

Preparing Your Application for the Gates Millennium Scholars Program



Gates Millennium Scholars

Gates Millennium Scholars Program

The Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program, established in 1999, is a 1.6 billion dollar initiative funded by grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The goal of GMS is to promote academic excellence and to provide an opportunity for 20,000 outstanding students with significant financial need to reach their full potential.



GMS Program Structure

- UNCF—the United Negro College Fund is the administrator of the GMS initiative and has partnered with the following organizations:
- Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund
- American Indian Graduate Center Scholars
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund





GMS Program Overview

- Selects 1,000 candidates a year
- Funds unmet need determined by the financial aid award letter provided by the institution
- Provides opportunity for college education in any discipline or field for undergraduates
- Provides graduate degree funding for continuing Scholars in: computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health, and science
- Renews annually based on satisfactory academic progress, full-time enrollment and timely submission of required documents





Leadership Development Programs

The GMS Leadership Development Programs provide opportunities for Scholars to achieve academic success and assume significant roles as leaders on their campuses and in their discipline, professions, and global community.

There are three objectives of the GMS Leadership Development Programs:

- Enhance Scholar development
- Provide academic support services
- Facilitate access to academic and career resources



GMS Eligibility Criteria

- African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific American or Hispanic Americans;
- Citizens/permanent residents of the United States;
- Cumulative GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale (unweighted) at the time of application;
- Matriculation for the first time at an accredited college or university as full-time, degree-seeking freshmen in the fall of 2013, with exception of students jointly enrolled in high school and college (GED recipients are also eligible);
- Significant demonstrated financial need as defined by *Federal Pell Grant eligibility criteria*; and
- Demonstrated leadership commitment through participation in community service, extracurricular or other activities that reflect leadership abilities.



Application Process

(Nominator Form)

Evaluation of the student's academic record

Educator/Guidance Counselor, teacher or any educator who is familiar with the student's academic background completes the Nominator Form.

(Recommender Form)

Evaluation of the students community service and leadership activities

Community member or individual who is aware of the student's community service and leadership activities completes the Recommender Form.

(Nominee Form)

Student Application

Student completes comprehensive Nominee Personal Information Form.





STEP ONE: FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE ENTIRE APPLICATION PROCESS

- There are three components to the application
 - Student application (Nominee Form)
 - Evaluation of student's academic record (Nominator Form)
 - Evaluation of student's community service and leadership activities (Recommender Form)
- All three forms must be completed by the deadline





STEP TWO: UNDERSTAND THE EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Applications are evaluated based on academic rigor, community service and leadership activities.
- Evaluation of student's academic record should reflect the rigor of his/her coursework, showcasing his/her commitment to academics and determination to succeed academically.
- Evaluation of the community service and leadership should provide insight to the student's service to community and his/her leadership potential exhibited through extra-curricular activities.





STEP THREE: SELECT THE APPROPRIATE NOMINATOR AND RECOMMENDER

- Nominator must be an educator (i.e. Teacher, Counselor, Principal, etc.)
- Recommender must be familiar with the student's community service and leadership activities.
- Nominator can serve as Recommender, but a Recommender cannot always serve as a Nominator.
- Neither the nominator nor recommender can be a relative of the student.





STEP FOUR: TELL YOUR STORY

- Tell your story and bring your experiences to life.
- Ask supporters to assist you in identifying how far you have come and achieved during the course of your high school career.
- Ask supporters to review your essays and provide feedback.
- Provide your nominator and recommender with a resume or personal profile.



STEP FIVE: CREATE A TIMELINE TO ENSURE YOUR APPLICATION IS COMPLETE BEFORE THE DEADLINE

Complete sections of the application weekly.

Contact your recommender and nominator to ensure they have submitted their forms to complete the application prior to the deadline.

Follow-up periodically to ensure they are progressing to complete their form prior to the deadline.

Submit **BEFORE** the deadline.



