special Awards

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

D. 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 transcript to each 1890 University of interest (see addresses on page 11 of this application).
3.	I have applied for admission or am currently enrolled at each 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant University of interest.
4.	I have read and completed the Candidate's Biographical Information section.
5.	I have enclosed two letters of recommendation from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Department Head, Dean of College, or one of the University Vice Presidents 2. College Professor who has served as an instructor in one of my courses
6.	I have enclosed a 500-800 word essay describing 1) my interest in USDA, 2) how I envision the scholarship will impact me and my future as a public servant, and 3) my experiences and perceptions about agriculture, food, and natural resource sciences.
7.	I have signed and dated the application (original signature only).
8.	I understand that the application package must be postmarked no later than February 1 for consideration for the USDA/1890 Scholars Programs Scholarship.
9.	I understand that if selected as a USDA/1890 Scholar; I must submit a current official transcript to validate that I have successfully met all eligibility requirements.

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
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 0170
Washington, DC 20250
Telephone Number: (202) 720-6350
Fax Number: (202) 720-7704
Email: 1890init@usda.gov

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