

St. Louis STEM Scholars (S<sup>3</sup>) Academy Scholarship  
St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley  
*Application Information and Guidelines*

- Purpose:* The purpose of this scholarship fund is to assist students who are academically deserving with financial need, regardless of race, creed or national origin, to obtain an education in one of five areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM): **biotechnology, computer integrated manufacturing, computer science, engineering science, and engineering technology**, at St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley (STLCC-FV).
- Administration:* The scholarship fund will be administered by STLCC-FV's S<sup>3</sup> Academy Student Selection Committee under the direction of the Principal Investigator with advice from the STLCC-FV Student Financial Aid office.
- Amount:* Starting in the 2011-2012 academic year, each of the 16 student awards will provide maintenance fees (tuition, plus activity and technology fees) for up to 36 credit hours if enrolled in the fall/spring semesters; for up to 27 credit hours if enrolled in the spring/summer semesters; and not to exceed \$5,770 in the 2011-2012 academic year. Each award will also cover the cost of books; supplies; lab fees; and other expenses related to college attendance, including transportation, child care, housing and food. Allotments will be distributed monthly during each semester for college-related expenses.\* The maximum award amount per student may increase in subsequent academic years.
- \* Scholarships are to be used for expenses normally incurred by all full-time students in the indicated STEM programs at STLCC-FV, as outlined in the U.S. Department of Education Cost of Attendance definition. The scholarship amount shall not exceed the amount given in the original program solicitation.
- Requirements/Restrictions:* Scholarship recipients will be selected by STLCC-FV but must meet the criteria below:
- Be citizens of the United States, Nationals of the United States (as defined in Section 101 (a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act), aliens admitted as refugees under Section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, or aliens lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence.
  - Be enrolled full time and be a declared major in **biotechnology, computer integrated manufacturing, computer science, engineering science, or engineering technology**, as specified in NSF 09-567. Enrollment must be full time for each semester a student receives a scholarship. A full-time student is defined as being enrolled in a

minimum of 12 credit hours each semester (six credit hours during the summer semester).

- Demonstrate academic potential or ability.
- Demonstrate financial need\*\* as determined by the S<sup>3</sup> Academy Student Selection Committee based on requested documentation such as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) report and documentation of other financial aid already received. The student application and the Student Financial Aid office at STLCC-FV will report such findings to the selection committee. (\*\**Financial need is defined for undergraduate students by the U.S. Department of Education rules for need-based Federal financial aid.*)
- Have achieved the status of graduating high school senior, GED graduate or continuing college credit student at STLCC.
- Have completed three years of high school mathematics (Algebra I or higher) or college mathematics, having completed Intermediate Algebra with an “A” or “B” grade.
- Current college students must hold at least a 2.5 grade point average (GPA) and be on track to graduate in the same timeline as students already in the S<sup>3</sup> Academy Scholarship program. First-time college students must hold a minimum GPA of 2.5 in *high school mathematics and science*, plus minimum ACT *mathematics and science* scores of 20 or other comparable placement score.
- Be willing and able to enroll as a full-time student (a minimum of 12 credit hours each fall and spring semester; a minimum of six credit hours each summer semester) through degree completion or transfer to a baccalaureate program.
- Be willing to participate in the STEM Scholars Organization, which serves as the project’s natural student cohort.

*Application Procedures:*

Students must provide the following:

- A completed S<sup>3</sup> Academy Scholarship application.
- Official high school or college transcript(s) or verification that student has requested documentation from issuing institution.
- ACT scores or other comparable placement scores.
- Two letters of recommendation, one from a mathematics or science teacher and one from another teacher or counselor.
- Completed STLCC application or proof of status as current STLCC student.
- A double-spaced, typed two-page essay written by the student describing the motivation for applying for this scholarship. The student should cite additional indicators of academic merit and professional success such as class rank, motivation skills, ability to manage time and resources, communication skills, and leadership skills. Include any Project Lead The Way (PLTW) courses taken in high school, as well as engineering or

science-related competitions (such as U.S. FIRST Robotics Competition) participated in during high school.

- A personal interview with members of the S<sup>3</sup> Academy Student Selection Committee after application has been received.

*Selection:*

The STLCC-FV Student Financial Aid office will screen applications and recommend eligible students to the S<sup>3</sup> Academy Student Selection Committee. Special consideration will be given to groups underrepresented in STEM fields, i.e., women, racial and ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities. The Principal Investigator (PI) for the project will convene the S<sup>3</sup> Academy Student Selection Committee culled from the Scholarship Recipients Support Team to determine scholarship recipients, using criteria specified in this document.

*Renewal:*

To retain their scholarship, S<sup>3</sup> Academy Scholarship participants must meet these guidelines and reapply to the program each academic year:

- Maintain full-time enrollment and a declared major in one of the five STEM programs (**biotechnology, computer integrated manufacturing, computer science, engineering science, and engineering technology**) at the associate level.
- Each semester, demonstrate eligibility to receive S<sup>3</sup> Academy Scholarship support by agreeing to uphold all commitments as stated for admission, including maintaining full-time student status; following a course of study in an approved STEM program; passing a minimum of 12 credit hours each semester (six credit hours during the summer semester); and maintaining a GPA of at least 2.5 each semester.
- Continue to demonstrate financial need as defined for undergraduate students by the U.S. Department of Education rules for need-based Federal financial aid.
- Since the S<sup>3</sup> Academic Scholarship program's student success is in part dependent on the maintenance of a community of learners, a participant's involvement in S<sup>3</sup> Academy Scholarship program events (i.e. regular, STEM Scholars Organization participation, study groups, meetings with the project associate, PI or a STEM program faculty member, meetings with an industry mentor, tours or field trips, service-learning assignments) will also have a bearing upon decisions to renew the scholarship.