SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION POLICY

Purpose To establish and outline the scholarship selection policy of the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF), provide the program's scope, operational relationships, and programmatic functions within the organization, and ensure the scholarship program is efficiently executed and monitored.

Scope ASF will select students from approved universities and institutions and provide scholarships annually, where the nominations provided meet the established Selection Criteria.

Scholarship Nomination and Selection Criteria

Nomination:

Recipients of scholarships from ASF are designated as "Astronaut Scholars". Astronaut Scholars will be selected from approved universities and institutions annually.

All students considered for the scholarship must meet the following requirements:

- Must be nominated by faculty at an ASF affiliated university or institution;
- Must be a U.S. citizen (verified by birth certificate, US passport, or naturalization papers);
- Must have completed two years of full-time study at an ASF affiliated university or institution and demonstrated exemplary academic performance, as noted in transcripts (NOTE: Students may be nominated during their second year of full-time study, for a scholarship that will begin in the third year.);
- Must be a junior or senior at the time their scholarship begins and attending that same ASF affiliated university or institution, and;
    - Must be majoring in an undergraduate degree program in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM), that is listed in the Appendix. The list of approved STEM majors has been derived from the National Science Foundation's approved fields of study for their Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) with the exception of the categories of Psychology, Social Sciences, and STEM Education and Learning Research which are specifically excluded from ASF Scholarship eligibility;
- Should be a full-time student during both semesters of the ASF supported academic year to receive the full scholarship, which is up to $10,000 (one-semester students may be eligible with Scholarship Committee Chair approval);

- Must have conducted a considerable amount of work outside the classroom in their chosen field of study. This may include laboratory research, cooperative education, internships, relevant military experience, entrepreneurial endeavors, and/or documented independent work resulting in technical papers, patents, or similar work product;

- Must be nominated for consideration by a professor or faculty member who knows the student well enough to identify a special drive or talent that foreshadows a creative career leading to the advancement of scientific knowledge and technology.

Policy Considerations

An awarded scholarship may not be transferred to another degree program or institution.

The scholarship is primarily intended for undergraduate study. Students may be nominated for the scholarship, and the funds can be used for graduate level programs only when enrolled in a Combined Bachelor's / Master's degree program.

Student financial need is not a criterion for consideration of this merit-based scholarship award; but *may* be considered given equally qualified nominees.

ASF generally follows the National Science Foundation's GRFP guidance when considering nominations related to medical related fields of study. Scholarships shall not be awarded to pre-medical studies, and students who intend to enter clinical practice, clinical medical and patient-oriented research, health services, health policy, disease prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and similar endeavors are not eligible. Bioengineering and biomedical research that apply engineering principles to problems in medicine while primarily advancing engineering knowledge are eligible.

When selecting students to receive this award, the members of the Scholarship Selection Committee shall consider the following criteria:

- Nominee's display of creativity and ability to move into unknown territory;

- Nominee's potential, ability, and drive to do research, develop new ideas, pursue inventions, and/or pursue innovative technologies;

- Nominee's exhibition of motivation, imagination, and exceptional performance in their field of academics and/or research;

- Nominee's conveyance of intellectual daring and a genuine desire to positively change the world around them, both within the classroom and in their community;

- Nominee is recognized as a leader through their activities on campus and/or in the community.

Renewal

ASF generally intends to provide renewal scholarships to current Astronaut Scholars who have not yet completed the undergraduate degree program that they were pursuing at the time of their original selection, provided that they continue to demonstrate excellent performance. Therefore, students who have previously received the Astronaut Scholarship during their junior year should be submitted for renewal, provided that:

- The award is not for a third year (Typically, no more than two awards are permitted, though exceptions may be made with Scholarship Committee Chair approval.);

- Renewal is based upon continued excellence in academics and work outside the classroom in their chosen field of study;

- Documentation is required to support renewal application and must include:

    - Supporting letter from the original nominating professor or faculty member and a personal statement from the Astronaut Scholar, summarizing the accomplishments during the past year;

    - An updated copy of the Astronaut Scholar's academic transcript.

Selection Procedures

The ASF Scholarship Program Director will work with the Scholarship Committee Chair to establish a schedule and convene a Scholarship Selection Committee to review nominations and select Astronaut Scholars annually, in accordance with this Policy document.

Selections will be made from ASF affiliated universities and institutions. ASF will receive, for programmatic analysis and archiving, data from the partner universities and institutions about the pool of nominees and their respective academic programs.

Where qualified nominations are provided, the Scholarship Selection Committee will select one nominee from each ASF affiliated university and institution, and two nominees from those universities and institutions where a matching scholarship has been provided:

- For each ASF affiliated university or institution where one scholarship is to be awarded, two nominees must be provided by the university or institution. If an existing Astronaut Scholar is eligible for renewal, new nominees are not sought by ASF. Please refer to the Renewals section of this Policy document.

