Howard Community College’s NSF S-STEM Scholarship Program is designed to support full-time students majoring in any of the following content areas: Bioinformatics, Biotechnology, Computer Science, Life Sciences, Engineering, Environmental Science, Information Technology, Physical Sciences and Mathematics. Scholarships will be awarded for up to two years beginning in Fall 2016. New students are eligible to apply. Scholarships vary in amount up to $6,500 per year and can be used for tuition, fees, books, supplies, equipment and other needs. Scholarship recipients will be part of a learning community and as such they will be assigned a faculty mentor and will participate in college activities related to their major.

Eligibility Criteria:

To qualify students must:

• Be a United States citizen, permanent resident, or an eligible non-citizen;
• have financial need (as defined for undergraduate students by the U.S. Department of Education criteria for Federal Financial Aid);
• maintain full-time enrollment (minimum of 12 credits per semester);
• have at least a 3.0 GPA;
• agree to participate in a one credit seminar, which would include an undergraduate research component, and participate in scholarship program activities.

Application Process

A. Complete and submit the following directly to Howard Community College by the July 29 priority deadline:

   NSF S-STEM Scholarship Program
   c/o Financial Aid Services
   Howard Community College
   10901 Little Patuxent Parkway
   Columbia, MD 21044

   1. The completed scholarship application form
   2. An essay written by the applicant (450-500 words, typed, double-spaced) explaining your interest in your field of study, your qualifications and how you will benefit from this award
   3. Complete Howard Community College’s Placement Exam or submit appropriate SAT, ACT, AP or IB scores or demonstrate completion of college level English and/or Mathematics course
   4. Letter of recommendation**
   5. Official Transcript (high school or college, as appropriate)**

   **Students who have previously submitted letters of recommendations and/or transcripts to the Office of Admissions and Advising do not need to re-submit these documents.

B. Complete the 2016-2017 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The Priority Deadline for applying is March 1, 2016. Students can submit a FAFSA after March 1st.

   The FAFSA may be completed by accessing the Financial Aid Services Website (HCC’s Federal School Code is 008175 and must be included on the FAFSA)*:
   • Please go to www.howardcc.edu/financialaid
   • Select “Apply for Financial Aid”
   • Click on the 2016-2017 academic year
   • Follow the easy step-by-step instructions

   *If you do not have access to the internet, please use a computer at HCC, your high school, and/or a public library.
**Items with an asterisk (*) are required and must be completed before you submit your application.**

**PART I. GENERAL INFORMATION (Please type or print in ink)**

Name* ________________________________ Social Security Number_____________________

Address* _______________________________________________________________________

Telephone (home) ___________________ Email Address ________________________  Gender:  ___Male  ___ Female

Citizenship/Residency:
Are you a US citizen*     ____Yes   ____ No
If you are NOT a U.S. citizen, please indicate:
Country of Nationality______________________   Immigration/Visa Status**________________

**Original documents verifying status are required at the time of application if you have NOT previously submitted them to the Office of Admissions and Advising.

Check your planned area of study:
(    ) Bioinformatics    (    ) Computer Science (     ) Engineering   (    )  Information Technology   (    ) Mathematics
(    ) Biotechnology     (    ) Environmental Science (     ) Life Sciences   (    ) Physical Sciences

Check all that apply:
  _Applying for Freshman Focus Program   _Applying for Rouse/STEM Scholars Program
  _Applying for Silas Craft Collegians Program   _Applying for Schoenbrodt Honors Student
  _Applying for Silas Craft Collegian   _Current Rouse/STEM Scholar
  _New student with 12 or more transfer credits
  _Current Silas Craft Collegian
  _Current HCC Student with 12 or more credits

**PART II: ESSAY**

The NSF S-STEM Scholarships will be awarded based on several factors including academic achievements and goals, financial need, extracurricular activities, work experience, and others. Please attach an essay (450-500 words, typed, double-spaced) highlighting why you are interested in your particular area of study, your qualifications and how you will benefit from this award.

**PART III: CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

Please read and sign.
If I receive a NSF S-STEM Scholarship, I understand that in order to maintain the scholarship, I must:

- Participate in all program activities including the orientation sessions, mentoring program and other co-curricular activities.
- Maintain a 3.0 GPA at the end of the first scholarship/academic year.
- Maintain full-time student status in one of the eligible areas of study.
- Completion of a one credit seminar each term including an undergraduate research component

I certify that the information contained in my scholarship application is true and correct. I give the Financial Aid Office permission to release my name, address, telephone number, GPA, and essay to share with the NSF S-STEM scholarship selection committee. I also give permission to HCC to use information about my choice of major, academic progress, participation in STEM activities, transfer institution and choice of major upon transfer, for publications and presentations related to this project. My name will not appear on any data reported to the National Science Foundation.

Applicant Signature_________________________________________ Date___________
**Instructions to applicant:** Please complete the information below and then give the form to the individual who will complete the recommendation on your behalf.

**Applicant:** ____________________________________________________________________________________

- Last Name __________________________ First Name __________________________ Middle ______________________

**Address:** ____________________________________________________________________________________

- Street Address ______________________ City __________________ State ______________ Zip Code __________

- Telephone (home) ______________________ Email Address ______________________

**Instructions to recommender:** The person whose name appears above has applied for the National Science Foundation NSF S-STEM Scholarship Program at Howard Community College. Please complete both sides of the recommendation form and place it in a sealed envelope and write your signature across the back flap. Return this form to the applicant, or mail to NSF S-STEM Scholarship Program, c/o Financial Aid Services, Howard Community College, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia, MD 21044.

**Name:** ______________________________________________________________________________________

**Name of facility/organization:** __________________________________________________________________

**Address:** ____________________________________________________________________________________

- Phone Number: __________________________ E-Mail: __________________________

Please describe your relationship with the applicant and how long you have known him or her.

______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

What do you consider to be the applicant’s strengths?

______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

What do you consider to be the applicant’s weaknesses?

______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

How do you think the applicant’s strengths and weaknesses may affect the applicant’s performance in this program?

______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

(Over, please)
Please evaluate the applicant on the following items:

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<th>Excellent Top 10%</th>
<th>Good Top 25%</th>
<th>Average Top 50%</th>
<th>Below Average</th>
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Comments:
We appreciate your assessment of the applicant’s scholarship, character, and professional promise. Please emphasize characteristics and accomplishments that suggest the applicant will be successful in the NSF Science and Technology Scholarship Program. Please use the space below for your comments, or you may use your own letterhead stationary.