

United States Department of Agriculture



USDA/1890 National Scholars Program

2020 High School Application



INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) 1890 National Scholars Program. The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program was established in 1992 as part of the partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the 1890 Land-Grant Universities.

The goal of the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is to increase the number of students studying agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, and other related disciplines. The program is open to high school seniors, college freshmen and sophomores who exhibit exemplary leadership traits and demonstrated community service. The Scholarship is highly competitive and provides for full tuition payment, among other benefits, for up to 4-years to selected students enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an 1890 Land-Grant University. The 1890 National Scholars Program partners with USDA agencies to provide scholars with professional and educational opportunities. A sponsoring USDA Agency Coordinator will be assigned to the scholar. The USDA Agency Coordinator will be the primary point of contact for the scholar. The USDA Sponsoring Agency will work closely with scholars to provide ongoing support and ensure the scholar is on track with degree requirements.

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is implemented under the USDA Fellows Experience Program (FEP). Successful applicants will receive a temporary appointment to the USDA, not to exceed 4 years. Upon successful completion of the degree requirements and the end of the agreement period, the scholar is eligible for conversion to a career conditional appointment in service to USDA without further competition.

The USDA/1890 National Scholar is required to:

- ✓ Reimburse the USDA Sponsoring Agency for costs of education (excluding the employee's pay and allowances) incurred by the USDA sponsoring agency, if the scholar voluntarily separates from the service of the USDA sponsoring agency before the end of the period for which the scholar has agreed to continue in the service of the USDA.
- ✓ Consult with and obtain the approval of the Sponsoring USDA Agency prior to making any changes to their academic program. Unapproved changes may affect the Scholar's continued participation in the program, such as scholar's participation in study abroad programs, third party internships and leave of absence. The Scholar is expected to meet with the Agency Coordinator to go over degree classes and ongoing academic status.
- ✓ The Scholar must coordinate summer work experience through their work site manager.
- ✓ The Scholar must report to work site and have a record of their individual development plan.

Again, thank you for your interest in the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program and best wishes in your pursuit of academic excellence!

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

USDA/1890 NATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

OVERVIEW and AUTHORITIES

The USDA/1890 National Program is a partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the 1890 Land-Grant Universities. The program awards scholarships to students accepted to or attending one of the 1890 Land-Grant Universities in pursuit of a bachelor's degree in agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, or related academic discipline(s).

The Land-Grant Universities are as follows:

Alabama A&M University (Alabama)	North Carolina A&T State University (North Carolina)
Alcorn State University (Mississippi)	Prairie View A&M University (Texas)
Central State University (Ohio)	South Carolina State University (South Carolina)
Delaware State University (Delaware)	Southern University (Louisiana)
Florida A&M University (Florida)	Tennessee State University (Tennessee)
Fort Valley State University (Georgia)	Tuskegee University (Alabama)
Kentucky State University (Kentucky)	University of Arkansas Pine Bluff (Arkansas)
Langston University (Oklahoma)	University of Maryland Eastern Shore (Maryland)
Lincoln University (Missouri)	Virginia State University (Virginia)
	West Virginia State University (West Virginia)

- Legislative Authority of the Second Morrill Act of August 30, 1890 (7 U.S.C. 321-326 and 328);
- National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-113, 1402, et seq 7 U.S.C. §3101);
- Office of Personnel Management, Training (5 C.F.R part 410);
- Schedule A (r) federal Experience Authority (5 C.F.R. 213.312 ((r));
- Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (FAIR ACT), Title IX, Section 922 (7 U.S.C § 2279c);
- Executive Order 13779, White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, signed February 18, 2017 continued by Executive Order 13811, signed September 29 September 2017.
- Conversion to Career Conditional Appointment Farm Bill 2018 (5 CFR 213.3102) authority code "ZLM".

PURPOSE

The purpose of the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is:

- ✓ To strengthen the long-term partnership between USDA and the 1890 Land-Grant Universities.
- ✓ To promote increase and cooperation among the parties in all areas of mutual interest.
- ✓ To improve USDA's outreach efforts within the communities served by 1890 Land-Grant Universities and USDA.
- ✓ To increase the number of students studying and pursuing careers in agriculture, food sciences, and natural resource sciences or other related disciplines.

