

2021 Wright Scholar Research Assistant Program
7 June – 6 Aug

CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- Must have a demonstrated interest in STEM career fields
- Must be a high school junior or senior at time of application
- Must be a U.S. citizen. Program is not open to Permanent Residents or Green Card holders.
- Must be at least 16 years old and have a valid driver's license by program start
- Must have own transportation OR a means to get to/from work place each day with someone who already has base access. Passes for base access will ONLY be issued to student intern.
- Must have an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher. Home-school students are highly considered if they score in top 20% of PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, or ACT.
- If you live out-of-state or a long distance from WPAFB, you must be responsible for securing your own temporary housing AND transportation. Program administration will not be responsible for making suitable arrangements on a scholar's behalf. If you do not have a host family or friends with whom to stay, be aware that nearby dorms/apartments are now requiring guests to be a minimum of 18 years of age.
- Must be able to pass a background check
- Must be available to start program on **7 June 2021** and attend mandatory first-day orientation. If the program start date is delayed for any reason, we will contact all selected students immediately.
- Must commit to mandatory attendance policy during first week and also during student presentations at end of program. No absences (except emergency or illness) will be allowed during the first week.
- Must be able to participate 40 hrs/wk for 9 weeks -- this is a full-time commitment.
- May not request more than 5 days of excused absence during the program (illness is excluded). Excessive or unexcused absence will be grounds for dismissal from the program.

Those students who cannot meet the required 9 weeks of employment and adhere to the attendance policy are ineligible for this program.

Note for Returning Scholars: If first selected for the Wright Scholar Program as a junior, students may potentially be eligible to return as a second-year Wright Scholar as a senior if their performance is exceptional, their mentor has project work, and funding is available. No need to reapply. Students who would like to return after starting college should discuss the possibility of summer internships and co-op opportunities with their mentors.

Scoring Process and Placement

- Applications will be scored by a panel of scientists, engineers, and educators who use a “blind” review (names and other personal data will be removed from application prior to review) and award an overall score based on the following ranking criteria:
 - Overall GPA
 - Difficulty of academic curriculum
 - Extracurricular activities
 - Demonstrated leadership
 - Specific interest and participation in STEM platforms
 - Work experience or major school project
 - Essay
- Placement in one of your areas of interest is based on mentor availability. Participating mentors select from top-scoring students based upon their project requirements and student background to fulfill their needs.

Tips for a Successful Application and Submittal

- **Make sure you respond to all questions thoroughly with as much detail as possible.** Do not leave any questions blank. Scoring is extremely competitive.
- Double check your application to ensure all items are complete and accurate
- Include valid e-mail and phone number so you can be contacted with any questions and be sure to respond to any queries promptly
- Submit your application as an e-mail attachment, NOT as a link to a file-sharing site (Google Docs, etc). Most file-sharing sites are not accessible through the base network.
- To ensure successful receipt, recommend submitting application/essay during business hours (M-F 8am – 5pm). Applications submitted after hours or on weekends may not be received due to network outages or mailbox quota issues.
- If you do NOT receive e-mail verification of receipt within 5 business days after submittal, please contact Mr. Jeff Pearce at 937-255-5015 or jeffrey.pearce.2.ctr@us.af.mil immediately.

Wright Scholar Program Timetable

- 23 Nov 2020 Begin application submittals
- 11 Jan 2021 Deadline for application submittals at 5:00 pm
- Week of 22 Mar Students notified of selection/non-selection/alternate status
- 29 Mar Selected students must respond with “accept” or “decline” no later than this date
- 31 Mar Alternate students notified of selection/non-selection

- 2 Apr Selected Alternate students must respond with “accept” or “decline” no later than this date
- 7 Jun Program begins for first-year Wright Scholars. Second-year Wright Scholars may choose to start on this date or one week earlier if mentor concurs.
- 6 Aug Last day of program