

The University Science Scholars Program



**A scholarship and enrichment program
for undergraduates majoring in biology,
chemistry, and geology
(www.ualr.edu/sciencescholarship)**



Funded by the National Science Foundation and UALR

What is the University Science Scholars Program (USSP)?

The University Science Scholars Program is a scholarship and enrichment program for UALR students majoring in biology, chemistry, and earth science. The scholarship part of the program is available to talented and financially needy students. The enrichment program is available to talented students who do not qualify for need-based funding.

What is the financial package for the USSP?

Students may receive up to \$40,000 from the USSP (\$10,000 per year) for four years of schooling. These amounts can be added to Pell Grant awards. The total financial package cannot exceed the estimated cost of attendance at UALR. The UALR Office of Financial Aid will determine a student's need based on information submitted by the student in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.

What are the enrichment aspects of the USSP?

As a University Science Scholar, you will become part of a small, select group of science majors who will work together and help each other. You will get to know faculty—a huge advantage in your professional development. You will have an opportunity to live in a residence hall with other scholars and continue to develop peer group support.

If you enter the program as a freshman, we will ask you to take a three-credit course, “The First Year Experience.” This course will help you adjust to a college environment, make an immediate connection with science faculty, and begin to build your connections with peers. Experience at UALR and other universities have shown that these types of courses dramatically help new college students.

You will also have special opportunities for professional growth. The USSP will provide optional workshops (for example, resumé writing, computer applications, or applying for jobs or graduate school), field trips to employers (for example, The Nature Conservancy, or the Arkansas Geological Commission), and luncheon discussions (for example, how to find a job or choose a graduate program). All of these special sessions will be tailored to the needs and interests of the students in the program.

Of course, like other science majors, you will have research opportunities with UALR faculty. We will encourage each of you to participate in research because the value of research experience as an undergraduate cannot be overstated. Conducting research teaches you to teach yourself—a premier tool for success. It also helps you improve your knowledge, thinking, self-discipline, and ability to withstand frustration. Each year, we will sponsor a symposium to showcase the work by University Science Scholars. We will encourage everyone associated with the program to celebrate their success.

What are the requirements for admission to the University Science Scholars Program?

All University Science Scholars must be U.S. citizens, nationals of the U.S., aliens admitted as a section 207 refugee, or aliens admitted to the U.S. as a permanent resident.

You must be majoring or planning to major in biology, chemistry, or geology.

You must be admitted to UALR.

To receive scholarship funds, you must be certified by FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) rules.

You must have a high school G.P.A. of 3.0, a class ranking in the upper 20% of your graduating class, and/or a composite ACT score of 24 or an SAT score of 1090 if you are an entering freshman.

You must have an overall college G.P.A. of 3.0 and a G.P.A. of 3.25 in your major if you are a transfer student or a newly declared biology, chemistry, or geology major.

How can I apply?

Fill out and submit the UALR Admissions Application (on-line www.ualr.edu/admissions/admissions/). You must apply on-line.

Fill out and submit the UALR Academic Scholarship Application (on-line at www.ualr.edu/admissions/scholarships/awardamounts.asp).

To apply for USSP Scholarship funds, fill out and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov) form. Submitting this form on-line is faster and easier but you can submit a paper form.

Fill out and submit the USSP application form (www.ualr.edu/sciencescholarship). You may apply on-line or via a paper copy. This application includes writing a personal essay and having two letters of recommendation forwarded to us (see the application form for details).

For priority consideration, your application should be complete by February 1, 2009.

How can I get more information?

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Jim Winter (501-569-8069; jdwinter@ualr.edu) or Dr. Janet Lanza (501-569-3500, jxlanza@ualr.edu).

Please, visit our website:

www.ualr.edu/scienceschlolarship

What careers are possible with a major in biology, chemistry, or geology?

Scientific study has led us to a much deeper understanding of how the world works—and we still have many, many questions. This improved understanding of the physical and biological world has led to many improvements in our way of life, as well as problems resulting from such changes.

Many careers are possible with a degree in biology, chemistry, or geology. Some of the careers are not even invented yet! For example, the development of methods to measure the ratio of stable isotopes (e.g., carbon-12 and carbon-13) created new fields. It has enabled biologists to study energy flow in ecosystems, food chemists to identify the geographic sources of various food products, and geologists to understand high-temperature rock-fluid interactions.

One important trend in science is that many projects that scientists work on are very interdisciplinary in nature. You must be able to think about your field as it relates to other scientific fields and know enough about other fields to communicate with specialists in those fields. Furthermore, you must be able to work with many different types of people, ranging from scientists to the public. USSP will give you experience working with groups and with a diversity of topics and projects.

Below is just a sampling of the career opportunities that could await you:

Atmospheric scientist	Industrial chemist
Conservation biologist	Marine biologist
Crop improvement researcher	Molecular biologist
Environmental scientist	Nature guide
Environmental lawyer	Oceanographer
Ethnobotanist	Paleontologist
Exhibit developer for museums, parks, zoos, and nature centers	Petroleum geologist
Food chemist	Public policy developer
Forensic specialist	Recombinant gene technologist
Geneticist	Science journalist
GIS (geographic information systems) specialist	Science librarian
Hydrologist	Teacher—from middle school to university
	Wildlife and fisheries manager

If you aren't persuaded that science has a myriad of opportunities and exciting challenges, just surf the web and search for "careers in biology," "careers in chemistry," or "careers in geology." It won't take you long before you discover great opportunities abound!

List all high schools and colleges attended beginning with the current or most recent.

<u>Name of School/College Attended</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u>Dates</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

List all academic honors, awards, and scholarships. Please include the date received (continue on a separate page if needed).

List all significant school and community activities, leadership positions, extracurricular activities, etc. Include any interesting work experiences (continue on a separate page if needed).

Essay

Please attach to your application a short essay (about 500 words) explaining your specific interests in science, your career goals, your work habits, and your personal strengths.

I certify that all information and statements provided by me on this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Donors or agencies outside UALR occasionally request information contained on this application. I permit the release of educational and personal information to outside agencies as part of my application for the University Science Scholars Program.

Signature _____ Date _____



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