

2022-2023 Undergraduate Scholarship Application

REFERENCE FORM

How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant? (Maximum 500 characters)

Please rate the applicant with respect to the following characteristics.

	Below Average	Average	Good	Very Good	Exceptional	No Basis for Judgment
Motivation and persistence toward academic and career goals						
Creative solutions to problems						
Ability to work with others						
Independence and self-reliance						
Leadership potential (strategic thinking, interpersonal communication, thoughtful decision-making)						
Understanding of fundamental knowledge of the field						

Provide examples of how the applicant has demonstrated at least one of the above characteristics. (Maximum 4,000 characters)

[For TA references only]

Supervising professor's name:

Supervising professor's title:

Supervising professor's email address:

- By checking this box, you verify that this reference form has been co-signed by the supervising professor of record. The NOAA Office of Education reserves the right to contact the supervising professor regarding any questions of the integrity of this reference form. You also acknowledge that any discrepancy between the supervising professor's accounts and that of this reference form could render this application ineligible.**

ESSAY QUESTIONS

The following questions include self-descriptions of your academic, research, if any, and career goals as they relate to NOAA's mission <http://www.noaa.gov>, and how your participation in the scholarship program will help you achieve those goals. Responses will be used to evaluate you as an individual, not necessarily as a scientist, and your motivation for applying for these scholarships. Responses should demonstrate your interest in NOAA's mission, creative solutions to problems, ability to overcome challenges, leadership potential (strategic thinking, interpersonal communication, integrity, thoughtful decision making), impact of this opportunity on your academic and/or career goals, and motivation to persist in career goals as it relates to supporting the NOAA mission.

1. Describe your academic, research (if any), and career goals as they relate to NOAA's mission. (Maximum 1,500 characters)
2. What is your motivation for applying to the Hollings and/or the EPP/MSI undergraduate scholarship? (Maximum 1,500 characters)
3. Briefly discuss a scientific, environmental, or community challenge that you would like to address through this scholarship. What is the problem, why is it important to you, and what are some ways you propose to address it? (Maximum 1,500 characters)
4. Provide an example of a time when you've demonstrated leadership in which you utilized strategic thinking, strong communication with others, and thoughtful decision-making. (Maximum 1,500 characters)
5. Provide an example of when you've had to persist through a challenge in reaching your academic goals. (Maximum 1,500 characters)
6. How will you benefit from the Hollings or EPP/MSI undergraduate scholarship opportunity? What personal or professional opportunities would this scholarship provide for you? (Maximum 1,500 characters)

REVIEWER RATING FORM

Reviewers will score each student application based on the Applicant Information, the Essay Questions, the two References, and Transcript(s) using the specific rating instructions below. Applications should demonstrate interest in NOAA's mission, creative solutions to problems, ability to overcome challenges, leadership potential, impact of the scholarship on their academic and/or career goals, and motivation to persist in their academic and/or career goals.

Short Answer Responses: 60 points

Please refer to the Essay Questions section of the application to rate the applicant's written responses on a scale of 1-10, where a score of 1 is Poor, a score of 5 is Average, and a score of 10 is Excellent.

Interest in NOAA's Mission

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Career and academic plans are unclear, or show no alignment to NOAA's mission	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Career and academic plans are clearly outlined and show strong connection to NOAA's mission.

Motivation to Persist in Career Goals

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Applicant demonstrates minimal commitment to NOAA-related professional goals. Responses do not successfully convey willingness to work towards a successful career in the field.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Applicant demonstrates exceptional commitment to NOAA-related professional goals. Responses reveal strong willingness to excel in the field and have a lasting impact and significant contributions within the scientific community.

Creative Solutions to Problems

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Applicant does not effectively present approaches that reveal the ability to creatively solve problems. Responses reveal minimal understanding of issues within the field and have little to no connection between problem-solving and benefit to the broader community.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Applicant effectively presents innovative approaches that reveal the ability to creatively solve problems. Responses demonstrate appropriate levels of understanding of issues within the field and how their problem-solving will benefit the broader community.

