

# NSF S-STEM PROGRAM



**Supporting talented students  
in science, technology,  
engineering, and  
mathematics**

## NSF SCHOLARSHIPS IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS PROGRAM

The National Science Foundation Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) Program addresses the need for a high quality STEM workforce in areas of national priorities. The program seeks to increase and understand the success of low-income academically talented students with demonstrated financial need who are pursuing associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Recognizing that scholarships alone cannot address low retention and graduation rates in STEM, the program provides funds to institutions of higher education for scholarships and for establishing systems of high-quality evidence-based curricular and co-curricular activities that support student success, retention, transfer, and graduation in STEM.

The NSF S-STEM program emphasizes the importance of recruiting students to science and engineering disciplines, mentoring and supporting students through degree completion, and facilitating student career placement in the STEM workforce. The goals of the NSF S-STEM program include:

- Improved educational opportunities for students;
- Increased retention of students to degree attainment;
- Improved student support programs at institutions of higher education;
- Increased numbers of well-educated and skilled employees in technical areas of national need.

Scholarship money may be used for any item in the institution's cost of attendance, and individual student scholarships may be for up to \$10,000 per year. At least 60% of the funds must be used to support student scholarships, leaving up to 40% for implementation and investigation of curricular and co-curricular activities (e.g. curriculum, professional, and workforce development activities). Grantee Institutions may elect to support individual student scholars until graduation or may elect to support several cohorts of students for a shorter duration within the award period.

### Strand 1: Institutional Capacity Building

S-STEM Strand 1 seeks to increase the participation of STEM institutions that have limited experience with designing and conducting full-scale S-STEM Design and Development projects. These projects may request up to \$650,000 for up to five years.

### Strand 2: Design and Development

**Type 1:** S-STEM Design and Development Type 1 Single Institution projects may request up to \$1 million for up to five years.

**Type 2:** S-STEM Design and Development Type 2 Multi-Institutional Consortia projects may request up to \$5 million for up to five years to fund scholarships and the implementation and testing of a common set of curricular and co-curricular activities across institutions.



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The S-STEM program does not make scholarship awards directly to students; students should contact their institution's Office of Financial Aid for this and other scholarship opportunities. Students to be awarded scholarships must be low-income academically talented students with demonstrated financial need and be enrolled full-time in a degree program in an S-STEM discipline. In addition, they must be U.S. citizens, permanent residents, nationals, or lawfully admitted refugees.

It is expected that scholarship recipients will achieve at least one of the following by the end of the scholarship award period:

- Receive an associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degree in one of the S-STEM disciplines;
- Transfer from an associate degree program to a baccalaureate degree program or from an undergraduate program to a graduate program in one of the S-STEM disciplines;
- Successfully complete a stage within a degree program that is a point of unusually high attrition.

S-STEM disciplines include biological sciences (except medicine and other clinical fields); physical sciences (including physics, chemistry, astronomy, and materials science); mathematical sciences; computer and information sciences; geosciences; engineering; and technology areas associated with the preceding disciplines.

NSF expects to make approximately 60 to 80 grants each year in the NSF S-STEM program.

Students are often able to shorten time to degree completion and are able to have an augmented academic experience because the scholarship allows them to concentrate full-time on academic studies while limiting the need to work to fund their education. S-STEM also encourages projects to implement activities such as research experiences, internships, and tutoring.



“The program helps to make college affordable and enables me to advance my knowledge of chemistry.”

Olivia Zanolli, STAR Chemistry S-STEM scholar at Walsh University

For more information and to see abstracts of current awards, please visit: [https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5257](https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5257)



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