2024 Scholarship Application Overview

of the NASP-ERT Minority Scholarship Program for Graduate Training in School Psychology
NASP-ERT 2024 Scholarship Application Overview

I. Background

• The NASP-ERT MSP was established in 1995 to ease financial barriers facing some minority graduate students embarking on a Specialist Degree (or equivalent) in School Psychology.
• One important goal of the Program is for each scholarship recipient to enter the school community as a practicing School Psychologist following graduation.
• Awards are announced at the NASP Annual Convention. Funding begins in the immediate Fall term after announcement.
• The Program annually awards a minimum of one $5,000 scholarship to a chosen minority graduate student. In 2023, five scholarships were awarded.
• The ability to fund this Program is a result of individual, group, corporate and organizational philanthropy.
• Please visit our NASP-ERT Minority Scholarship Program information online.

II. Ethnic Definitions and Eligibility

To apply and be considered for this scholarship, the Applicant must comply with the Program’s Ethnic Definitions and Eligibility:

• Be a full-time or part-time student from one of the following racially minoritized backgrounds:
  o American Indian or Alaskan Native: All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of North America and maintaining identifiable tribal affiliations through membership and participation or community identification.
  o Asian and Pacific Islander: All persons having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands.
  o Black: All persons having origins in any of the black African racial groups not of Hispanic origin.
  o Hispanic: All persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
  o American Arab, Middle Eastern and North African (AMENA): All persons having Arab, Middle Eastern, and/or North African origin.

• Be a United States citizen or permanent resident.
• Be enrolled in, or accepted for enrollment, in a school psychology program that is NASP-approved and/or located in an institution that is accredited by the appropriate institutional regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, with the aim of becoming a practicing School Psychologist.

• Be in good academic standing.
• Have a minimum cumulative overall GPA of 3.0.
• Be a NASP member.

Scholarship funding is available to students currently enrolled in their program (i.e. a school psychology graduate student during the 2023-2024 year). Scholarship funding is not retroactive for studies prior to the Fall 2024 term.

Note. If your graduation date falls before May 2025, you are ineligible to apply.
Scholarship funding is awarded in two $2,500 installments, beginning in the Fall term of the academic year following the formal award announcement at the NASP Annual Convention. To qualify to receive funds, the Awardee must provide, among other required documentation, proof of a tuition obligation for the semesters in which the scholar is eligible to receive the award installments. Proof of a tuition obligation is a school-issued invoice detailing the student’s tuition for the term permitted (e.g., Fall 2024). Absent this documentation, the Awardee will be ineligible to receive funding. For example, if the Awardee is in an internship year and is no longer being charged tuition, the Awardee is ineligible to apply for funding as there is no tuition payment due nor one to be made for the Fall 2024 term. You must have at least two full terms remaining toward your Specialist (or equivalent) degree, for which you will be billed by your school, to receive the two $2,500 award installments.

Students enrolled in doctoral programs will not be considered for this scholarship award. Only those students enrolled in specialist level (or equivalent) school psychology training programs will be considered. The rationale for this is stated at our FAQ page.

III. Selection Criteria

Your application will be reviewed by the MSP Selection Committee. The Committee will consider many factors in reaching their decision, including adherence to instructions, completeness of the application; Applicant’s experience, interests and growth as reflected on their resume; Applicant’s professional goals statement; recommendations; financial standing; and degree of scholarship.

IV. Application Deadline

To be considered for the award, ALL components of the application must be RECEIVED by the NASP office by October 16, 2023, 11:59pm (EDT). It is the Applicant’s responsibility to ensure that ALL application materials (online and hard copy) are received as instructed. We do not accept submissions after the deadline. NASP Office hours are 8:30am-5pm.

V. Completing and Submitting Your Application

The Applicant is urged to carefully review this Application Overview for important instructions and details about the Application, its components, and the submission process.

VI. Reapplying

Previous NASP-ERT MSP award recipients who wish to be considered for the current year’s award will need to reapply and are limited to a maximum of $15,000 over three consecutive academic years.

VII. Notification

All award recipients and unselected applicants will be notified by early December. Recipients of the award will be formally announced at the NASP 2024 Annual Convention, February 14-17, 2024 in New Orleans, LA.

VIII. Questions?

Some questions may be answered by carefully reviewing this Application Overview and/or by visiting the FAQ page of our website.

Additional Questions? Email MSP@naspweb.org; phone: 301-347-1641.

