

LaSPACE

Guided Pathways in STEM (GPS) Scholarship Opportunity

Offered by the Louisiana Space Grant Consortium



Under the authority of the
NASA Space Grant College and Fellowship Program

Louisiana Space Grant Consortium (LaSPACE)
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All previous versions of this program's guidelines are null and void.

GPS Scholarship Opportunity Details

About the GPS Scholarship

LaSPACE **Guided Pathways in STEM (GPS)** is a competitive scholarship program developed to accomplish two core goals: 1) provide competitively awarded financial support that helps students remain in a NASA-relevant discipline, and 2) create requirements for funded students that will also be professional development opportunities. This program is meant to open pathways for participation. Traditionally limiting requirements will not be included: e.g. faculty letters of recommendation, minimum GPAs, etc. will not be considered.

Applicants must complete an online scholarship application and a separate online demographic form. Scholarship recipients will be selected entirely based on the quality of their responses to several short essay questions. In situations where equally qualified applications are submitted, selection will be influenced by establishing the most diverse possible cohort of recipients (i.e. we want to fund a group of students from a variety of majors enrolled in as many different institutions across our state as possible).

Student Eligibility Requirements

- Student Applicants must be a U.S. citizen. Permanent residents (i.e., green card holders) are not eligible to receive this NASA award. This is a NASA rule, and we have no authority to override it.
- Applicants must be undergraduate students enrolled full-time at a LaSPACE affiliate institution of higher education during the Spring 2023 semester. A list of LaSPACE higher education affiliated campuses is included on page 5 of this document.
- Applicants must be pursuing a degree or certificate program relevant to NASA Agency mission goals. It is up to the student applicant to write a brief, but convincing argument as to why their program is relevant to NASA.
- Applicants must demonstrate an interest in NASA, commercial space and/or space science research, inclusive of astronaut health, as well disciplines outside traditional STEM fields.

GPS Scholarship Details

- Scholarship Award Period: Spring 2023 / Summer 2023 (moving forward this program will be offered as a Fall / Spring opportunity)
- \$3000 scholarship per student, distributed in 3 installments via the LSU Direct Deposit system. Non-LSU students will need to establish an account for disbursement. Details for setting that up will be provided. All students will need to link their LSU accounts to a bank account for direct deposit.
- Planned disbursement schedule:
 - \$1000 early in the Spring 2023 semester for all applicants selected via the scholarship competition.
 - \$1000 at the end of the Spring 2023 semester after submitting evidence of completion of required deliverables (participation in professional development activities hosted virtually by LaSPACE).
 - \$1000 at the end of Summer 2023 after submitting evidence of completion of required deliverables (participation in professional development activities hosted virtually by LaSPACE).

- For this initial competition, we anticipate awarding up to 30 scholarships around the state. Awards are contingent upon receipt of NASA funding and quality of submitted proposals.

GPS Scholarship Objectives

- Provide financial support to help students remain in demanding academic programs relevant to NASA, while reducing some of the need to work off campus.
- Offer flexible and non-intensive professional development activities that will improve students' access to future career opportunities and to help expand students' understanding of NASA's mission and the commercial space & aviation industries. Including but not limited to:
 - Feature Speaker / Discussion session with LaSPACE Alumni and other members of the space science community.
 - Presentations on various technical modes of professional communication (lab notebooks, presentations, etc).
 - Workshops to develop professional collateral like LinkedIn Profiles and resumes and more.
- Encourage students to compete for participation in more advanced LaSPACE funding programs focused on research and design projects.
 - Offer presentations on various LaSPACE program funding opportunities and ways to get involved.

GPS Application Process

- **Complete an online demographic form and the scholarship application on or before, Tuesday, January 17, 2023.**
 1. Standard [LaSPACE Undergraduate Student Demographic Form](#). You must complete every question in the form. For your questions 12, 13, & 14 regarding your Faculty Advisor enter: "Not Applicable." For question 16 (project start date) enter 1/17/2023.
 2. [GPS Scholarship Application](#). All the questions in the application form have been duplicated on the following page, so you can prepare your responses in advance. You will not be able to save your application in process and return to complete it so preparing your responses in advance in a word file or google doc is highly recommended.

GPS Scholarship Application Questions & Evaluation Criteria

Fill in the general information fields and answer all essay questions.

General Applicant Info:

- Full Name
- College or University
- Confirm Full-time enrollment for Spring 2023
- Classification
- Major (you may list more than one major, IF you have already declared more than one. If you have not, please list only the one you have declared or the one you intend to declare).
- Minors or Concentrations (please indicate which are declared minors or concentrations and which are being considered. You may also enter "none" if you have none).
- Primary Email Address (one of the two email addresses must be a school address)
- Alternative Email Address (one of the two email addresses must be a school address)
- Cell Phone Number
- Confirm completion of online LaSPACE Undergraduate Student Demographic Form

General Applicant Info:

The following essay questions are to be answered as part of the online application. Responses are limited to 500 words per question. Please be concise, but specific. Use the space provided to paint as full a picture as possible.

