



SOUTH DAKOTA SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM

Student Stipend Program

EDUCATIONAL STIPENDS – 2nd Announcement

Application and Instructions

for 2023/2024 Academic Year (Fall 2023 & Spring 2024)

(Release Date – August 21, 2023)

Program Summary

The South Dakota Space Grant Consortium (SDSGC) NASA stipend program invites applications from U.S. citizens for undergraduate and graduate student **Educational stipends** to support the pursuit of degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). *2023/2024 awards are contingent upon U.S. Congressional approval of the 2023 federal budget and the availability and receipt of FY2023 Space Grant funding from NASA.*

- **Educational stipends** in the amount of \$1,000 for college freshmen and \$3,000 for sophomores through graduate students will support STEM related education during the regular school year. Undergraduate or graduate research is allowable, but not required, under these stipends.

Important Dates

Application Receipt Deadline: **October 3, 2023, 11:59 p.m. MDT.**

Award Notification: anticipated to be announced by October 27, 2023.

Eligibility and U.S. Citizenship Requirement

All applicants must be citizens of the United States. Stipends under this solicitation are available only to students attending South Dakota institutions of higher education during the award period. Women students and students from underrepresented groups are particularly encouraged to apply.

Application Instructions

Applications are to be submitted online and consist of the following five items in this order:

1. Completed online application form
 2. Cover letter
 3. Faculty recommendation letter
 4. Resume
 5. Transcript(s) of completed undergraduate and graduate work, including a list of current course registration. Freshmen must include a high school transcript.
1. **Application form** must be completed online at the following website:
https://sdmines.sdsmt.edu/cgi-bin/global/sg_update_app.cgi
 2. **Cover letter** must include: A) reference to any education or experience the applicant may have in relation to NASA, B) an explanation of how the applicant will use the stipend to assist in his/her education, C) a career goal statement, D) a statement indicating whether you plan to be enrolled as a full-time or part-time student during the requested stipend period (preference given to full-time students), and E) a statement of the applicant's interest in at least one of the **NASA Center Areas of Interest (Appendix A.5)** at <http://sdspacegrant.sdsmt.edu/SpaceGrantEducationalStipendsRound2-FY23-NASA-Center-AreasOfInterest-AppxA5.pdf>. The cover letter must not exceed one single-spaced, 12-font page. Note: Spelling and grammar will be taken into account during selection.
 3. **Recommendation letter:** Recommendation letter must come from a faculty member and address the student's qualifications for the Space Grant stipend (freshmen may use a high school teacher for the recommendation letter.) Faculty who prefer to submit their recommendation letter separately rather than giving it to the student to include in his/her application must submit it online by 11:59 p.m. MDT on October 3, 2023, according to instructions that will be sent to them in a system-generated email message.
 4. **Resume** must include a summary of education, training, experience, and accomplishments.
 5. **Transcript** must be the most recent copy of the applicant's completed undergraduate and graduate work. An unofficial copy (e.g., from Web Advisor) or scanned photocopy of the transcript is sufficient.

Application Electronic Submission Instructions

- Application item 1 (the Application Form) is to be completed online at https://sdmines.sdsmt.edu/cgi-bin/global/sg_update_app.cgi
Applications items 2, 3, 4, and 5 must be uploaded as a **single electronic file in PDF format** (5MB file size limit) online at the same website as the Application Form by **11:59 p.m. MDT, October 3, 2023**. *Students should not wait until the last day, or even close to it, if their faculty recommendation letter is to be submitted separately by the faculty member. The online application site will close to further uploads at 11:59 p.m. MST, January 12, 2023.*
- Faculty who wish to submit their recommendation letter (item 3) separately rather than giving it to the student to include in their electronic application may do so by uploading the letter in **PDF format** directly to an online site that only the reviewers will be able to access. The recommendation letters are due by October 3, 2023, 11:59 p.m. MDT. The URL address where the faculty member should upload his/her letter will be sent to that person in a system-generated email message immediately after the student enters that person's email address on the completed Application Form and clicks "Submit".
- Late or incomplete applications or applications containing more than a single electronic file will **not** be accepted. The exception is faculty recommendation letters that are submitted separately.

Awards

Applications will be reviewed and award selections made by the SDSGC Management Team listed online at <http://sdspagegrant.sdsmt.edu/contact.html>. **The purpose of both undergraduate and graduate fellowship stipends is to reward past accomplishments and recognize potential future achievements. The stipends are made to individuals and are not to be considered compensation for employment.** The student awardee should contact the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or a tax accountant to determine what needs to be reported on a tax return since Consortium personnel may not be qualified to answer all questions in this regard.

Reporting

Survey/questionnaire documents will be sent periodically to student awardees via email by a private company associated with the National Space Grant Foundation hired by the SD Space Grant Consortium to conduct "**longitudinal tracking**" of students supported by Space Grant. NASA requires that we gather data on the education and employment history of current and former participants in our programs. The longitudinal tracking survey/questionnaire is an online document. The email message sent to the students will explain how to access it.

Inquiries

Questions concerning the preparation and submission of applications and the administration of this program should be addressed to Thomas Durkin, Deputy Director, SD Space Grant Consortium, SDSM&T, 501 E. Saint Joseph Street, Rapid City, SD 57701, Email: Thomas.Durkin@sdsmt.edu, Phone: 605-394-1975.

Students who have filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the period in which they would receive the Space Grant stipend may wish to visit with their institution's Financial Aid office to determine what impact, if any, receiving a Space Grant stipend could have on their eligibility for certain types of Federal Student Aid (loans, work-study, and certain grants). This visit is just a suggestion.

Acknowledgement

In any presentations or publications that the student develops as a result of his/her Space Grant-supported educational or research project, we ask that the student please acknowledge the support provided by the NASA South Dakota Space Grant Consortium.