PLEASE READ this Application Overview completely before starting the process. The Applicant must be a NASP member to begin the Part 1. Student’s Online Application.

The Applicant should send Recommender Instructions EARLY to their Recommenders (see PART 2). All application components must be received by the NASP office by October 16, 2023, 11:59pm (EDT).

NASP-ERT MSP Reserves the Right to confirm or validate the information the Applicant submits; to contact individuals or entities named in the application.
NASP-ERT MINORITY SCHOLARSHIP

Application Process

The application is a four-part process:

PART 1. Student’s Application Submission (Online)

PART 2. Recommenders’ Submission (Online)

PART 3. Student’s Submission of Student Aid Report (Online)

PART 4. Submission of All Official Transcripts
PART 1. STUDENT’S ONLINE APPLICATION

To begin the online process, the applicant should determine they meet the Eligibility Requirements, become a NASP member, login to the NASP website (www.nasponline.org), go to the scholarship webpage, and “Begin Application”, accomplishing Steps 1-6:

**Step 1.** Enter your demographic data (e.g., name/address/e-mail/ethnicity).

**Step 2.** Enter your academic information (e.g., cumulative GPA/school info/graduation date).

**Step 3.** Enter the names and contact information for two Recommenders. Be sure this information is accurate.

**Step 4.** Upload your *Statement of Professional Goals* (Limit: 1,000 words). Share your future aspirations, including your goals as a school psychologist. Be specific.

**Step 5.** Upload your Resume or Curriculum Vitae. Include, as applicable: undergraduate/graduate school history; work/volunteer experience; awards/honors; student/professional activities in which you are involved; research/publications/workshops/presentations you have worked on; special skills/training/experience.

**Step 6.** Review and submit **Part 1: Student’s Online Application**

Upon formal submission of the Application:

- You will receive an e-mail from NASP confirming receipt of the application and a reminder to submit your Student Aid Report (SAR) and ALL transcripts, undergraduate and graduate, as instructed in **PART 3** and **PART 4**.

- Each Recommender will receive an e-mail from NASP providing Recommender Instructions and a unique, non-sharable link to upload their recommendation (see **PART 2**).

IMPORTANT: You can return and edit Part 1 of the online application at any time prior to formally submitting it. However, once Submitted, no further changes will be allowed to Part 1 of the online application. You should read and save all communications received from the NASP office relating to any aspect of the application.
PART 2. RECOMMENDERS’ SUBMISSION

Once your recommenders are identified, you should:

- Send each Recommender the Recommender Instructions in the box below as soon as possible to give them maximum time to prepare.

- Ensure an accurate e-mail for each Recommender is included in Part 1 of the online application.

- Follow-up regularly with each Recommender to avoid delays that could compromise acceptance of your application.

Applicants should also adhere to these criteria for selecting their Recommenders:

- First-year graduate students should provide recommenders who can attest to your professional qualities, with, if possible, at least one who is a faculty member from your undergraduate or graduate studies.

- Second- and third-year students must have at least one Recommender who is a faculty member from their graduate School Psychology program. Each Recommender should address the points outlined in the Recommender Instructions.

IMPORTANT: The applicant is responsible for ensuring two recommendations are submitted for the application. You are encouraged to notify two Recommenders at least one month before the application deadline, earlier if possible.
Once **Part 1: Student’s Online Application** is submitted, NASP will e-mail each Recommender a unique, non-sharable, upload link and instructions. **Before you complete your application,** you can get a head start by contacting your recommenders with the following:

**RECOMMENDER INSTRUCTIONS**

The **NASP-ERT Minority Scholarship Program** awards scholarships to select minority graduate students enrolled in or accepted for enrollment in School Psychology programs in the United States. One requirement of the application is that each Applicant must secure two Recommenders who will each upload a recommendation letter in the Applicant’s behalf.

You have been identified as one of two Recommenders who has agreed to provide and upload a recommendation letter supporting the Applicant. Your recommendation must be uploaded by **October 16, 2023, 11:59 p.m. (EDT)**. To avoid delays that could compromise acceptance of the student’s application, we urge each recommender to upload their document as soon as possible.