1. Tell us about your program of study (Major, Minor, Concentrations, Certificate Program, etc). Why did you choose this area of study? What interests you within these areas? Have you had any second thoughts? Interest in another field? (15 points)
2. What interests you about NASA and how is your current program of study relevant to NASA? Spend some time looking at <https://www.nasa.gov/>. Look at content under the different mission directorates; read through some press releases or watch some NASA TV; google search your field and NASA (for example: "NASA Computer Science" or "NASA Medicine"). Tell us what you find after completing these searches. How is your program of study relevant to NASA? Do you see some potential career paths? (25 points)
3. What are your career plans? Be as specific as you can be, but also honest. If you aren't sure beyond a broad field (i.e. you want to be a chemical engineer), tell us what attracted you to that career. Some questions you might address: What kinds of things are important to you professionally? What skills do you want to learn and use? What impact do you imagine such a career might have? If you don't know what career you even want, tell us what kinds of work you imagine for yourself. For example, do you want to build things with your hands or serve your community? Teach? Write? Speak? (15 points)
4. Tell us about a class, club, or extracurricular activity in, or related to, your field that you consider important to your education/career plan. Provide general information about the class/club/activity. Describe how/why you participated; describe tasks you completed and/or skills you developed. Then tell us how this experience relates to your academic and professional goals. Did it reinforce your choice of major and/or profession? How will it relate to your future classes and career plans? (15 points)

5. How will this scholarship help you? While we are not awarding these scholarships based on financial need, we are interested in financial worthiness. If you are struggling to pay college costs, taking out loans, having to work many hours off campus.... Those are all worthy financial justifications. Other justifications might include wanting to study abroad for a year or planning to attend a professional conference or meeting in your field. Be specific and honest about how this money will help you. (25 points)
6. What kinds of professional development activities would you most like to participate in? The kinds of activities we have in mind include technical communications, building a LinkedIn Profile, featured speaker sessions with LaSPACE alum, etc. What general skills are you looking to develop? Are there any topics you would like us to offer scholarship recipients? (5 points)
7. Bonus Space: This section is not worth any points but is available if you want to tell us something else about yourself that you think we should know but did not fit into any of the questions above.

LaSPACE Higher Ed Affiliates

Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC)
Delgado Community College (DCC)
Dillard University (Dillard)
Grambling State University (GSU)
Louisiana State University and A&M College (LSU)
Louisiana State University at Alexandria
Louisiana State University Agricultural Center (LSU-Ag)
Louisiana State University Health Sciences (LSUHSC)
Louisiana State University of Shreveport (LSUS)
Louisiana Tech University (LaTech)
Loyola University (Loyola)
McNeese State University (McNeese)
Nicholls State University (Nicholls)
Northshore Technical Community College (NTTC)
Northwestern State University of Louisiana (NSULA)
Nunez Community College (NCC)
River Parishes Community College (RPCC)
Southeastern Louisiana University (SELU)
Southern University and A & M College (SUBR)
Southern University of New Orleans (SUNO)
Tulane University (Tulane)
University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL)
University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM)
University of New Orleans (UNO)
Xavier University of Louisiana (Xavier)

LaSPACE Program Administration

General administration and management is the responsibility of the LaSPACE Staff headquartered at LSU. Questions about applications to any LaSPACE programs should be directed to the program management team via the general laspace@lsu.edu email address. Unless otherwise directed, all proposals, invoices, reports, and queries should also be submitted via email to the program email address (laspace@lsu.edu). Please refer to [the LaSPACE FAQs](#) before contacting LaSPACE management and/or coordinators.

LaSPACE Program Office, laspace@lsu.edu, 225-578-8697

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GPS Evaluation

In the spirit of this program being a professional development opportunity, each application will be evaluated using the following evaluation form to provide feedback for all applicants.

GPS Evaluation Form

Institution	
Applicant Name	
Funding Recommendation	

Relevance of applicant's program of study (Major, Minor, Concentrations, Certificate Program, etc). Why did they choose this area of study? What interests them within these areas? Have they had any second thoughts? Interest in another field? (15 points)

Relevance of applicant's current program of student to NASA. Applicant's interest in NASA and potential career paths. (25 points)

Appropriateness of applicant's career plans. What are their career plans (specific or broad)? What kinds of things are important to them professionally? What skills do they want to learn and use? What impact do they imagine such a career might hold? What kinds of work do they imagine for themselves. Do they want to build things with their hands or serve their community? Teach? Write? Speak? (15 points)

Applicant's description of a class, club, or extracurricular activity that they consider important to their education/career plan. General information provided about the class/club/activity. Description of how/why they participated, the tasks they completed, and/or skills they developed. Explanation of how this experience relates to their academic and professional goals. Did it reinforce their choice of major and/or profession? How will it relate to future classes and career plans? (15 points)

How will this scholarship help the applicant? Relevance and inclusion of financial worthiness examples. (25 points)

What kinds of professional development activities would they like to participate in? What general skills are they looking to develop? Are there any topics they would like us to offer scholarship recipients? (5 points)

Relevance of applicant's bonus section (something else that they think we should know but did not fit into any of the questions above)

Additional Comments