2027-2028 Undergraduate Teacher Education Scholarship Program

Scholarships for Pre-Service Teachers in Science & Mathematics

Objective

The objective of the Undergraduate Teacher Education Scholarship opportunity is to encourage students pursue degrees leading to become teachers of the sciences and mathematics.

Overview

A major goal of the Alabama Space Grant Consortium (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.

Award Level

AL Space Grant undergraduate teacher education scholarship awards are a one-year, non-renewable scholarships limited to a maximum of $1,500 student stipend (or $750 for one semester).

This is a competitive scholarship program supported by NASA and the State of Alabama. Awards are based on merit, recognizing high academic achievement and promise. Awards are made annually.

Awards are contingent upon receipt of NASA funding and the quality of submitted proposals.

Eligibility Requirements

The Undergraduate Teacher Education Scholarship applicants must meet the following requirements:

- A United States citizen.
- Enrolled as a full-time student (minimum of 12 credit hours) at an accredited university or college in the State of Alabama during the 2027-2028 academic year and must be on a track that would qualify them to teach in a pre-college 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 3.0 (out of 4.0).

Student currently enrolled in an accredited Alabama college or university can apply when they declare their intent to enter the teacher certification program.

Deadlines

- **Student applications due - midnight, Monday, March 1, 2027**
- **Faculty Letter of Recommendation due – midnight, Monday, March 8, 2027**

Awards will be announced in late April/early May 2027, contingent upon receipt of NASA funds.

Application Instructions

Apply for the Alabama Space Grant Undergraduate Teacher Education Scholarship by clicking here:
https://www.uah.edu/asgc/applications/scholarship
Applicants must click the new user registration button to begin the application.

Interested students must complete an online application. All information must be complete – including faculty letter of recommendation – or the application will not be reviewed. Please read all program guidelines, including Eligibility Requirements, Proposal Review and Evaluation Criteria, and Awardee Requirements before preparing and submitting your application. Awards are based on research merit and promise, adherence to the instructions and availability of federal funds.

Students are requested to respond to these key components of the application:

- **Student Resume**: A brief resume of the applicant must be submitted 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.

- **University 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. Applicants must submit one transcript from each institution of higher education attended where you have received 10 or more credit hours. If the applicant does not have a .pdf conversion tool, links to free online .pdf converters are provided within the application. Official transcripts may be requested for verification.

- **Faculty Recommendation Letter**: Applicants should request a faculty member write and submit a letter of recommendation that addresses the student's desire to enter the teaching profession. The letter or recommendation should assess the students' potential as a teacher as well as their progress and achievements in the specific science or math discipline being studied. The online application system will contact your reference via email 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, the letter of recommendation must be submitted by **Monday, March 8, 2027.** AL Space Grant suggests applicants contact the reference listed and inform them in advance they will receive an email requesting this information on their behalf from ***notices@spacegrant.org***.

- **Note: Teacher Educator Scholarship Awardees are NOT required to complete a research project or show NASA Mission Directorate alignment.**

- **STEM Outreach Statement**: In your own words, describe your past educational and research experiences in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Include any leadership roles that you have held and describe experiences that best demonstrate your leadership abilities. While describing your leadership abilities include how you could use these for K-12 outreach. (500 words or less)

- **Goals Statement:** Students should describe their short- and long-term career goals/future education and career plans. Students should briefly relate their reasons for their desire to enter the teaching profession, how they see themselves in such a career and what they hope to accomplish both inside and outside the educational world. (500 words or less).

Proposal Review and Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be review by a panel of academic and subject-matter professionals who are technically literate, but not necessarily experts in the field of education.
Proposals will be evaluated for educational merit, which be scored per the parameters below:

- Academic and Career Goals (50%)
- Anticipated Impacts on Students (25%)
- Faculty Letter of Recommendation (25%)

The selection of awarded proposals will reflect the full external review process, panel recommendations, available funding and current program priorities.

Awardee Requirements

The Undergraduate Teacher Education Scholar must meet the following requirements:

- Provide a head shot photo and acceptance form upon selection.
- Submit a final report to the AL Space Grant. 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).
- Attend AL Space Grant Awards Day in the Fall of 2027.
- Share their research experiences in public forums or educational settings. Presentations that encourage interest in aerospace careers and research to high school students are of particular interest to the AL Space Grant.
- Conduct an outreach activity at a local K-12 school or event. To include reporting of outreach information.
- Credit AL Space Grant for sponsoring the activity in all printed materials (e.g. use the AL Space grant logo on posters, credit and tag on social media, etc.).
- Inform the Consortium of changes of address.
- Respond to academic and employment follow-up surveys administered by AL Space Grant as required by NASA.
- Create a student profile in the NASA Gateway system: https://stemgateway.nasa.gov/public/s/login/SelfRegister?eoId=a0Bt000000AUwD6EAL

Disposition of Unused Funds

If a student is unable to complete their academic program in the year of the award, a prorated share of fellowship funds must be returned to the AL Space Grant and their fellowship will be terminated. Scholarship funds are not transferable.

Contact

Alabama Space Grant Consortium

Debora Nielson
debora.nielson@uah.edu
(256) 824-6800

Melissa Simmons
melissa.simmons@uah.edu
(256) 824-6806