

Astronaut Scholarship Foundation

PHILOSOPHY AND PROCEDURES

Applicable to Nominations for the Astronaut Foundation Scholarships, 2010-2011

History: The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation was created from the Mercury Seven Foundation that was formed in 1984 by the original class of American astronauts. In the beginning, the Mercury Seven Foundation depended largely on direct contributions resulting from the activities of the Founders. The Astronauts remain strongly committed to the Foundation and participate actively in building the best possible program dedicated to encouragement of outstanding young Americans to pursue careers in science and engineering, especially in fields with strong research and applied components. Just as they were pioneers in space, the Founders wished to encourage and nurture potential pioneers in all aspects of science and technology. The Mercury Seven have been joined in this endeavor by the Gemini, Apollo, Skylab and Shuttle astronauts to make the Foundation a true legacy of America's space pioneers. Many of the astronauts elected to the Hall of Fame participate in the Foundation—all are invited to do so.

Institution Selection: Identification of America's finest and potentially most creative and productive young science students is a challenging undertaking. Thus, it was decided early on to select institutions with histories of strong undergraduate programs and which produce significant numbers of professional scientists, academic scientists, engineers and researchers. Because it is impossible to predict the discipline where cutting edge research is going to be, we seek nominations from all fields of science and technology. Further, because the best research laboratories and libraries are found in colleges and universities with full academic programs through the doctoral level, selections are limited to such institutions. In practice, and by intent, once selected to receive an Astronaut Scholarship, the institution remains in the program until such time as cause may arise to terminate the association. Our cooperating selected institutions are assured that there is a continuing commitment to have an Astronaut Foundation Scholar on the campus.

Institution's Role: The institution selected to participate in the Foundation scholarship program is expected to play an active role in the dissemination of information about the scholarship and in the selection process for the scholarship. The Foundation requires that the selection process on campus be undertaken with review of the nominees by a committee that includes several scientifically literate members. The function of the campus committee is to select the two nominations to be forwarded to the Foundation Scholarship Committee for the final selection. In the unlikely case where either nominee is unacceptable to the Foundation, the scholarship will be withheld for that year. Two nominations meeting our requirements concerning citizenship and academic level, as well as a complete nomination package are necessary before the Foundation can consider the nominations. Submission of any unacceptable candidates for a consecutive year will result in termination of the program to that campus. For 2010-2011, the amount provided for a single scholarship is \$10,000.

Scholarship Application Process: Students may not apply directly for an Astronaut Scholarship Foundation award. The student must be nominated by a faculty member who knows the student well enough to identify a special drive or talent that foreshadows a creative career leading to advancement of scientific knowledge and technology. Accordingly, nominees must have proven themselves by their achievements for at least two years of full time undergraduate enrollment at the nominating institution, or by completion of a baccalaureate degree and have demonstrated the intent to pursue advanced study. Thus, truly exceptional undergraduates who have completed two years of full time study on the designated campus may be nominated for their junior or senior year. Also, outstanding full time students in residence may be nominated to pursue studies at the master's level, with the stipulation that the student must be a resident on the nominating campus at the time of nomination. Further, the scholarship may not be transferred to another degree program or institution. We require that all nominees be American citizens.

The complete nomination package for two candidates is required for each institution. The selection of the two candidates is at the discretion of the campus selection committee. However, the Foundation recommends you receive at least ten student nominations from faculty members. At least one of the two final candidates must be an undergraduate student. Student standing will not, and does not, come into consideration by the Scholarship Committee that makes the final selection. Although need is given consideration if both nominees are deemed equal, it is not a driving force in the selection process. It is the desire of the Foundation to encourage the most creative and innovative candidates who have the drive and ability to move into unknown territory. Please note that emphasis is placed upon demonstrated potential or ability and a drive to do research and to develop new ideas, inventions and innovative technology. Therefore, potential

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practitioners using technology in the health, medical and veterinary sciences, *e. g.*, pre-medical students, are *not* sought by the Foundation as nominees.

Scholarship Renewal: The Astronaut Foundation Scholar may have the scholarship continued to completion of the degree program for which the award was made with a normal maximum of two awards. Renewal is based upon performance satisfactory to the Foundation as documented by the required reports. These are a current transcript documenting satisfactory performance and a letter report from the scholar directly and/or the supervising professor after conclusion of the first term. Because a single scholarship resides on a campus at any one time, formal nominations are requested only when a new scholar must be named.

