



**ACM & Big Ten Academic Alliance
Graduate School Exploration Fellowship
Student Application**

To ensure that you meet eligibility requirements, please respond to the following questions. Please circle Yes (Y) or No (N).

Are you . . .

- Y N** a citizen or permanent resident of the United States?
- Y N** enrolled as a full-time student at an ACM College and will have sophomore standing according to your home College's graduation requirements after January 2017?
- Y N** a first-generation college student as established by the U.S. Department of Education (*see last page*)
and/or
- Y N** a student who has a demonstrated need/income level established by the U.S. Department of Education (*see last page*)
and/or
- Y N** a member of an underrepresented group in graduate education (Black, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, etc.)?
and/or
- Y N** a student who has followed a non-traditional pathway to college due to exceptional talent and motivation in the face of adversity?
- Y N** able to verify excellent undergraduate academic achievement (preferred minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0)?
- Y N** planning to pursue a doctoral degree or complete graduate studies in humanities, humanistic social sciences, and/or the arts?
- Y N** willing and able to participate in all GSEF sponsored events during your Junior and Senior Year?

An application guide, list of campus coordinators, and FAQs can be found at: ACM.edu/GSEF

GSEF Application Checklist:

- Completed entire application
- Faculty recommendation(s)
- List of preferred participating research universities or departments
- Completed personal statement (up to 250 words)
- Completed statement of research interests (up to 250 words)
- Authorization of Transcript Release

- Please tell us how you heard about the GSEF Program: _____

GSEF Application

Check with your campus coordinator for application due dates.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name:

(Last)

(First)

(Preferred, if applicable)

Date of birth:

(Month/Day/Year)

Student ID #:

Address:

(Street)

(City)

(State, Zip code)

Email address:

Cell Phone #:

Sex: ___Male ___Female ___Other/Prefer not to specify

Birthplace: _____

(City, State, Country)

Citizenship: ___U.S. Citizen ___Permanent Resident ___Other _____

Ethnicity / Race (check all that apply):

- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Asian American (please specify): _____
- Black/African American
- Caucasian
- Hispanic/Latino(a)
- Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian
- Other (please specify): _____

Check any TRiO program(s) in which you have participated:

- Talent Search
- Upward Bound
- Upward Bound Math/Science
- Veterans Upward Bound
- EOC
- SSS

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

Cumulative GPA: _____ Major GPA: _____

Major(s): _____

Minor(s, if applicable): _____

Research interest(s):

List the name of up to THREE professors on your home campus who you feel could serve as your primary Faculty Mentor:

Preliminary Topic(s) for Summer Research Project:

PREFERRED PARTICIPATING RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES AND DEPARTMENTS

Please indicate your preferences regarding the participating university departments and/or institutions in which you might like to pursue a summer research opportunity. While there is no guarantee that you will be matched with your preferences, the coordinators will do everything possible to try to place you with the departments, individuals, and/or institutions that you list.

STATEMENT OF RESEARCH INTEREST (250 Words Maximum)

Your personal statement MUST address the following:

- Provide an understanding of your research areas of interest to the reader
- Why this discipline is of great interest to you
- Specific experiences and traits that highlight your academic success and preparation to pursue research

PERSONAL STATEMENT (250 Words Maximum)

Your personal statement MUST address the following:

- Why you want to pursue a Ph.D. or other terminal graduate studies programs
- What your academic aspirations and career goals include
- How the Graduate School Exploration Fellowship will help you achieve this goal

Length: Two pages or 250 words (maximum), typed, and double-spaced for each statement. Please submit in word or PDF format.

FACULTY RECOMMENDATIONS

You must provide the Selection Committee with at least one (preferably two) faculty recommendation letters that assess your ability for academic research as well as your motivation and ability to succeed in graduate school.

NOTE: We will only accept letters of recommendation from faculty members who can attest to your ability to do independent research and who understand your desires to obtain a graduate degree. In the spaces below, provide the names and valid email addresses of your faculty recommenders.

Recommender #1

Name: _____ **Title/Position:** _____

Extension #: _____ **Email address:** _____

Recommender #2

Name: _____ **Title/Position:** _____

Extension #: _____ **Email address:** _____

Authorization for Release of Student Academic Information

I understand that some of my records may be protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and cannot be released without my written consent. I hereby waive all provisions of the law and privilege relating to my academic transcripts and full educational records. I certify that this consent has been given freely and voluntarily. The authorization is good for the length of the application process and fellowship (for 3 years from the date I sign this release).

By submitting this [Graduate School Exploration Fellowship](#) Application and signing below, I grant permission to release my transcripts, academic record, and information contained in the application materials to the program staff at the ACM and Big Ten Academic Alliance involved in GSEF and [Summer Research Opportunities Program \(SROP\)](#) so that they can verify my eligibility and match me with appropriate faculty and graduate student mentors.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

SIGNATURE

I certify that the information provided in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and complete.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

You may submit completed applications to your campus coordinator.
Please check with the campus coordinator for application deadlines at your college.
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U.S. Department of Education Guidelines

First-generation:

An individual, neither of whose parents *completed* a baccalaureate/bachelor's degree (typically 4-year undergraduate degree);

or

An individual who, prior to the age of 18, regularly resided with and received support from only one parent and whose supporting parent did not complete a baccalaureate/bachelor's degree.

or

If your parent(s) and/or guardian(s) attended college but do not have a bachelor's degree (i.e., did not graduate), you are considered to be first-generation.

Federal TRIO Programs Annual Low Income Levels

(Effective **January 28, 2016** until further notice)

Size of Family Unit	48 Contiguous States, D.C., and Outlying Jurisdictions	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$17,820	\$22,260	\$20,505
2	\$24,030	\$30,030	\$27,645
3	\$30,240	\$37,800	\$34,785
4	\$36,450	\$45,570	\$41,925
5	\$42,660	\$53,340	\$49,065
6	\$48,870	\$61,110	\$56,205
7	\$55,095	\$68,880	\$63,345
8	\$61,335	\$76,680	\$70,515

For family units with more than eight members, add the following amount for each additional family member: \$6,240 for the 48 contiguous states, the District of Columbia and outlying jurisdictions; \$7,800 for Alaska; and \$7,170 for Hawaii.

The term "low-income individual" means an individual whose family's taxable income for the preceding year did not exceed 150 percent of the poverty level amount.

The figures shown under family income represent amounts equal to 150 percent of the family income levels established by the Census Bureau for determining poverty status. The poverty guidelines were published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the [Federal Register](#) on January 25, 2016.