OBJECTIVE

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program offers scholarships to U.S. citizens who are seeking a bachelor's degree at one of the 1890 Land-Grant Universities in any of the fields of study within agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, or other related disciplines.

Examples of required fields of study or related disciplines are:

- Agribusiness
- Agriculture/Biological Regulatory Science
- Agricultural Production and Technology
- Agronomy or Crop Sciences
- Agricultural Economics
- Agricultural Engineering/Mechanics Sciences
- Animal Sciences
- Aquaculture/Fisheries
- Biological System Engineering
- Botany
- Business Management
- Entomology
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Farm and Range Management
- Financial Management
- Forestry and Related Sciences
- Horticulture
- Natural Resources Management
- Nutrition
- Soil Conservation /Soil Science
- Water Resource Management
- Other Related Disciplines (e.g., pre-veterinary medicine, veterinary technology, computer sciences, non-medical biological sciences)

AWARD

Scholarships are awarded annually and must be used at one of the 1890 Land-Grant Universities. Each award is renewable each year for the term of the scholarship and provides full tuition, fees, books, and room and board. The scholarship renewal is contingent upon satisfactory academic performance, summer work performance and academic progress toward the bachelor's degree.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

Applicant must:

- ✓ Be a U.S. citizen
- ✓ Intend to study agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, or other related academic disciplines
- ✓ Have a high school cumulative **unweighted GPA of 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale)**
- ✓ Have applied for admission to an 1890 Land-Grant University.
- ✓ Have a score of 1,080 or more on the SAT; or a composite score of 21 or more on the ACT
- ✓ Demonstrate leadership and community service

INSTRUCTIONS

Only completed application packages submitted by the deadline will be considered. All application materials must be submitted in one application package. Complete application packages must include the following:

- ✓ Signed and dated application including signature of parent or guardian, if the applicant is under the age of 18, a Completed Privacy Act Advisory Statement and Release Form (no copies – only original signatures will be accepted)
- ✓ Completed Biographical Questionnaire
- ✓ High School Counselor's Assessment Report in a sealed envelope
- ✓ High School Teacher's Assessment Report in a sealed envelope
- ✓ Submit the most recent official transcript with the school seal and/or the signature of an authorized school official
- ✓ Submit a 500-800-word essay on one (1) of the following topics.
 - My interest in working for USDA.
 - How I envision the scholarship will impact me personally and my future as a public servant.
 - My experiences and perceptions about agriculture, food sciences and natural resource sciences or other related disciplines as related to agriculture.
- ✓ Submit an original signed and dated application

Applicants are responsible for obtaining the Assessment Reports from the High School Counselor and the High School Teacher. These Assessment Reports should be in a sealed envelope and included with the application package. All application materials must have original signatures and seals/stamps.

Application materials containing photocopied signatures and transcripts will not be considered for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program scholarship.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

All application materials must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, January 31, 2020 and sent to the USDA/1890 Program Liaison at the university or universities selected by the applicant.

SELECTION PROCESS

If selected, the student will be contacted by the sponsoring Agency Coordinator. The applicant will be given an opportunity to ask questions related to the agency, job, and program expectations. Selected applicants should contact their Agency Coordinator with any unanswered questions or concerns related to the agency, summer experience, or academic requirements.

Applications Must Be Postmarked by Friday, January 31, 2020.

Note: The application may also be printed out and filled in by hand in black or blue ink only.

PRIVACY ACT ADVISORY STATEMENT

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with this request for information. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements for this Act, please be advised:

1. Furnishing the information requested is voluntary.
2. The data will be used for selection of 1890 National Program, printing certificates, and related activities.
3. The data is maintained in a privacy act system as defined by National Archives and Records Administration under OMB.
4. Failure to complete this form will mean you cannot be included among those candidates being considered for designation as a USDA/1890 National Scholar.

I, _____ understand that I am a candidate for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program, have read the Privacy Act Advisory Statement, and affirm my wish to be considered. In the event I am selected as a Scholar, permission is hereby given for the release of materials submitted by me for the use of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the 1890 Land-Grant Universities as deemed appropriate for purposes of the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program.

I further consent to the release of photographs that may be taken of me, by or for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I am (check one) ☐ willing ☐ unwilling to appear on radio and/or television if such arrangements are made by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Print Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Note: Original signatures only. Photocopies will not be accepted.