Online Communities

Click on “**Online Communities**” link to the Scholar Connection



The screenshot shows the homepage of The Gates Millennium Scholars website. At the top, the logo for The Gates Millennium Scholars is displayed, along with the UNCF logo and the quote "A mind is a terrible thing to waste". The date "Tuesday, September 21, 2010" is shown on the left, and the navigation bar includes links for HOME, ONLINE COMMUNITIES, GMS APPLICATION, and CONTACT US. A large photo of a diverse group of students and faculty is featured in the center. On the left side, there is a sidebar with a list of links: About Us, GMS Application, Scholar Profiles, Service Directory, Scholarship Links, FAQs, and Contact Us. Below this list is a "SCHOLAR LOGIN" section with fields for User name and Password, a "Forgot Password?" link, and a "Login" button. At the bottom of the sidebar is a "CONTACT US" section with the text "GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARS". The main content area on the right has a heading "WELCOME TO GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARS..." followed by "THE GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLAR PROGRAM ANNOUNCES" and "2011 Scholarship Application is Now Available". The text below this heading states that the 2011 GMS scholarship application is now available and that the program is more than a scholarship—it's an opportunity to change your life. It encourages users to apply and provides a link to "Deonte Bridges". At the bottom, it says "Students are eligible to be considered for a GMS scholarship if they:".

The Gates Millennium Scholars
Funded by a Grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

UNCF
A mind is a terrible thing to waste

Tuesday, September 21, 2010

HOME | **ONLINE COMMUNITIES** | GMS APPLICATION | CONTACT US

Click on “Online Communities” link to the Scholar Connection

→ About Us
→ GMS Application
→ Scholar Profiles
→ Service Directory
→ Scholarship Links
→ FAQs
→ Contact Us

SCHOLAR LOGIN
User name:
Password:
Forgot Password?

CONTACT US
GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARS

WELCOME TO GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARS...

THE GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLAR PROGRAM ANNOUNCES

2011 Scholarship Application is Now Available

The 2011 Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) scholarship application is now available. GMS will select 1,000 talented students to receive a good-through-graduation scholarship to use at any college or university of their choice. We provide Gates Millennium Scholars with personal and professional development through our leadership programs along with academic support throughout their college career.

Our program is more than a scholarship—it's an opportunity to change your life! Putting in the effort now to apply can be a worthwhile experience for super special students like you! Just ask [Deonte Bridges](#) how much the GMS scholarship means to him.

To start your application, simply click on any of the links labeled **GMS Application**. Please take the time to read **all** of the eligibility criteria and instructions before beginning your application. Click below on "read more" to continue the list of eligibility criteria on the next page.

Students are eligible to be considered for a GMS scholarship if they:

Online Communities

Click on one of four icons to access either the:

1. Scholar Connection
2. GMS Imagine for Parents/Guardians
3. Prospective Scholars
4. Guidance Counselors



[About Us](#)
[GMS Application](#)
[Scholar Profiles](#)
[Service Directory](#)
[Scholarship Links](#)
[FAQs](#)
[Contact Us](#)

SCHOLAR LOGIN
User name:
Password:
[Forgot Password?](#)

CONTACT US
GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARS
P.O. BOX 10500
FAIRFAX, VA 22031-8044
TOLL-FREE: 1-877-690-4677

GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARS ONLINE COMMUNITIES

Gates Millennium Scholars believes that engagement with our community is the best way to make sure we're meeting the needs of our scholars, their families, and the counselors who guide them. We've created a number of interactive online programs to inform, engage, and deepen relationships within the Gates Millennium Scholar community. Getting started is easy—to participate, just find the program below that best fits you, click the link, and sign up.

CURRENT SCHOLARS
BUILD YOUR COMMUNITY

PROSPECTIVE PARENTS/GUARDIANS

PROSPECTIVE SCHOLARS

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Jimmy Mercado
is a student at University of California-Berkeley
[more..](#)

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

GMS Welcomes the Tenth Anniversary Class
04/20/09
2006-2007 GMS Annual Report
08/29/07
[more..](#)



CONTACT INFORMATION

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