2023 Scholarship Application

Overview of the AASP Minority Scholarship Program for Graduate Training in School Psychology

APPLICATION INTRODUCTION

Background
An Arizona Association of School Psychologist (AASP) Minority Scholarship is being offered to ease financial barriers and highlight accomplishments of promising minority graduate students embarking on a Specialist Degree (or equivalent) in School Psychology. The Executive Board of AASP has adopted a criteria and application process like the NASP’s Minority Scholarship Program. One important goal of the Program is for each scholar who receives the award to enter the school community as a practicing School Psychologist following graduation. This advances AASP’s commitment to diverse representation in the school psychology profession, and ultimately, improving school-based services to diverse student populations.

Award(s) will be announced at the 2023 AASP Annual Conference November 3rd, 2023. Funding will be allocated for the Fall or Spring term after the announcement. A scholarship in the amount of $500-$1,000 will be awarded to at least one chosen minority graduate student.

Minority Definitions and Eligibility
To apply and be considered for this scholarship, the Applicant must

● Be a full-time or part-time minority student.

Program’s ethnic minorities definitions:

○ 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.

*Categories follow the definitions and naming conventions of minority from the Federal Acquisition Regulations 48 CFR 52.222.27,

● Be a United States citizen

● Be enrolled in or accepted for enrollment in a school psychology program that is NASP-approved and located in an institution that is accredited by the Arizona 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
● Demonstrate experience and commitment to education for all children, including children from diverse backgrounds
● Describe professional interests and goals, and how they align to AASP’s Vision and Mission
● Obtain strong recommendation letters
● Demonstrate financial need
● Be an AASP student member (not a member? Click here to join)

Scholarship funding is available to students enrolled in their program or accepted for enrollment for the Summer/Fall 2023 or Spring 2024 term. Students enrolled in doctoral programs will not be considered for this scholarship award. Scholarship funding is not retroactive for studies prior to the Summer/Fall 2023 term. NOTE: If your graduation date falls before December 2023, you are ineligible to apply.

Students enrolled in Educational Specialist level (or equivalent) school psychology programs will be considered.

Selection Criteria
All complete applications will be reviewed by the AASP Minority Scholarship Program (MSP) Selection Committee who will include AASP Board Members serving on the Professional Development Committee.

The Committee will consider many factors in reaching their decision, including applicant's experience, interests, goals and growth as reflected on their resume/CV and Personal Statement; References; financial standing; and degree of scholarship. Applicants are encouraged to refer to the provided rubric to prepare your application.

Students may apply multiple times for this scholarship; however, the scholarship can only be granted one time.

Application Deadline – September 30, 2023, 5:00pm (Arizona).
To be considered for the award, ALL components of the application must be RECEIVED by the AASP office by September 30, 2023, 5:00pm (Arizona). 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 the deadline. AASP office hours are 8:30am-5pm, M-F. Address: AASP Office 1800 E. Ray Road, STE A106, Chandler, AZ 85225.

For directions to the AASP office or questions about drop-off of hard copies, please contact the AASP office admin@aasp-az.org or by phone (602) 992-0554.

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.
Notification
Recipients and unselected applicants of the award will be notified by October 21, 2023. Recipient(s) of the award will be formally announced at the AASP Annual Conference on November 3, 2023.

Questions?
Questions may be answered by carefully reviewing this Application Overview. Additional questions? Contact AASP Past-President, Stacy Anderson at stacy.anderson@aasp-az.org.

— IMPORTANT —

The AASP Minority Scholarship Program (MSP) reserves the right to confirm or validate the information the Applicant submits and 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 an AASP member to begin the Part 1—Online Student Application.

The Applicant should send Instructions to Reference Providers EARLY (see PART 2). All application components must be received by the AASP office by September 30, 2023, 5:00 p.m.).

THE APPLICATION IS A THREE-PART PROCESS PART
1. PART 1. Student’s Online Application and Submission
2. PART 2. Reference Provider Instructions
3. PART 3. Student’s Hard Copy Submission of Professional Statement, Resume/Curriculum Vitae (CV), Student Aid Report (SAR), and Official Transcripts

PART 1. STUDENT’S ONLINE APPLICATION
To start the Online Application process, the Applicant should determine they meet Eligibility Requirements and become an AASP student member. Notify AASP Past-President Stacy Anderson, stacy.anderson@aasp-az.org and Cathy Herring, KCA cathy.herring@aasp-az.org and a link will be provided to apply using the Google Form Application.

Using the google application form (2023 Scholarship Application), the applicant must complete Steps 1-4 below:
Step 1 – Enter Demographic Info – The Applicant accurately enters their general demographic data (e.g., name/address/email/ethnicity).

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

Step 3 – Reference Provider Names – The Applicant accurately enters the names and contact information for TWO Reference Providers.

Step 4 – Review/Submit Application – The Applicant reviews and formally submits their Online Application. The Applicant should read and save any/all communications received from the AASP office or president relating to any aspect of their application.

Upon formal submission of the Part 1/Online Application:

- The Applicant will receive an email from the AASP Past-President 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 Reference Provider will receive an email from AASP providing Instructions and a unique, non-sharable link to upload their reference letters. (see PART 2).