- For each ASF affiliated university or institution where two scholarships are to be awarded, due to availability of a matching scholarship, four nominees must be provided by the university or institution. If an existing Astronaut Scholar is eligible for renewal, only two nominees are sought. If two existing Astronaut Scholars are eligible for renewal, new nominees are not sought by ASF. Please refer to the Renewals section of this Policy document.

- The Scholarship Selection Committee *may* choose to not select a scholar from a pool of nominees from a university or institution where none of the candidates are found to meet the Selection Criteria stated in this Policy document;

- Nominees shall have a complete and accurate nomination package provided to ASF no later than the prescribed submission deadline,

    - ASF Staff *may* accept late submissions under select circumstances. Such allowances will be made at the sole discretion of ASF Staff.

Astronaut Scholar selections will occur annually and be approved by the Board of Directors.

ASF will notify the ASF affiliated Universities and Institutions, scholarship awardees, and nominees who were not selected, after approval by the Board of Directors.

Upon selection for the Scholarship Award, the selected nominees are designated as Astronaut Scholars and are entitled to participation in ASF programs.

Effective Date and Duration.

This Policy document is effective upon approval by the Executive Committee and will remain in effect until replaced.

ASTRONAUT SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION
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APPENDIX

MAJOR FIELDS OF STUDY ELIGIBLE FOR THE ASTRONAUT SCHOLARSHIP

As stated in this Policy document, this list is based upon the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program list of approved fields of study with the exception of Psychology, Social Sciences, and STEM Education and Learning Research which are specifically excluded from ASF Scholarship eligibility.

(https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2018/nsf18573/nsf18573.htm)

CHEMISTRY
Chemical Catalysis
Chemical Measurement and Imaging
Chemical Structure, Dynamics, and Mechanism
Chemical Synthesis
Chemical Theory, Models and Computational Methods
Chemistry of Life Processes
Environmental Chemical Systems
Macromolecular, Supramolecular, and Nanochemistry
Sustainable Chemistry
Chemistry, other (specify)

COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES & ENGINEERING
Algorithms and Theoretical Foundations
Bioinformatics and other Informatics
Communication and Information Theory
Computational Science and Engineering
Computer Architecture
Computer Networks
Computer Security and Privacy
Computer Systems and Embedded Systems
Data Mining and Information Retrieval
Databases
Formal Methods, Verification, and Programming Languages
Graphics and Visualization
Human Computer Interaction
Machine Learning
Natural Language Processing
Robotics and Computer Vision
Software Engineering
CISE, other (specify)

ENGINEERING
Aeronautical and Aerospace Engineering
Bioengineering
Biomedical Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Civil Engineering
Computer Engineering
Electrical and Electronic Engineering
Energy Engineering
Environmental Engineering
Industrial Engineering & Operations Research
Materials Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Nuclear Engineering
Ocean Engineering
Optical Engineering
Polymer Engineering
Systems Engineering
Engineering, other (specify)

GEOSCIENCES
Aeronomy
Atmospheric Chemistry
Biogeochemistry
Biological Oceanography
Chemical Oceanography
Climate and Large-Scale Atmospheric Dynamics
Geobiology
Geochemistry

Geodynamics
Geomorphology
Geophysics
Glaciology
Hydrology
Magnetospheric Physics
Marine Biology
Marine Geology and Geophysics
Paleoclimate
Paleontology and Paleobiology
Petrology
Physical and Dynamic Meteorology
Physical Oceanography
Sedimentary Geology
Solar Physics
Tectonics
Geosciences, other (specify)

LIFE SCIENCES
Biochemistry
Bioinformatics and Computational Biology
Biophysics
Cell Biology
Developmental Biology
Ecology
Environmental Biology
Evolutionary Biology
Genetics
Genomics
Microbial Biology
Neurosciences
Organismal Biology
Physiology
Proteomics
Structural Biology
Systematics and Biodiversity
Systems and Molecular Biology
Life Sciences, other (specify)

MATERIALS RESEARCH
Biomaterials
Ceramics
Chemistry of Materials
Electronic Materials
Materials Theory
Metallic Materials
Photonic Materials
Physics of Materials
Polymers
Materials Research, other (specify)

MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES
Algebra, Number Theory, and Combinatorics
Analysis
Applied Mathematics
Biostatistics
Computational and Data-enabled Science
Computational Mathematics
Computational Statistics
Geometric Analysis
Logic or Foundations of Mathematics
Mathematical Biology
Probability
Statistics
Topology
Mathematics, other (specify)

PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY
Astronomy and Astrophysics
Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics
Condensed Matter Physics
Nuclear Physics
Particle Physics
Physics of Living Systems
Plasma Physics
Solid State
Theoretical Physics
Physics, other (specify)