

2021 Scholarship Application Overview

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

APPLICATION INTRODUCTION

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 scholar receiving the award 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 2020, six 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 minority student
 - [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.
 - [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.
 - [Black](#): All persons having origins in any of the black African racial groups not of Hispanic origin.
 - [Hispanic](#): All persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
- Be a United States citizen.
- 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 enrolled in their program or accepted for enrollment for the Fall 2021 term. Scholarship funding is not retroactive for studies prior to the Fall 2021 term. **NOTE: If your graduation date falls before May 2022, 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 2021). 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 2021 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 – October 30, 2020, 11:59pm (EST)

To be considered for the award, ALL components of the application must be RECEIVED by the NASP office by **October 30, 2020, 11:59pm (EST)**. It is the Applicant's responsibility to ensure that ALL application materials (online and hard copy) are received as instructed. In fairness to all applicants, we do not accept submissions after deadline. NASP Office hours are 8:30am-5pm, M-F.

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

Recipients of the award will be notified by early December. Unselected applicants will be notified by late December. Recipients of the award will be formally announced at the **NASP Annual Convention** to be held virtually in February 2021.

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; tel: 301-347-1641.

— IMPORTANT —

NASP-ERT MSP Reserves the Right

To confirm or validate the information the Applicant submits.

To contact individuals or entities named in the application.

Process and Submission

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 30, 2020, 11:59pm (EST).

THE APPLICATION IS A THREE-PART PROCESS

PART 1. Student's Online Application Submission

PART 2. Recommender's Online Submission

PART 3. Student's Hard Copy Submission of Student Aid Report and All Official Transcripts

PART 1. STUDENT'S ONLINE APPLICATION SUBMISSION

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 below:

Step 1 – Demographic Info – The Applicant accurately enters their general demographic data (e.g., name/address/e-mail/ethnicity).

Step 2 – Academic Info – The Applicant accurately enters their academic info (e.g., cumulative GPA/school info/graduation date).

Step 3 – Recommender Names – The Applicant accurately enters the names and contact information for TWO Recommenders.

Step 4 – Statement of Professional Goals – The Applicant uploads their Statement of Professional Goals (Limit: 1,000 words). Share your future aspirations, including your goals as a school psychologist. Be specific.

Step 5 – Resume or Curriculum Vitae – The Applicant uploads their Resume or Curriculum Vitae. Include, as may apply: 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/Submit Application – The Applicant reviews and formally submits their Online Application.

IMPORTANT: The Applicant can return and edit the application at any time **prior** to formally submitting it. However, once the "Submit" button is pressed (i.e., formally submitted), no further changes will be allowed. The Applicant should read and save all communications received from the NASP office relating to any aspect of their application.

Upon formal submission of the Part 1/Online Application:

- The Applicant will receive an e-mail from NASP confirming receipt of the application and reminding the student to submit their Student Aid Report (SAR) and ALL transcripts—undergraduate **and** graduate—as instructed in PART 3.
- 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).

PART 2. RECOMMENDER'S ONLINE SUBMISSION

IMPORTANT: The Applicant is urged to secure two Recommenders ASAP and, once identified, the Applicant should send each Recommender the **Recommender Instructions** below.

For the Applicant's part, PROVIDING:

- An advance copy of the Recommender Instructions to each Recommender affords them maximum time to prepare.
- An accurate e-mail for each Recommender better ensures Recommenders will receive the NASP link and instructions.
- Regular follow-up with each Recommender helps avoid delays that could compromise acceptance of the Application.

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

- First-year graduate students should provide Recommenders who can attest to the Applicant's professional qualities with, if possible, at least one who is a faculty member from their 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.

When the Applicant formally submits their Part 1/Student's Online Application, NASP will e-mail each Recommender a unique, non-sharable, upload link and these instructions:

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 30, 2020, 11:59pm (EST)**. 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:

- 1) 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.
- 2) **Letter Limit:** 1,000 words. **Accepted Formats:** .pdf, .doc, .docx, .rtf, .jpg files.

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 30, 2020, 11:59pm (EST) deadline.

If you have questions concerning this process, please email MSP@naspweb.org ; tel: 301-347-1641 at NASP. 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.

PART 3. STUDENT'S HARD COPY SUBMISSION OF STUDENT AID REPORT (SAR) AND OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

The Applicant should send their complete Official 2020-21 Student Aid Report (SAR; www.fafsa.ed.gov/) **and** ALL Official Transcripts--undergraduate **and** graduate--**together in ONE package**--to the NASP office for RECEIPT by the October 30, 2020, 11:59pm (EST) deadline to:

Attn: NASP- Minority Scholarship Program
4340 East West Highway, Ste 402, Bethesda MD 20814

Items sent separately will not be considered. Our office only receives mail/deliveries Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5:00pm.

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.

TRANSCRIPTS: Transcripts must support a minimum cumulative overall GPA of 3.0 for the Applicant's college career--undergraduate **and** graduate. 1) 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. 2) Second- and third-year graduate students **MUST** submit graduate **AND** undergraduate transcripts--no exceptions.

Important: An *Official Transcript* should meet these criteria:

- If issued from a school directly, it should be in the school's unopened envelope with, for example, an intact registrar's signature or seal over the envelope flap.
- If issued from a school's third party transcript provider, it should be in the provider's **unopened envelope** and include wording "Official Transcript". It should also reflect such 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.

Applicant Checklist and Reminders

- Deadline by when ALL materials must be received at the NASP office: **October 30, 2020, 11:59pm (EST) deadline**
- Read and save ALL NASP-issued communications including, but not limited to: instructions, acknowledgements, confirmations.
- ASAP – 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 30, 2020, 11:59pm (EST) deadline.
- ASAP – Obtain ALL Official Transcripts, undergraduate **AND** graduate.
- ASAP – Obtain complete Official 2020-21 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.
- PRIORITY: 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."
- PRIORITY: Send ALL paper copies -- complete Official 2020-21 Student Aid Report **and** all Official Transcripts (graduate **and** undergraduate) -- to the NASP office, **together in ONE package**, for receipt by October 30, 2020, 11:59pm (EST)

Questions? Please email MSP@naspweb.org ; 301-347-1641.
Wishing you much success with this application and your future plans
to become a School Psychologist!