Candidate's Biographical Questionnaire (Please Print)

The following questions are designed to collect information about your background, your interests, and your plans. Your answers to these questions will be used only in connection with your application for this scholarship program and will be divulged only to qualified persons who must see them during their duties.

A. Biographical Information

Legal Name

Last Name _____ First Name _____ M.I. _____

Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Permanent Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

U.S. Citizen ☐ Yes ☐ No

Telephone (Home) _____

Telephone (Cell) _____ Email Address _____

B. Education

Name of Current High School _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

GPA (on a 4.0 unweighted scale) _____

Note: Grade point averages and standardized test scores should match supporting documentation submitted by counselor. Do not apply if you do not meet these criteria.

1. List any other schools that you attended in the last 4 years. List the schools in order of attendance, with the one you attended most recently listed first.

Name of school	Location (City & State)	Dates of Attendance

2. List any advanced or special program, courses, or summer courses you have taken. List the most recent course or program first.

Course or Program	Name of School	Address	Dates of Attendance	Hours per Week

3. Name(s) of the 1890 University (or Universities) to which you are applying, in order of preference (i.e. 1 =Most Preferred, 3=Least Preferred):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Note: Applicants applying to more than one 1890 Land-Grant University must submit separate 1890 National Program applications for each university.

4. What course of study (major) will you pursue?

1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

Other Related Discipline/Unlisted Major (Please Identify):

Note: All academic disciplines may not be available at every 1890 Land-Grant University. Check the University's academic offerings before applying.

5. Have you made career decisions related to agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences or related disciplines?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain below:

C. Activities

1. List extracurricular activities in which you have participated in school or in the community (i.e. academic activities such as 4-H, FFA, debate, sports, music, art, etc.).

Activity	Dates of Participation	Office(s) Held	Special Award(s)

2. List volunteer and paid positions you have held in the past 4 years (including summer employment).

Volunteer or Paid Positions	Employer/Organization	Date of Service or Employment	Hours per Week	Special Award(s)

D. Candidates Self-Assessment

1. Please list your hobbies and how each plays a role in your personal development.
2. Describe activities in which you had a leadership role in your school or in your community.

3. Describe a recent experience that has given you a sense of satisfaction or pride.

4. Briefly discuss why have you chosen to study agricultural, or a related discipline.

Review this form to make sure you have answered all questions completely. Proofread your responses.

I certify that I have completed this application and that all statements are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a false statement could eliminate me from consideration for this scholarship.

Print your Legal Name:

Applicant's Signature:

Date Signed:

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature:

Print Name (Parent or Legal Guardian): Note: If the applicant is a child, under the age of 18, parental or legal guardian signature is required.

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature:

Date Signed:

Note: This form and all other application materials must be postmarked by Friday, January 31, 2020.

How did you hear about the 1890 National Scholars Program Scholarship? (Select all that apply.)

College Fair(s): ☐

Name of Event(s): _____

Informational Session: ☐

Location: _____

Public Service Announcement: ☐

Stations: _____

Direct Mail/E-mail: ☐

Source of Communication: _____

USDA Employee: ☐

Name of Employee(s): _____

Church or Place of Worship: ☐

Name of Facility: _____

Website(s): ☐

Name of Website(s): _____

Social Media: ☐

Name of Site/App(s): _____

USDA/1890 NATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP

Applicant's Authorization to Release Academic Information (for counselor)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. The above-named student is a candidate for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program. To process this application, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University will need:

An official secondary school transcript, the SAT, and/or ACT scores. The transcripts from the student's secondary school record must contain a seal and signature of an authorized school official. Please note that only students with an **unweighted GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale** and a combined SAT score of at least 1080 or ACT score of at least 21 are eligible for the USDA/1890 National Program.

Thorough responses will greatly enhance your student's candidacy. This information will be used only-in connection with the selection of Scholars and will be seen only by qualified persons involved in the selection process.

Please delete all personally identifiable information, such as social security numbers and dates of birth from any supporting documentations.

For questions or more information about the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program, please contact the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement at (202) 720-6350.

