

ALABAMA SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM 2012-2013 Teacher Education Scholarship Program

Scholarships for Pre-Service Teachers in Science & Mathematics



Participating Consortium Members:

Alabama A&M University
Auburn University
The University of Alabama
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
The University of South Alabama
Tuskegee University

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Online Application: <https://secure.spacegrant.org/apps/?pk=als1>



ALABAMA SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM

Teacher Education Scholarship Program

Program Summary

In 1998, Congress passed legislation that established the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program (NSGCFP) to address scientific and technological workforce needs and the national decline in scholastic achievement, especially in math and science. There are now 52 Space Grant Consortia in all states, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico with over 500 participating institutions. They are united by the common goals of developing the educational and economic benefits of aerospace research and exploration.

The Alabama Space Grant Consortium (ASGC) includes seven Ph.D. granting universities (Alabama A&M University, Auburn University, The University of Alabama, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, The University of Alabama in Huntsville, The University of South Alabama and Tuskegee University), all with space-related research activities, six industrial affiliates and the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. NASA Marshall Space Flight Center is an ex-officio member of the Consortium. As a participant in the NSGCFP, the ASGC promotes America's preeminence in aerospace into the next century. The ASGC is housed in Huntsville, home to NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, making available NASA's technology to all Alabama institutions of higher education. The ASGC promotes institutional cooperation and expands capabilities, rather than directly supporting technical research. The ASGC, established in 1989, leverages its NASA funds by more than 2 to 1. A major goal of the ASGC is to develop programs that will help improve the science and mathematics education of all students, and thereby provide a more scientifically literate population.

To this end the nation needs an increased supply of students, well-prepared individuals who are fully qualified to teach mathematics and science in our elementary and secondary schools. It is important for college students to understand that teachers are central to any effort to effect reform in science and mathematics and, for that reason, undergraduates must be encouraged to enter the teaching field.

To encourage talented individuals to pursue studies leading to teaching certification in the sciences and mathematics, the ASGC has established a competitive, undergraduate teacher education scholarship program to complement its existing science and engineering-based scholarships. Funding for these awards is provided through the ASGC and is subject to availability of NASA funds.

Program Goals

The ASGC provides a competitive Teacher Education Scholarship for Alabama's Space Grant colleges with the goals of:

- Encouraging students to pursue degrees leading to becoming teachers of the sciences and mathematics, especially earth, space and environmental science.
- Recognizing high academic achievement and promise.
- Increasing participation of underrepresented minorities, females and disabled students in these fields.
- Implementing the goals of the ASGC and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

General Information

Award Level

Undergraduate teacher education scholarship awards are one-year, **non-renewable** scholarships limited to a maximum of \$1,000 student stipend. Awards will be announced in mid-May, with funding provided to students through the universities for the next academic year. Awards may be applied to the summer session before or after the academic year. Normally the student's tuition account will be credited after registration. Awards are subject to availability of NASA funding.

Eligibility Requirements

The Undergraduate Teacher Education Scholarship applicant must be:

- A U.S. citizen.
- Enrolled as a full-time student (minimum of 12 credit hours) at an ASGC member University and must be on a track that would qualify them to teach in a precollege setting. Priority will be given to those majoring in the sciences and mathematics, especially earth, space and environmental science.
- In good academic standing with a GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Since this award is intended to encourage students to enter teaching, students may also apply during their senior year in high school or in their sophomore year in a community college, with the award contingent on their matriculation at a Space Grant college and entrance into a teacher certification program. Students currently enrolled in a Space Grant college can apply when they declare their intent to enter the teacher certification program.

Undergraduate Scholarship Application

Applicants must click "new user registration" button to begin the online application. All applications must be received by **Thursday, March 1, 2012**. Letters of recommendation must be submitted by the reference and all transcripts should be submitted by **Wednesday, March 7, 2012**.

