Scholarships for Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (S-STEM)

Application Information Packet for the Century STEM Scholarship Awards for 2021-22

The application deadline for Spring 2022 academic year is Jan 21, 2022

To apply, submit all application materials to the 2021-22 Century STEM Online Application.

This information pertains to completing the application for the STEM Scholarship program available through Century College. Sponsored by a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF DUE-2030638), this program provides scholarships up to $3750 per student for up to 5 semesters (not including summers). Students applying to the STEM Scholars program should read all attached materials as they prepare their applications. Direct any questions to Jessica Bell at jessica.bell@century.edu or Joann Pfeiffer at joann.pfeiffer@century.edu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biology</th>
<th>Chemistry</th>
<th>Computer Science</th>
<th>Earth Science</th>
<th>Engineering</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
<th>Physics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Eligibility Requirements:

- Enrolled at least half-time in a STEM major (biology, chemistry, computer science, earth science, engineering, mathematics, or physics)
- Within 5 semesters of graduating from Century with an STEM Associate degree and intend to transfer to a 4-year school to get a bachelor’s degree.
- Major GPA of 2.75 or higher (scholars will be expected to raise their GPA to 3.0 during program participation)
- U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident
- Demonstrated financial need as determined by financial aid status, that is, Pell or MN State grant eligible or equivalent (you can check your status at eServices > Financial Aid > Awards or by contacting the Financial Aid Office)
- Demonstrate a commitment to participate in the activities of the cohort and agree to participate in the surveys required for internal program evaluation¹.

¹ Students will be provided a waiver through the IRB process to opt out of any external dissemination of both aggregate and individual data.
Step 1: Identify one letter writer.

Your STEM application requires one letter of recommendation; however you do not need to attach your letter. **You must identify your letter writer (ask and be sure to get a yes!), then share their contact information in your application.** You are encouraged to have your letter be from a STEM faculty member who has had you in class or worked with you in an academic context. However, we can also accept a letter from a faculty member from another discipline, a staff advisor, a work supervisor, a coach, etc. who can speak substantively to your potential.

- After identifying your recommender, please complete the [2021-22 Recommendation Letter: Right to Review](#), which will allow them to know if you are retaining or waiving your right to review their letter of recommendation.
- Note: if you would like help navigating any part of this process (finding a letter writer, completing the forms, etc.), please reach out to us, so we can offer assistance: Jessica Bell at [jessica.bell@century.edu](mailto:jessica.bell@century.edu) or Joann Pfeiffer at [joann.pfeiffer@century.edu](mailto:joann.pfeiffer@century.edu)

**Step 2: Prepare the application materials.**

- **Short answer prompts** - Provide short answers to the following prompts, which can then be copied and pasted into STEM application:
  - **Prompt #1:** Why are you inspired and motivated to study your major? Please address, in some depth, the specific nature and extent of your interests. (500 words max.)
  - **Prompt #2:** Studying a STEM major requires determination and a willingness to work hard consistently over the course of many years. Please share one or more experiences about a challenging goal that took a long time to achieve. How did you display determination and hard work? Was there a time when you wanted to give up, and if so, what did you do? Where did you get help? What did you learn? What did you learn about yourself? (500 words max.)
  - **Prompt #3:** Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again? Why or why not? (500 words max.)
  - **Prompt #4:** What are some other important personal qualities that you feel you will bring to the STEM program? Please provide one or more examples where you have demonstrated these qualities. (500 words max.)
  - **Prompt #5:** What one interesting or fun fact would you want future STEM classmates to know about you? (50 words max.)

- **STEM Graduation Plan** – Provide a neat, typed summary of remaining coursework to complete at Century, laid out term by term [Sample Grad. Plan](#). Students are welcome to make an appointment with one of Century’s advisors or counselors for assistance.

**Step 3: Complete the Google Form 2021-22 Century STEM Application by the deadline.**

The online application will collect your personal information (i.e. full name, birth date, address, major, etc.) and allow you to upload all of your application materials (see Step 2).

The selection committee will rank applications according to merit and financial need. The committee will consider the objectives to broaden diversity within the STEM workforce.
To maintain status, a Century STEM scholar must:

- Continue to meet the NSF citizenship and financial need requirements.
- Maintain a GPA of 3.0 or greater within their declared STEM major.
- Participate in STEM events at a satisfactory level, including providing evaluation materials for the assessment of the program.

The program directors will review student progress in meeting these criteria each semester. Students in danger of failing to meet these criteria, including those who fall below a 3.0 GPA, will receive increased advising and mentoring support and may risk losing funding.

STEM Programming

STEM Workshops: Each semester STEM students will attend workshops facilitated by faculty/staff at Century or partner schools. Session topics will include:
- completion of academic programming
- preparation for internships and summer research opportunities
- 2-yr to 4-yr transition
- graduate school applications
- career pathways

STEM Mentoring: Each scholar will meet a few times each semester with an assigned faculty mentor from a STEM department. The goal of these meetings is to support scholars in developing and furthering their individual goals.

Scholar Meetings: Scholars consistently identify the opportunity to meet and learn from other STEM majors as a key benefit of the program. During the semester there will be regular meetings to build community within the cohort of scholars.

Supporting Services for STEM Scholars

Travel Awards: Each Century STEM scholar may apply for one travel award to attend a regional conference.
Research Opportunities: Some faculty-student research collaborations are funded. In addition, Century transfer students may apply to participate in Augsburg’s ten-week summer research program.
Student Writing Support: Workshops will be provided to address professional writing skills and to develop clarity about career and education goals. Mentors will assist students in refining their resumes and personal statements.

For additional information, please contact:

Jessica Bell, PhD  
Biology Department  
Co-PI S-STEM Scholarships  
jessica.bell@century.edu

Joann Pfeiffer, PhD  
Chemistry Department  
Co-PI S-STEM Scholarships  
joann.pfeiffer@century.edu