USDA/1890 NATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP
Applicant's Authorization to Release Academic Information (for Counselor)

Applicant's Full Name

Last	First	Middle	Suffix

To comply with the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, a school must obtain signed authorization before it can release student information for use in this scholarship program. Permission is hereby given to school officials to release record and other requested information for consideration in the scholarship program named above. *Note: If the applicant is a minor child, under the age of 18; parental or legal guardian signature is required.*

Student's Signature _____

Date _____

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Applicant: If you have attended this school less than 2 years, you must copy this form and have your previous school also complete this form for you.

School Name _____

Address _____

City	State	Zip Code	Phone Number

F. Secondary/Post Secondary School Record (for counselor)

The applicant's original SAT and/or ACT scores, along with an official secondary school transcript (with seal and signature by an authorized official), including grades 9 through 12 must be attached to this section of the application. If the official transcript and SAT and/or ACT scores are not provided, the applicant will not be considered for the scholarship.

Note: If the applicant is enrolled in official college courses (i.e. dual degree), please submit an official transcript from the college as well.

Applicant's Full Name

Last

First

Middle

Suffix

Counselor's Printed Name

Counselor's Signature

Date

This form along with the candidate's official school transcript, SAT and/or ACT scores must be included in the application package. Applicants applying to more than one the designated schools must submit separate USDA/1890 National Scholars application packages for each school. The complete application package(s) must be postmarked by **Friday, January 31, 2020.**

USDA/1890 National Scholar Program
 Secondary School Report School Teacher Assessment Report

The application for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program scholarship requires a carefully considered character and ability assessment by a teacher who knows the student well, including a summary of other teachers' judgments of the student.

Applicant's Full Name

Last	First	Middle	Suffix

A. Name of Teacher

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Suffix

Address	Phone Number

B. Length of Relationship _____

C. Considering this student's interests, work habits, and life goals, what is your assessment as to whether the student will be motivated to take advantage of the opportunities available in college? Please give reasons for your assessment.

D. What special features are a part of your school's curriculum (e.g., AP and honors courses, college study, and independent study)? Has the student taken advantage of the most challenging opportunities your school has to offer?

E. Has the student shown exceptional talent or originality in agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, and/or other related disciplines?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please explain in this section:

Strengthens:

Weaknesses:

F. Sometimes, special circumstances should be considered when evaluating a student's achievement records and test scores. If in your opinion, this student may have been disadvantaged by any such circumstances, please specify. *Additional pages may be attached if needed. *

G. Indicate comments made by teachers about the student relative to the following:

1. Participation in discussion:

- ☐ Always involved, often initiates discussion
- ☐ Occasionally participates
- ☐ Seldom participates
- ☐ Not applicable

2. Involvement in classroom activities:

- ☐ Active, usually shows genuine interest
- ☐ Mild, politely attentive
- ☐ Unenergetic
- ☐ Seldom participates

3. Pursuit of independent study:

- ☐ Considerable study and major project(s)
- ☐ Some study and minor project(s)
- ☐ No evidence of independent study
- ☐ Not applicable

4. Evenness of performance:

- ☐ Even, varies no more than one mark Slightly uneven
- ☐ Uneven, often carries two marks
- ☐ Erratic fluctuates greatly
- ☐ Inadequate opportunity to observe

5. Critical and questioning attitude:

- ☐ Often challenges
- ☐ Occasionally probes
- ☐ Rarely questions
- ☐ Not applicable

6. Depth of understanding:

- ☐ Excellent insight
- ☐ Good understanding
- ☐ Some insight
- ☐ Little understanding
- ☐ Not applicable

7. Personal responsibility:

- ☐ Always accepts fully
- ☐ Usually accepts fully
- ☐ Sometimes refuses
- ☐ Often refuses

8. Consideration for others:

- ☐ Always considerate of others' rights and feelings
- ☐ Usually considerate
- ☐ Sometimes inconsiderate
- ☐ Often inconsiderate

9. Population of the community in which your school is located:

- ☐ Less than 500
- ☐ 500 – 1,500
- ☐ 1,500 – 5,000
- ☐ 5,000 – 25,000
- ☐ 25,000 – 100,000
- ☐ Over 100,000

10. What economic or social conditions characterize the community and most of the parents of the children in your school?