Liaison Officer: The Foundation requires each institution maintain a Liaison Officer to be the sole correspondent with the Foundation. The liaison on each campus serves the critical functions of distributing information and nomination materials to science and engineering faculty, collecting and collating the nominations to determine that they are complete and will be acceptable. Once nominations are submitted, a committee is convened to select the two nominees to be forwarded. The checks for the scholarship and other correspondence will be transmitted via the Liaison Officer. Normally, the student grade and progress reports are transmitted by the Liaison Officer but the Foundation readily accepts reports transmitted by other administrative offices or faculty at the request of the Liaison Officer. Early in each calendar year the Liaison Officer of record is contacted by telephone by the Scholarship Committee chair to confirm the assignment of the scholarship and the identity of the Liaison Officer for the coming year. These informal conferences also provide an opportunity to share ideas and information about operation of the program. Please notify the Foundation office of any changes in the Liaison Officer in order to avoid unnecessary delays in communication.

Scholar Status Reports: The Foundation requires an annual and a terminal report including a copy of the Scholar's academic records, which must be released as a condition of acceptance. Informal reports are welcome from either the Scholar or professor at any time outlining the progress of the work or future plans as well as reports at the end of the term. Such reports including recent developments or successes are most helpful to the Foundation for publicity purposes as it seeks to increase both the number and value of the scholarships.

Scholarship Check Disbursement: We wish to be apprised at once of any special problems with the enrollment of our Scholars. The Foundation will release funds in two equal parts during the academic year at the beginning of each term with first priority to tuition and fees. Should the total amount available exceed the demand for tuition and fees, the remainder is to be released to the student for purchase of books, personal equipment, attending a scientific meeting or other appropriate uses to meet other academic expenses that need not be accounted for by the Scholar. The checks for the scholarship are normally issued in August and December and are transmitted to the Liaison Officer of record in the Foundation office. The Foundation requires a statement from the advisor that the Scholar is still eligible under the Foundation's guidelines. Therefore, the Foundation wishes to be apprised when Liaison Officers are changed. ***Please note that the Foundation pays no overhead expense and the full amount is an award to the student.***

The Executive Director of the Foundation will provide some basic information for press releases when the scholarships are awarded. Please utilize the information provided to bring public recognition to your institution as well as the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation scholarship. Please submit copies of any reports of recognition given to your institution related to the scholarship winner in the press or other publications. Such press releases are of value to the Foundation for raising money to support our growing scholarship program and should not compromise your institution's fund-raising efforts. The Foundation may opt to send a representative and/or an astronaut member to present the Scholar with their check at a public ceremony. The Foundation will aid as much as possible with media and on-campus awareness. However, we expect the university to use its best efforts in publicizing such an event on and off campus. Your assistance with such arrangements is much appreciated. If your university wishes to arrange for an astronaut to participate in a public program, the Executive Director should be contacted as soon as possible for detailed information.

Astronaut Scholar Alumni: Being selected as an Astronaut Scholar is the beginning of a life-long bond with the Foundation and other Scholars. Past scholars, now over 200 representing all scientific and technological fields, have joined the Astronaut Scholars Honor Society Committee (ASHS) which allows them to maintain these relationships. The ASHS web site is www.astronautscholars.org where information about activities and programs and a chat room can be found. They have met annually for the past few years at the time of the Foundation Board of Directors meeting and the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame Induction in Florida and have participated in special programs, including a technical

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conference. Some schools have chosen to fund their student for these activities. A tradition has developed for holding a luncheon limited to astronauts and Scholars where they can get acquainted with each other on a one-on-one basis and without external distractions from others. Scholars are important to the future of the Foundation and two chairs on the Board of Directors are presently held by past Scholars. Participation is strongly encouraged whether by appearance at a meeting, an office visit or by e-mail.

We are pleased to have you in our scholarship program as we pursue the common goal of educating promising young American men and women in the fields of science and technology. Please feel free to call, e-mail or FAX our office should any questions or problems arise where we might be of assistance.

2010-2011 ASTRONAUT SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION INSTITUTIONS

Georgia Institute of Technology	Purdue University	University of Kentucky
Harvey Mudd College	Syracuse University	University of Michigan
Miami University	Texas A & M University	University of Minnesota
North Carolina A & T University	Tufts University	University of Oklahoma
North Carolina State University	University of Central Florida	University of Washington
North Dakota State University	University of Colorado	Washington University
Pennsylvania State University		

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