

# STEM Scholars Program Conditions

## STEM Scholars

A program funded by the National Science Foundation that provides financial support (covering tuition, fees and cost of living) as well as academic support to approximately 20 selected students who meet the following requirements:

1. The student must be planning on transferring to a four-year school and majoring in STEM. STEM refers to, “science, technology, engineering, and mathematics that includes 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 (for example, biotechnology, chemical technology, engineering technology, information technology, etc.),” according to NSF’s S-STEM solicitation.
2. The student must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) listing Southwestern Illinois College, (School code:001636) as a school choice in the college release section. The student’s EFC must be less than SWIC’s cost of attendance to be eligible for financial support.
3. All recipients of this scholarship must be a resident of SWIC District 522 or East St. Louis at the time of application and during attendance at SWIC.
4. All recipients of this scholarship must be U. S. citizens, nationals (as defined in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act), permanent resident aliens, or aliens admitted as refugees (as defined by section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act).
5. Score at least 22 on the ACT, or take SWIC’s placement tests and place at least into ENG101 and MATH97. A non-returnable copy of Official ACT scores must be provided, or ACCUPLACER (or other placement) tests must be taken at SWIC. Send an email if you would like to know if your SAT scores are high enough.
6. The scholarship is for tuition for classes that appear on student’s academic transcripts, as well as fees, books, and living expenses.
7. The scholarship will be renewed automatically for a second year assuming the recipient is meeting the program requirements (including filing the FAFSA every year for the duration of program participation).
8. The student must be enrolled full-time each semester (minimum of 12 semester credits) to receive the scholarship. The scholarship pays for a maximum of 18 credits per semester.
9. With permission, the scholarship may cover a summer course.
10. The student must maintain satisfactory progress (minimum 2.75 semester and cumulative GPA, and minimum 3.0 in STEM classes) and complete program requirements (attend > 80% of enhancement events and study sessions, complete and submit > 80% of all mentor logs, submit >75% of all instructor evaluations) to receive the award for additional semesters. Funding will only be provided through spring 2022.
11. Please submit all application materials together (see checklist on the Application). SWIC employees can help you with the application process. At the SWIC campus, the Success Center offers workshops on applying for scholarships, the Financial Aid Office can help you fill out the FAFSA, and the Registration Office can help you fill out a New Student Information form and give you directions on taking the ACCUPLACER tests.
12. The SWIC STEM Scholars Advisory Committee will select the recipients based upon the above criteria and information provided in the application, and will notify applicants in writing of their decision. Preference will be given to students new to SWIC.

**Direct inquiries and all required information to:**  
**Southwestern Illinois College**  
Joy Branlund, Professor of Earth Science  
Email: [STEMScholars@swic.edu](mailto:STEMScholars@swic.edu)  
Phone: (618) 931-0600 x7451  
2500 Carlyle Avenue – Belleville, IL 62221

# STEM Scholars Program Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

High School Attended \_\_\_\_\_

High School  
Graduation Date (Month/Year) \_\_\_\_\_

GED taken in (county) \_\_\_\_\_

GED Completion  
Date (Month/Year) \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated premajor – select one

- |   |   |                                      |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biology          | <input type="checkbox"/> Earth Science (geology, meteorology, oceanography) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry        | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Physics     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Science | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____  | <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided   |

Which SWIC campus is most convenient for you?     Belleville     Sam Wolf Granite City     Red Bud

Gender     Female     Male

Race/Ethnicity     American Indian or Alaskan Native     Asian  
                           Black or African American     Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander  
                           White

Are you Hispanic or Latino?     Yes     No

Have either of your parents or guardians completed a Bachelor's degree?     Yes     No

## Application Checklist

- Fill out the information requested above,
- Read and sign the statement at the bottom of this page.
- Answer the questions in detail on the following pages (attach additional pages if necessary).
- Submit a letter of recommendation from someone who can attest to your interest in science, math, engineering, and/or technology (for example, a teacher or professional). Please give the included form to the person.