Interested students must complete an online application found at the following link: <https://secure.spacegrant.org/apps/?pk=als1>. Please read all program guidelines including applicant eligibility and reporting requirements before submitting your application. The application must be submitted online and all information must be completed or the application will not be reviewed. After an online preliminary screening by the Campus Director, applications for final consideration will be reported by the Campus Director to the Consortium Director for review by the ASGC Management Team. Successful applicants will be announced in mid-May. Starting dates for new awards will generally be expected to coincide with normal academic term starting dates. The key components of the application are discussed in more detail below.

- **Student Resume:** A brief resume of the applicant must be submitted as a PDF in the online application. The student's resume should include a short summary of education, training and accomplishments both inside and outside the educational world or any other relevant information (e.g., tutoring or other teaching experience, relevant community service, etc.).
- **Transcripts:** Unofficial transcripts from all institutions and from the current institution with most recent grades are required and can be submitted as a PDF in the online application. If the applicant does not have a PDF conversion tool, links to free online PDF converters are provided within the application. Applicants must also submit one "official" copy from the current institution with most recent grades for verification purposes to the Program Office by **Wednesday, March 7, 2012**. Unofficial grade reports for the Fall semester are acceptable if followed by a certified official transcript as soon as it is available.

- **Letters of Recommendation:** Applicants are required to provide the names and contact information for two references. At least one of the two must be from a science or math teacher who knows the student's desire to enter the teaching profession. Letters of recommendation should assess the student's potential as a teacher as well as their progress and achievements in the specific science or math discipline being studied. The letters should be addressed to the appropriate campus director and once you have submitted your online application, both of these individuals will be contacted via email by AL Space Grant to request a letter of recommendation on behalf of the applicant. References will be provided with a link to submit the recommendation. For the application to be complete, both letters of recommendation must be submitted by the mentioned due date. AL Space Grant suggests applicants contact the references listed and inform them in advance they will receive an email requesting this information on their behalf from applications@spacegrant.org.
- **Academic and Career Goals Statement:** The academic and career goals statement should briefly relate the student's reasons for their desire to enter the teaching profession, specifically the fields of science or math education, how they see themselves in such a career and what they hope to accomplish both inside and outside of the educational world.

Awardee Requirements

Awardees are required to submit a brief final report (via email) to the Consortium Program Office (spacegrant@uah.edu) at the completion of their award period.

Information to be furnished in the final report should include:

- Summary description - prepared as part of your academic experience, a report on a student teaching or mentoring process, or a report on another project specifically developed to fulfill the requirement of this award.
- Future plans - describe future education and career plans. If you know where you will be working upon graduation, please include this contact information.
- Significant results of your experience (e.g., a list of presentations made, awards and honors).

Note: *Teacher Educator Scholarship awardees are NOT required to complete the Researcher Interviews or Outreach Activities component as required by other ASGC Scholars.*

Additionally, awardees must:

- Provide a photo and biographical information upon selection;
- Inform the Consortium Program Office of changes of address; and
- Respond to academic and employment follow-up surveys administered by AL Space Grant as required by NASA.

Disposition of Unused Funds

If a student is unable to complete their academic program in the year of the award, a prorated share of scholarship funds must be returned to the ASGC Program Office at UAH and their scholarship will be terminated. Scholarship funds are not transferable.

Inquiries

Questions concerning the preparation and submission of proposals, awards, and the administration of this program may be directed to the appropriate campus director or the ASGC Program office.

Equal Opportunity

Applicants for the Teacher Education Scholarship Program will be considered for appointment as NASA Space Grant Scholars without regard to race, creed, color, age or handicap.

Acknowledgement

Any written materials supported in part from this award shall acknowledge the ASGC NASA Training Grant #NNX10AJ80H.

Management and Administration

The Alabama Space Grant Consortium is composed of seven Ph.D. granting universities in the state of Alabama: Alabama A&M University, Auburn University, The University of Alabama, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, The University of Alabama in Huntsville, University of South Alabama and Tuskegee University. The Alabama Space Grant Program is administered by The University of Alabama in Huntsville, a Space Grant College.

The Consortium Director and a Campus Director on each of the seven campuses constitute the Consortium Management Team. The names, addresses, and phone numbers are as follows:

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