Once the Applicant formally submits his/her application, you will receive an e-mail from NASP reiterating the information below and providing a unique, non-sharable link for uploading your submission. Please prepare a recommendation letter factoring these criteria:

- In your recommendation, please fully respond to the following:
- How long have you known the Applicant and in what capacity?
- What are the Applicant’s strengths and special talents?
- One of the criteria that this Applicant must meet is interest in pursuing and/or continuing to pursue a degree and a career in school psychology. Please give your assessment of the Applicant's interest in this area.
- Interpersonal skills are important when dealing with schools, outside agencies, parents, and so on. Please give your assessment of the Applicant's interpersonal skills.
- **Letter Limit:** 1,000 words.
- **Accepted Format:** .pdf

**Note.** As part of a consistent policy to all applicants, we do not accept information after deadline. Please be sure to upload your recommendation as soon as possible before the **October 16, 2023, 11:59pm (EDT)** deadline.

Thank you in advance for recognizing the important role your timely referral means to the student and the application process they are undertaking as they seek to obtain a scholarship from the NASP-ERT Minority Scholarship Program.

If you have questions concerning this process, please (e) **MSP@naspweb.org**; (p) 301-347-1641 at NASP.
PART 3. STUDENT’S SUBMISSION OF STUDENT AID REPORT

The Applicant should upload their complete Official 2023-24 Student Aid Report (SAR) www.fafsa.ed.gov by the October 16, 2023, 11:59 PM (EDT) deadline. You will receive an email from NASP confirming receipt of your application and a reminder to submit your Student Aid Report (SAR).

A complete, official downloaded SAR from the FAFSA agency is acceptable. If selected, the Selection Committee reserves the right to request and receive an original SAR directly from the issuing agency.
PART 4. DIGITAL SUBMISSION OF ALL OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

The Applicant should request ALL Official Transcripts, undergraduate and graduate, from their Registrar’s Office as soon as possible to ensure enough time for the Registrar to send the transcripts prior to the deadline. NASP must receive all transcripts from each institution by **October 16, 2023, at 11:59 PM (EDT)**.

**Transcripts must support a minimum cumulative overall GPA of 3.0** for the Applicant’s college career, undergraduate and graduate.

- First-year students newly enrolled in their graduate programs and who have not yet received graduate transcripts by the time the Online Application is submitted may submit only their undergraduate transcripts.

- Second and third-year graduate students **MUST** submit graduate and undergraduate transcripts—no exceptions.

An Official Transcript should meet the following criteria:

- The official transcript must be sent directly to NASP by your institution(s)’ Registrar’s Office via email to **MSP@naspweb.org**

- It should also reflect elements that afford NASP to verify its authenticity, as well as the traditional elements normally provided on an institutionally issued document such as student’s degrees awarded, coursework, grades, grading explanation, etc.

- Transferred credits are accepted provided that the transcript which displays the transfer is submitted in “official transcript” form, showing the transferred course name, grade received, and school.

- Please be aware that we do not accept scans, images, or PDF attachments sent via email as valid official documents.

**Note.** If your undergraduate or graduate institution is not able to submit digital transcripts to NASP directly by email, please email **MSP@naspweb.org**.
APPLICANT CHECKLIST AND REMINDERS

☐ Deadline by when ALL materials must be received by NASP office: October 16, 2023, 11:59pm (EDT)

☐ Read and save ALL NASP-issued communications including, but not limited to: instructions, acknowledgements, confirmations.

☐ Secure two Recommenders and provide them with their Recommender Instructions (PART 2). Regularly connect with each Recommender to ensure they are on target to upload their submission by the October 16, 2023, 11:59 p.m. (EDT) deadline.

☐ Obtain ALL Official Transcripts, undergraduate AND graduate.

☐ Obtain complete Official 2023-24 Student Aid Report (SAR).

☐ Begin the Online Application. You must be a NASP member to access and begin the Online Application process.

☐ Develop and upload Professional Goals Statement (Limit: 1,000 words).

☐ Develop and upload Resume or Curriculum Vitae.

☐ Review your application and entries thoroughly to ensure information is complete and accurate. Fields left blank where information has been requested may remove you from consideration. Prior to formal submission, you can “SAVE” and return to your application at any time. No further edits will be allowed once the “SUBMIT” button is pressed which constitutes “formal submission.”

☐ Send or upload an official 2023-24 Student Aid Report (SAR) and ensure that all official transcripts are sent via email by the Registrar’s Office (graduate and undergraduate) by October 16, 2023, 11:59pm (EDT).

Questions?
(e) MSP@naspweb.org
(p) 301-347-1641