**Return this application and all required information to:**

**Southwestern Illinois College**  
Joy Branlund, Professor of Earth Science  
2500 Carlyle Avenue - Belleville, IL 62221

Name of person writing your letter \_\_\_\_\_

- Write an essay (500 words or less) introducing yourself to the selection committee.
- Request transcripts from your high school as well as any colleges you've attended.
- Return the application, transcripts, official copy of ACT scores (if applicable), essay and letter of recommendation to Joy Branlund, Professor of Earth Science, 2500 Carlyle Avenue, Belleville, IL 62221.
- Make sure that SWIC has received the results of your processed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the award year that you wish to receive the scholarship. The FAFSA is available on-line at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). SWIC's school code is 001636. You can also complete the FAFSA in SWIC's Financial Aid Office.
- Visit the SWIC campus, complete a New Student Information Form at Registration, and then take the Math ACCUPLACER test (by April 1). If you scored less than a 22 on the English portion of your ACT, then take the English ACCUPLACER as well.
- Finalists will be required to meet with program staff in person before being accepted into the program.

1. One of the purposes of this scholarship is to provide enough support to allow students to attend college full time. If awarded the scholarship, would you be able to be a full-time student?  Yes  No

2. Funds provided by the scholarship are meant to be adequate enough so that you will have to work off campus only minimal hours, if at all. If you are awarded the scholarship, would you plan on working while attending SWIC? If so, please explain your work plans (number of hours and type of work).

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3. If you are not eligible for financial support, would you still like to be part of the STEM Scholars Program, and receive the social and academic supports that accompany the program?  Yes  No

4. Scholarship awardees must attend some activities held during non-class hours (such as in the evening or off-campus day-long trips). Describe any obligations that would prevent you from attending these events.

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5. Describe your interest in science, math, engineering, and/or technology.

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6. The scholarship recipients are expected to earn an Associate's degree from SWIC and then transfer to a four-year college where they will complete their Bachelor's degree. If you've thought about where you'd like to transfer, and/or what career you'd like after completing college, please tell us about those plans.

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7. Participants in the STEM Scholars program need to work as a group (they will take courses together, study together, and attend enrichment activities together). Describe how/what will you contribute to the group.

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8. Describe your commitment to college education.

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9. Why do you think you deserve this scholarship?

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10. How did you find out about this opportunity?

- Teacher    Guidance Counselor    Website    Newspaper  
 Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)    Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Please read and sign the following statement.**

I understand that program acceptance and renewal requires the following conditions be met:

- Use scholarship money to pay for all aspects of school (should not take out student loans or work more than 15 hours a week)
- Enroll and maintain full time status (12-18 credits per semester, not including the required special topics course)
- Each semester, enroll in the 1-credit special topics course for SWIC Scholars students taught at Belleville
- Maintain residence requirements and be eligible for financial aid (submit a FAFSA each year of the program)
- Be enrolled in a A.S. or A.E.S. degree with a plan to transfer to a four-year college to major in biology, chemistry, computer science, earth science, engineering, mathematics or physics
- Maintain a minimum 2.75 semester and cumulative GPA; and a minimum 3.0 GPA in STEM classes
- Attend enhancement events (approximately six held per year outside of class time)
- Attend weekly study sessions in the Success Center
- Meet with the assigned Academic Advisor for help picking classes, and consult that advisor as well as your faculty mentor to make decisions regarding your degree plan, class selection for additional semesters, and transferring to a four-year college
- Meet with the assigned faculty mentor at least three times a semester
- Complete and submit required paperwork for the STEM Scholars program, including surveys, mentor logs, logs of enrichment events, and instructor progress reports
- If placed into Math 97, must earn a grade of A or B in Math 97 before the start of the scholarship semester.

I authorize the release of information concerning my acceptance into the STEM Scholarship Program to the media for general distribution. I certify the information reported on this application is true to the best of my knowledge. I have read the conditions of this scholarship as outlined above and agree to abide by them:

Student's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## STEM Scholars Program–Letter of Recommendation

Applicant: please complete the top portion of this form, then give the form to the person writing the letter of recommendation. The letter can be included with your application, or the person writing the recommendation can send the letter directly to: Joy Branlund, Professor of Earth Science, Southwestern Illinois College, 2500 Carlyle Ave., Belleville, IL 62221.

Applicant Name \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Address:

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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The applicant named above is applying for the STEM Scholars Program at Southwestern Illinois College. To be eligible for the program, students must demonstrate interest in pursuing a degree and career in a STEM (science, technology, engineering, or mathematics) field. Please write a letter describing your knowledge of the applicant's interest and aptitude in STEM.

If accepted, the applicant will be a part of a cohort who will benefit from strong faculty and institutional support and exposure to STEM career and transfer opportunities. Students who demonstrate financial need will also receive a scholarship to pay for all tuition, fees, and a cost of living stipend. (Please see <https://www.swic.edu/academics/academic-divisions/math-sciences/stem-scholar-program/> for more information on the program.)

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

How do you know the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_