- ☐ Rural farming area
- ☐ Industrial Small
- ☐ Large city,
- ☐ Metropolitan area
- ☐ Other _____

Teacher's Signature _____

Date _____

This form and the candidate's transcript and SAT and/or ACT scores must be included in the student's application package. Applicants applying to more than one 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant University must submit separate USDA/1890 National Scholars application packages for each university. The complete application packages must be postmarked by **Friday, January 31, 2020**.

USDA/1890 National Application Checklist

- ☐ I have read the eligibility requirements and meet all eligibility criteria.
- ☐ I have applied to each 1890 Land-Grant Institution of interest.
- ☐ I am submitting an original application and transcript to each 1890 Land-Grant Institution of interest (see addresses on pages 24-25 of this application).
- ☐ I completed the Candidate's Biographical Information section.
- ☐ I have included and signed the Secondary School Report from my high school counselor and explained the need to have all official transcripts with a seal.
- ☐ SAT and/or ACT scores are enclosed with this response.
- ☐ I have included the signed School Teacher Assessment.
- ☐ I have signed and dated the application (**original signature only**). If under the age of 18 years old, parents or guardians have signed my application.
- ☐ I have enclosed the 500-800-word essay.
- ☐ I understand that the full application package must be postmarked no later than Friday, January 31, 2020 for consideration for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program.

1890 Land-Grant Universities Liaison Directory

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison
Alabama A&M University
Post Office Box 1087
Normal, AL 35762
(202) 570-3926

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison
Fort Valley State University
1005 State University Drive
Pettigrew Center, Room 244
Fort Valley, GA 31030
(202) 253-4218

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison
Alcorn State University
1000 ASU Drive, Room 1139
104 Agriculture Science Building
Lorman, MS 39096
(202) 596-0478

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison
Kentucky State University
Cooperative Extension Facility
400 East Main Street, Room 221
Frankfort, KY 40601
(202) 570-5202

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison
Central State University 1400
Brush Row Road
McLin Building, Room 210
Wilberforce, OH 45384
(202) 596-0140

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison
Langston University
School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
100 Success Drive, Room V 115
Langston, OK 73050
(202) 263-9209

Attn: USDA/I 890 Program Liaison
Delaware State University
CARS Ag Annex, Room 108F
Dover, DE 1991
(202) 308-7687

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison
Lincoln University
818 Lee Drive; 108 Bennett Hall
Jefferson City, MO 65101
(202) 264-0736

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison
Florida A&M University
1740 South Martin L. King Jr., Boulevard
Room 217, S. Perry-Paige Building
Tallahassee, FL 32307-4100
(202) 510-6301

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison
North Carolina A&T University
1601 East Market Street
107 B.C. Webb Hall
Greensboro, NC 27411
(202) 281-8214

1890 Land-Grant Universities Liaison Directory

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison
Prairie View A&M University
P. O. Box 2736
Prairie View, TX 77446
(202) 302-4712

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison
South Carolina State University
300 College Avenue, N.E.
P.O. Box 7246
Orangeburg, SC 29117
(202) 596-4442

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison
Southern University and A&M College
Fisher Hall, Room 102
Baton Rouge, LA 70813
(202) 302-7255

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison
Tennessee State University
3500 John Merritt Boulevard
Ag Science Dept., Room 20
P.O. Box 9629
Nashville, TN 37209-1561
(202) 596-0226

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison West
Virginia State University
100 Curtis House
P.O. Box 1000 Institute, WV 25112-1000
(202) 596-4605

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison
Tuskegee University
College of Agriculture, Environmental
and Nutritional Sciences
Campbell Hall Room 103
Tuskegee, AL 36088
(202) 306-9884

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison
University of Arkansas Pine Bluff
1200 North University Drive
Mail Slot: 4806
Pine Bluff, AR 71611-2799
(202) 306-9810

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
One Backbone Road
Hazel Hall, Room 3002
Princess Anne, MD 21853
(202) 306-7368

Attn: USDA/1890 Program Liaison
Virginia State University
P.O. Box 9081; 1 Hayden Drive
L. Douglas Wilder Building, Room 202C
Petersburg, VA 23806
(202) 596-0301

For questions related to this application, please contact:

The Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement - USDA/1890 Program

1400 Independence Ave. SW., Stop 0601 Washington, D.C. 20250 Telephone Number:
(202) 720-6350 Fax Number: (202) 720-7136

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