**PART 2. REFERENCE PROVIDER’S ONLINE SUBMISSION**

IMPORTANT: The Applicant is urged to secure two References as soon as possible and once identified, the Applicant should send each Reference Provider the Instructions below.

For the Applicant's part, PROVIDING:

- An accurate email address for each Reference Provider is key to them receiving the link and instructions.
- Advance copy of the Reference Provider Instructions to References allows the Reference Provider with maximum time to prepare.
- Regular follow-up with each Reference Provider may avoid delays that could compromise acceptance of the Application. Applicants should also adhere to these criteria for selecting their Reference Providers:
  - First-year graduate students should provide Reference Providers 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 Reference Provider who is a faculty member from their graduate School Psychology program. Each Reference Provider should address the points outlined in the Instructions.

When the Applicant formally submits their Part 1/Online Application, AASP will email each Reference Provider a unique upload link and these instructions:

**REFERENCE PROVIDER INSTRUCTIONS** [Applicant: Please share these instructions with your two Reference Providers ASAP.] The AASP Minority Scholarship Program awards scholarships to select one or more 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 Reference Providers who will each upload a recommendation letter on 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 submitted by September 30, 2023 at 5:00 pm (Arizona time). Once the Applicant submits their Online Application, you will receive an email from the AASP office reiterating the information below and providing a unique identifier and directions for submitting your submission.

Please prepare a recommendation letter factoring these criteria:

1) In your recommendation, please fully respond to the following four questions:
   ✓ 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 as a practitioner in school psychology. What is your assessment of the Applicant's interest in this area?
   ✓ Interpersonal skills are important when dealing with schools, outside agencies, parents, and so on. What is your assessment of the Applicant's interpersonal skills?

2) Letter Limit: 500 words.

3) NOTE: As part of a consistent policy to all applicants, we do not accept information after the deadline. Please be sure to submit your recommendation as prompted in the AASP e-mail and by the September 30, 2023, 5:00 pm (Arizona) deadline. If you have questions concerning this process, please contact Stacy Anderson at stacy.anderson@aasp-az.org and Cathy Herring cathy.herring@aasp-az.org (602-992-0554) at AASP. Thank you in advance for recognizing the important role your referral means to the student and the application process they are undertaking as they seek to obtain a scholarship from the AASP Minority Scholarship Program.

PART 3. STUDENT’S HARD or e-COPY SUBMISSION OF STUDENT AID REPORT (SAR), OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS, STATEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL GOALS AND RESUME OR CURRICULUM VITAE

The Applicant must send their complete Official 2022-2023 Student Aid Report (SAR; www.fafsa.ed.gov/) and ALL Official or Unofficial Transcripts—undergraduate and graduate—along with the statement of professional goals and a resume or curriculum vitae—together in ONE package—to the AASP office for RECEIPT by September 30, 2023, 5:00pm (local standard time) deadline.

Remit hard copy to: Attn: AASP Past-President Scholarship Application – Arizona Association of School Psychologists, 1800 E. Ray Road, STE A106, Chandler, AZ 85225 (items sent separately will not be considered. Our office only receives mail/deliveries Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm). If you are hand
delivering hard copy items, please notify cathy.herring@aasp-az.org prior to drop off for specific instructions.

Remit e-copy/scanned to: stacy.anderson@aasp-az.org and cc to cathy.herring@aasp-az.org

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. This can be official or unofficial.

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.

- STATEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL GOALS – The Applicant provides a written Statement of Professional Goals (Limit: 1,000 words). Share your future aspirations, including your goals as a school psychologist. Be specific. Describe your experience and commitment to education for all children, including children from diverse backgrounds. Articulate your professional interests and goals as they align to AASP’s Vision and Mission Statements. State your goals for professional growth and how this scholarship will address any financial needs and attainment of your goals.

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.
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Applicant Checklist and Reminders

Deadline by when ALL materials must be received at the AASP office or via email as described: September 30, 2023, 5:00pm (Arizona).

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

Secure two Reference Providers and provide them with their Reference Instructions (PART 2). Regularly connect with each Reference Provider to ensure they are on target to submit their submission by the September 30, 2023, 5:00pm (Arizona) deadline.

Obtain ALL Official or Unofficial Transcripts, undergraduate AND graduate.

Obtain complete Official 2023-2024 Student Aid Report.

Begin the Online Application. You must be an AASP member to access and begin the Online Application process.

Develop and submit 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. No further edits will be allowed once the “SUBMIT” button is pressed and the application is formally submitted.

Send ALL paper copies -- complete Official 2023-2024 Student Aid Report and all Official/Unofficial Transcripts (graduate and undergraduate), along with Professional Goals Statement and Resume/Curriculum Vitae -- to the AASP office, together in ONE package, for receipt by September 30, 2023, 5:00pm (Arizona)

For assistance, contact AASP Past-President Stacy Anderson, stacy.anderson@aasp-az.org and Cathy Herring, KCA cathy.herring@aasp-az.org

Wishing you much success with this application and your future plans to become a School Psychologist!

Sincerely,

Stacy Anderson, AASP Past President 2023-2024