

# BECKMAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### PROGRAM QUESTIONS

**Q: What is the purpose of the Beckman Scholars Program?**

**A:** The purpose is to help stimulate, encourage, and support research activities by exceptionally talented, full-time undergraduate students who are pursuing their studies at accredited four-year colleges and universities located in the United States of America.

**Q: Is this an institutional award or an individual award?**

**A:** This is an institutional award.

**Q: How many Scholars does each awardee institution receive funding support for?**

**A:** Each awardee institution (named after 2022) receives funding for six Scholar-Mentor pairs.

**Q: How much funding does this award provide?**

**A:** It provides \$26,000 per Scholar-Mentor pair, \$21,000 for the student and \$5,000 for the mentor.

**Q: What is the performance period for each Scholar?**

**A:** Scholars engage in a 15-month mentored research experience covering two summer terms and a full academic year.

**Q: What is the time commitment for each Scholar during the performance period?**

**A:** Scholars perform research activities on a part-time basis (10 hours per week) during the academic year and on a full-time basis (ten 40-hour weeks each summer) over two summers immediately before and after the academic year research experience.

**Q: What are the requirements for student candidates of the Beckman Scholars Program?**

**A:** Undergraduate students in chemistry, biochemistry, the biological and medical sciences, or some interdisciplinary combination of these subjects, enrolled as full-time students at a BSP awardee institution throughout the duration of the award. They must maintain good academic standing, well spoken with strong writing skills, in pursuit of a PhD, MD, MD/PhD, or other scientific pursuit. Candidates must also be U.S. Citizens, Permanent Residents of the United States or its possessions, or hold DACA recipient status.

**Q: Is there a minimum GPA requirement?**

**A:** No, there is no minimum GPA requirement for BSP candidates.

**Q: In what year can students be named as Beckman Scholars?**

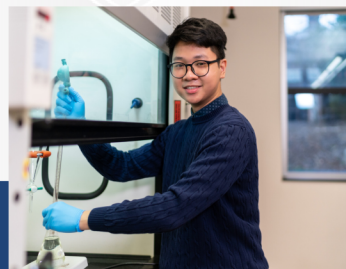
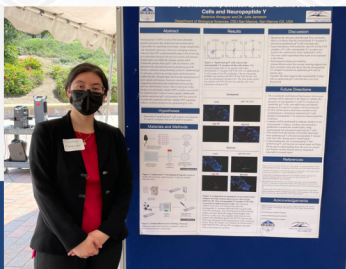
**A:** Students will be named as Beckman Scholars in the spring of their freshman through junior years at their university or college. Beckman Scholar summer funds may extend through the summer following graduation.

**Q: Do BSP awardees need to report anything on taxes related to their award?**

**A:** BSP funding is given to the university/college, which distributes it for award expenses, so students should contact a tax professional and/or their institution's financial aid office with any tax-related questions. The Foundation does not issue tax guidance.

**Q: I am an undergraduate student; can I apply for this program on behalf of my school?**

**A:** No, students cannot apply on behalf of their institution. This is an institutional award. Eligible institutions receive invitations for this limited-submission grant opportunity. If you are an undergraduate student in the area of chemistry, biochemistry, biology, or other science discipline, contact your institution's department chairs or research support office for more information.



## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

**Q: How can our institution receive an invitation to apply to the Beckman Scholars Program (BSP)?**

A: submit a request letter (2 pages max., on institution letterhead, pdf attachment) via email to [bsp@beckman-foundation.org](mailto:bsp@beckman-foundation.org) discussing the institution's qualifications. include your institution's Carnegie Classification, Federal Tax ID Number, and IRS designation (501c3 or similar).

**Q: Are all colleges/universities eligible to apply?**

A: Institutions must receive an invitation to apply to this program. Applicant institutions must be accredited, four-year U.S. institutions offering chemistry and biology undergraduate majors for baccalaureate degrees. Service academies and government laboratories, such as NIH or federally funded national laboratories, are not eligible institutions.

**Q: What is the deadline to submit an invitation request?**

A: Institutions interested in receiving an invitation to apply to the Beckman Scholars Program should submit request letters by December 31 to be considered for the upcoming invite cycle, distributed in mid-February. Requests received after December 31 will be held for consideration during the next cycle.

**Q: Our institution previously received an invitation to apply, why not this year?**

A: There are a few reasons why an institution that was previously invited would not receive an invite for the current year. Contact the program officer to learn more about your institution's invite status.

**Q: Our institution has an active BSP award; will we be able to re-apply?**

A: Yes, at the conclusion of your three-year BSP award term.

**Q: Can our institution submit more than one application?**

A: Institutions can only submit one application during each program cycle.

**Q: If our university has more than one campus location, can each location apply?**

A: Only if the campus location received an invite to apply. Also, any data reported in the application should be specific to that campus.

**Q: How many institutions does the Foundation name as awardees?**

A: Current plans include recommending approximately 14 merit-based programs for funding (84 Scholars).

**Q: Can our institution preview the application contents without creating an account in the application portal?**

A: No. All application materials, including tasks, templates, and instructions, are housed within the application portal.

