

USDA/1890 NATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

OVERVIEW and AUTHORITIES

The USDA/1890 National Scholars 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 A&M 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”.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

Applicant must:

- ✓ Be a U.S. citizen
- ✓ Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale).
- ✓ Intend to study and work in the field of agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences, or related disciplines
- ✓ Demonstrate leadership and community service

INSTRUCTIONS

Only completed application packages submitted and postmarked by Friday, January 31, 2020 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
- ✓ Completed Biographical Questionnaire
- ✓ Current resume
- ✓ 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

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

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, the 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.

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

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

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 the form will mean that you cannot be included among those candidates being considered for designation as 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 named 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 in connection with the Program. 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 in connection with the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program.

Print Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

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

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Candidate's Biographical Questionnaire (Please Print)

The questions that follow 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 (Please print in full) _____

Last

First

Middle

Sex: Male Female

Permanent Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (Home) _____

Telephone (Cell) _____

Age _____

Email Address _____

B. Education

Name of College/University currently attending _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

GPA (on a 4.0 unweighted scale) _____

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	Address	Attendance Dates

2. 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 Scholars Program applications for each university.

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

1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

Other Related Disciplines/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 for the scholarship.

4. Have you made career decisions related to agriculture, food sciences, natural resources or related disciplines Yes No (if yes, please explain below)

C. Activities

List volunteer services and jobs, you have held in the past 4 years (*be concise and limit your responses to the space provided*) including summer employment

Activity	Dates of Participation	Title/Position Held	Awards <i>(include monetary, plaques, or letters of recommendation or appreciation)</i>

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D. Essay

Submit a 500-800-word essay describing: 1) your interest in working for USDA, 2) How do you envision the scholarship will impact you and your future as a public servant, and your experience and perceptions about agriculture, food sciences, and natural resources sciences. *Notes: You may provide your essay below or you may attach a type-written copy of your essay to the application.*

Signatory Page

Final note: Review this form to make sure you have answered all questions completely. Proofread, spellcheck and edit your responses for completeness

Certification

I certify that I 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 Legal Name

Signature

Date Signed

Note: This form must be postmarked for return to each 1890 Land-Grant University of your choice no later than Friday January 31, 2020.

Application Checklist

1.	I have read and understand the eligibility requirements and meet all eligibility criteria.	
2.	I am submitting an original application and transcript to each 1890 University of interest (<i>see mailing addresses on page 14-15 of this application</i>).	
3.	I have applied for admission or am currently enrolled at each 1890 Land-Grant University of interest.	
4.	I have read and completed the Candidate’s Biographical Information section.	
5.	I have enclosed two letters of recommendation from the following: 1. Department Head, Dean of College, or one of the University Vice Presidents 2. College Professor who has served as an instructor in one of my courses	
6.	I have enclosed a 500-800-word essay describing: 1. My interest in working for USDA, 2. How I envision the scholarship will impact me and my future as a public servant, 3. My experiences and perceptions about agriculture, food sciences, and natural resource sciences.	
7.	I have signed and dated the application (original signature only).	
8.	I understand that the application package must be postmarked no later than midnight Friday January 31, 2020 for consideration for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program.	

Voluntary Marketing Survey

How did you hear about the USDA /1890 National Scholars Program?

Check all that apply	Event or Person	Location or Name
	College Fair(s)	
	Academic/ Financial Advisor	
	Professor	
	Direct Mail/Email	
	USDA Employee	
	Place of Worship	
	Social Media	
	Other (Specify)	