Application Process for UAH NSF Scholarship for Service

Background. UAH is a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance /Cyber Defense and was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation that allows the University to select students for award of full-ride scholarships to study cyber security. Students awarded a scholarship must be enrolled full time at UAH to receive scholarship support.   These scholarships pay for tuition, reimburse UAH health insurance up to a maximum of $2,000/year, reimbursement for books up to $1,000/year, and pay for professional development/travel up to $3,000/year.   In addition, a stipend is paid each academic year in the amount of $20,000 for undergraduates and $32,000 for MS and PhD students.

A service obligation to the US Government is required following graduation – one year of service in a cyber-security related position for each year of scholarship received.   In addition, students on scholarship are expected to serve in a government cybersecurity related position paid internship during the summer semester. Participation in a government "job fair" in early January in Washington DC is required of all students supported by this program.

The scholarships are awarded for two academic years (four semesters) for undergraduates and Master's degree students and for three years (six semesters) for PhD students. A single student cannot receive more than one SFS scholarship.

Eligibility for Scholarship.   To be eligible to apply for an SFS scholarship, the applicant must be a full time student with a minimum of a 3.2 GPA (as an undergraduate) and 3.5 GPA as a Graduate Student and be in a bachelor's (junior or above) or graduate degree program in the discipline of Computer Science, Software Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Information Systems, Modeling and Simulation or Cybersecurity.   The applicant must be a U.S. Citizen, be able to obtain a U.S. security clearance, and meet all requirements for employment in Federal Service.   In addition, the offer of a scholarship is contingent upon the student obtaining admission into a qualifying UAH program of study. Students selected for this program will be required to sign a service agreement that outlines the obligation to serve in Federal Government or equivalent position after graduation.   Students selected for scholarship support as undergraduates must be entering their junior year of studies. For applicants not already admitted to UAH, any offer of scholarship will be contingent on admission acceptance to UAH in one of the disciplines listed above.

Application Process.   To apply for this scholarship, applicants must submit the following to Dr. Ray Vaughn, Vice President for Research and Economic Development, M-17 Von Braun Research Hall, The University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL 35899 not later than April 1, 2016.   Applications may be mailed or delivered in person.   Each application must contain the following:

- A cover letter that provides the applicant's full name, school address, home address, cell phone number, home phone number, student email address, and a statement that the applicant is a US Citizen. In addition, the cover letter should describe the applicant's current academic progress (BS, MS, or PhD student) and date of anticipated graduation.
- A copy of all of the applicant's transcripts (unofficial transcripts are acceptable)
- ACT or SAT score for undergraduates
- Two letters of reference (must not be family members)
- A letter from the applicant not to exceed two typewritten single spaced pages that discusses the applicant's motivation for applying, interest in cybersecurity, any past relevant experiences, and future plans. Please include any current or past military service.
- Resume

Additional Information. Failure to satisfy the academic requirements of the program or to complete the service requirement will result in forfeiture of the scholarship award, which will revert to a student loan with repayments pro-rated accordingly to reflect partial service completed. The institution is responsible for collecting the repayment amounts, including interest, consistent with the provisions of part B or D of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. All forfeited scholarship funds, less grantee costs associated with collection of the repayment not to exceed 5% of the forfeited amount, will be returned to the United States Treasury and may not be re-used by the awardee institution. Scholarship recipients in coordination with the institution and the PI may petition the NSF Program Office to waive or suspend repayment of scholarships in cases of extreme hardship or other circumstances that would preclude the fulfillment of the service obligation.

Questions: A Frequently Asked Questions list can be found at https://www.sfs.opm.gov/StudFAQ.aspx

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