**Q: In the application portal, it says we need to complete the first two task stages in order – why?**

A: They contain fields which trigger the reveal of conditional, required tasks later in the application.

**Q: What is a Participating Academic Unit?**

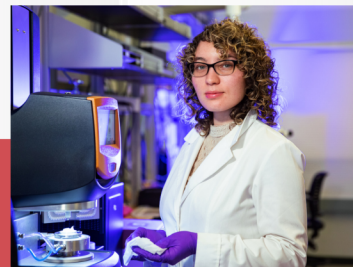
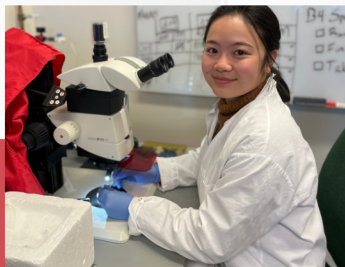
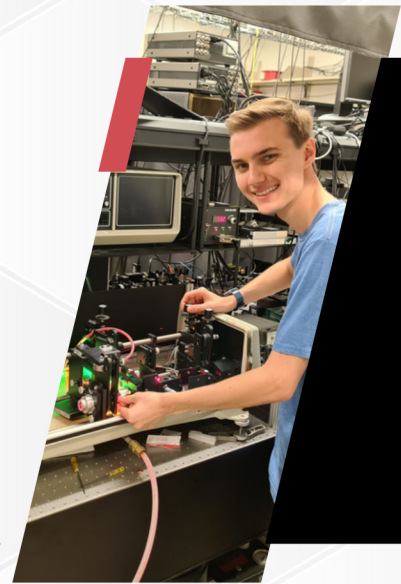
A: Participating Academic Units represent science majors. Tip: Avoid "College of Arts & Sciences"-type entries; rather, list individual majors as Participating Academic Units such as Chemistry, Biology, etc.

**Q: Where can we look up our institution's Carnegie Classification?**

A: Visit the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education at <https://carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu/lookup/lookup.php>.

**Q: Who are we supposed to list as the Institutional Contact? And can we include more than one individual for that role?**

A: The Institutional Contact is the individual who will be available throughout the application process and award term to act as liaison between the Foundation and the university or college. The Institutional Contact can be from science department faculty, sponsored programs or research, or foundation relations. This contact will be responsible for administering the program as well as submitting financial reports, reports of academic standing, coordinating the submittal of Scholar reports, Mentor reports, and institutional reports for each term of the institutional award cycle. Only one individual can be named for this role.



## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

**Q: If our institution has applied before, can we just upload our previously documents instead of downloading the current year templates?**

**A: No.** Use the current year templates provided within the portal under task instructions.

**Q: Can we negotiate the award terms and conditions?**

**A: No.** The BSP award terms and conditions are non-negotiable. There are two clauses noted which may be struck through only if the institution is forbidden from accepting them by State Law.

**Q: How do we include/upload letters of endorsement to our application?**

**A:** Letters of endorsement are not requested for the BSP application. Please do not include them with any of your task uploads. There is an Institutional Endorsement task within the application that requests signatures only – and these signatures are collected through the application system from your Chief Academic Officer and the Dean of each Participating Academic Unit included in your application. Instructions for completing these endorsement signatures are provided in the portal.

**Q: Our Carnegie Classification is now different from what is automatically populating in the application - what should we do?**

**A:** First, email the BSP program officer with your institution's updated Carnegie Classification. Then, select the correct classification from the dropdown menu in your application before proceeding.

**Q: What if the application isn't showing the number of institutional endorsements needed for our Participating Academic Units?**

**A:** A step has been skipped within your application which triggered the reveal of this conditional task. Contact the BSP program officer for assistance; be sure to leave ample time for completing your application before the deadline.

**Q: What if the same Dean oversees multiple Participating Academic Units - do we still need to collect a signature for each?**

**A:** Yes. Even if the same Dean oversees multiple Participating Academic Units listed in your application, you will need to collect a signature from that individual for each Participating Academic Unit.

**Q: What should we do if the institutional endorsement signature didn't show up in the box?**

**A:** Reset this task to collect a visible signature. If you need assistance, contact the BSP program officer. Be sure to allow ample time to complete your application before the deadline.

**Q: Can we make a change to our application if we already submitted it? What if the deadline hasn't yet passed?**

**A:** No changes, edits, or updates to an application will be permitted once it has been submitted – even if the deadline hasn't yet passed. No exceptions. Please review your application carefully before submitting it.

**Q: Can you tell us a little more about why our application didn't advance or wasn't awarded?**

**A:** Because of the excessive administrative requirements involved, the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation provides limited written feedback on unsuccessful applications but is unable to provide additional critical commentary via telephone, meeting, or email.

## FUNDING QUESTIONS

**Q: When will the funding for our Scholars come through?**

**A:** The Foundation typically issues current year BSP funding via wire or ACH in June. Contact the BSP program officer for an exact date.

## REPORTING QUESTIONS

**Q: I am having trouble accessing the reporting portal and/or resetting my password, can you help?**

**A:** Yes! Contact the BSP program officer for assistance. Tip: Google Chrome provides the best experience with the reporting portal.

