Vanderbilt-wide Limited Submission Opportunity

2025 NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program (S-STEM)

Applications due January 7, 2025

<mark>*Vanderbilt (VU + VUMC):*</mark> *This is a joint competition for VU and VUMC investigators. All investigators should follow these instructions*.

Vanderbilt University may submit no more than **two proposals** (either as a single institution or as subawardee or a member of an inter-institutional consortia project) to the NSF [Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program (S-STEM)](#).

The main goal of the S-STEM program is to enable academically talented, low-income students to pursue successful careers in promising STEM fields. Ultimately, the S-STEM program seeks to increase the number of academically promising low-income students who graduate with an S-STEM eligible degree and contribute to the American innovation economy with their STEM knowledge. Recognizing that financial aid alone cannot increase retention and graduation in STEM, the program provides awards to institutions of higher education (IHEs) not only to fund scholarships, but also to adapt, implement, and study evidence-based curricular and co-curricular[a] activities that have been shown to be effective in supporting recruitment, retention, transfer (if appropriate), student success, academic/career pathways, and graduation in STEM.

The program seeks to (1) provide scholarships to academically promising, domestic low-income students with demonstrated financial need pursuing a degree in an eligible S-STEM eligible discipline; (2) adapt and implement evidence-based curricular and co-curricular activities to support S-STEM scholars in ways that align with institutional context and available resources, taking into account scholars' strengths, needs, and realities; (3) increase retention, student success, and graduation of these NSF S-STEM scholars in STEM; and (4) disseminate effective outcomes, supports and interventions undertaken by the project.

Scholars must be domestic low-income students, with academic ability, talent or potential and with demonstrated unmet financial need who are enrolled in an associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degree program in an S-STEM eligible discipline. Proposers must provide an analysis that articulates the characteristics and academic needs of the population of students they are trying to serve. NSF is particularly interested in supporting the attainment of degrees in fields identified as critical needs for the Nation. It is up to the proposer to make a compelling case that a field is a critical need field in the United States.

S-STEM Eligible Degree Programs

- Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of Engineering, and Associate of Applied Science

- Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Applied Science

- Master of Arts, Master of Science and Master of Engineering

- Doctoral

S-STEM Eligible Disciplines

Disciplinary fields in which research is funded by NSF, including technology fields associated with the S-STEM-eligible disciplines (e.g., biotechnology, chemical technology, engineering technology, information technology, etc.).

The following degrees and disciplines are **excluded**:

- Clinical degree programs, including medical degrees, nursing, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, physical therapy, and others not funded by NSF, are ineligible degrees.

- Programs for STEM teacher certification or licensure currently covered by the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship program (NOYCE) are ineligible for S-STEM funding.

- Business school programs that lead to Bachelor of Arts or Science in Business Administration degrees (BABA/BSBA/BBA) are not eligible for S-STEM funding.

- Masters and Doctoral degrees in Business Administration are also excluded.

Note that there are 3 Tracks for which an application can be submitted, and each track has its own separate budgetary considerations. The proposal limits apply to all three tracks.

Track 1: Institutional Capacity Building; may request up to $2,000,000 for up to 6 years.

-Track 1 projects seek to increase the participation of institutions that have never had an award from the S-STEM program or the STEM Talent Expansion (STEP) program. This requirement applies to the institution as whole. One S-STEM or STEP award to any department or school within the institution makes the entire institution ineligible for a Track 1 award.

Track 2: Implementation-Single Institution; may request up to $2,000,000 for 6 years.

-Any IHE (as described under the eligibility section) can submit a Track 2 proposal, regardless of prior S-STEM or STEP awards.

Track 3: Inter-institutional Consortia; may request up to $5 million for up to 6 years

-Track 3 projects support multi-institutional collaborations that focus on a common interest or challenge. Inter-institutional Consortia projects represent diverse collaborations, including partnerships between 2-year colleges and 4-year colleges and universities, between 4-year colleges and graduate programs, or between comparable institutions looking to implement and study parallel interventions. For example, a collaboration among community colleges and four-year institutions may focus on issues associated with successful transfer of low-income students from 2-year institutions to 4-year programs. In another example, a multi-institutional collaboration may focus on factors that contribute to the success or degree attainment of domestic, low-income students in different types of institutions.

See the [solicitation](#) for more details.

Internal Application Information

Interested faculty should visit
https://vanderbilt.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/1955858 to submit an application for the internal LSO competition and to find additional information about the opportunity. The deadline for the internal competition is **January 7, 2025**.

Required application materials include:

1. Brief (2-page maximum) research plan including summary budget;
2. Recent Biographical Sketch or CV
3. Required letter of support from your department chair/center director/other.

Any questions about this opportunity or the LSO process may be directed to LSO@vanderbilt.edu.