Leadership Potential

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Applicant demonstrates limited strategic and critical thinking, and interpersonal communication. Responses illustrate few efforts to encourage others and to make thoughtful decisions.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Applicant demonstrates exemplary levels of strategic and critical thinking, and interpersonal communication. Responses illustrate strong ability to encourage others, and make thoughtful decisions that benefit the broader community.

Ability to Overcome Challenges

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Applicant demonstrates minimal resilience or personal drive. Responses reveal little to no understanding of the problem, and minimal discipline in remaining goal-driven.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Applicant demonstrates exemplary levels of resilience and personal drive. Responses reveal strong understanding of the problem, and discipline in remaining goal-driven.

Scholarship Impact

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Application does not effectively convey how the scholarship funding, mentorship, and activities will enhance opportunities for academic and professional development - and any other goals.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Application effectively conveys how the scholarship funding, mentorship, and activities will enhance opportunities for academic and professional development - and any other goals.

References: 20 points

Please refer to the Reference Form to rate the applicant’s references on a scale of 1-20, where a score of 1 is Poor, a score of 10 is Average, and a score of 20 is Excellent.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
References express limited support of the applicant receiving the scholarship, conveying minimal statements and examples to show promise in applicant’s success in scholarship.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	References express strong support of the applicant receiving the scholarship, conveying compelling statements and examples that emphasize promise in applicant’s success in scholarship.

Relevant Coursework: 15 points

Please refer to the applicant’s transcript to rate the applicant’s relevant coursework on a scale of 1-15, where a score of 1 is Poor, a score of 7 is Average, and a score of 15 is Excellent.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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Coursework demonstrates limited mastery in courses related to NOAA sciences and applicant's academic and/or career goals.

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Coursework demonstrates strong mastery in courses related to NOAA sciences and applicant's academic and/or career goals.

Additional Experience: 5 points

Please refer to the [Activities section](#) of the application to rate the applicant's experience on a scale of 1-5, where a score of 1 is Poor, a score of 3 is Average, and a score of 5 is Excellent. Applicants should receive credit for extracurricular activities, non-academic work, and volunteering that demonstrate commitment to personal and/or professional development, community service, and establishing a well-rounded portfolio of work. Note that experience related to NOAA sciences are not required to receive a score of 5.

1 2 3 4 5

Applicant has limited experience through extracurricular activities, non-academic work, or volunteering.

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Applicant has significant experience through extracurricular activities, non-academic work, or volunteering.

Please provide any additional comments.

Public Burden Statement

A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with an information collection subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 unless the information collection has a currently valid OMB Control Number. The approved OMB Control Number for this information collection is 0648-0568. Without this approval, we could not conduct this information collection. Public reporting for this information collection is estimated to be approximately 12 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collection. All responses to this information collection are required to obtain benefits. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this information collection, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the NOAA Office of Education, Natasha White, Natasha.White@noaa.gov.

Privacy Act Statement

Authority: The collection of this information is authorized under 5 U.S.C. 301, Departmental Regulations and 15 U.S.C. 1512, Powers and duties of Department.

Purpose: NOAA's Office of Education proposes to collect contact information and associated background information of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as recent graduates, for the purpose of tracking scholarship recipients' academic progress, making annual financial awards, and tracking graduate studies and career progress. Demographic information will be used to measure the success of stated Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) goals only. This information will not be used to determine program eligibility.

NOAA Routine Uses: NOAA will use this information to evaluate and assess student data and information for the purpose of selecting successful candidates for scholarships, fellowships and internships, generating internal NOAA reports, and articles to demonstrate the success of its program.

Disclosure of this information is permitted under the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. Section 552a) to be shared among NOAA staff for work-related purposes. Disclosure of this information is also subject to all of the published routine uses as identified in the Privacy Act System of Records Notice Commerce/NOAA-14, Office of Education, Educational Partnership Program (EPP); Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program and National Marine Fisheries Service Recruitment, Training, and Research Program.

Obligation to Respond: Furnishing this information is voluntary; however, failure to provide information may prevent consideration of your application for the program.