



S4: EMPOWERING YOUR STEM SUCCESS

Scholarships to Empower Student Success in the Natural Sciences



APPLICATION INFORMATION & PROCESS

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- Future UNC students majoring in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Math, Earth Science, Computer Science, or related fields
- Students with demonstrated financial need* (Pell eligibility)
- Curious, motivated learners who want to grow, explore, and lead

*Please note: for your application to be reviewed, you must have submitted for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Colorado Application for State Financial Aid (CAFSA) before submitting your application.

WHAT DO I NEED FOR THE APPLICATION?

Essay Questions

1. Complete response (350–500 words) addressing the points below to help us learn more about you and your STEM goals:
 - What inspired you to pursue a degree in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM)? Think about what first sparked your curiosity – a class, a project, a person, or an experience that made you excited to explore how the world works.
 - What are your educational and career goals? What do you hope to study and accomplish through your degree? How do you see STEM being part of your future?
 - How will the S4 Program help you achieve these goals? Explain how the program will help you grow into a future STEM professional or leader.
2. Describe a challenge you have faced and reflect on how it has shaped you as a STEM student (within 100-150 words). How has this struggle shaped who you are, and what steps or strategies did you use to work through it? We encourage you to reflect on how the obstacles you encountered are connected to your background and lived experience, how they affected you, and how you grew, adapted, or persevered as you moved forward.
3. Over the past three years, in what ways have your involvement in community settings and participation in STEM activities influenced you as a student (within 100-150 words)? In your response, please reflect on the roles you have taken on, the experiences that were most meaningful to you, and how these opportunities—whether within your school, neighborhood, family, or other groups—have shaped your interests, motivation, or personal growth.

Other Application Materials

1. Information about your high school and transcript information
2. Contact information (phone, email) for a STEM Teacher who can provide you with a positive recommendation for the S4 Program

Plagiarism & Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy*

The review committee wishes to hear about your personal stories and interest in STEM; therefore it is expected that written material is your original work, and is not plagiarized or intentionally misrepresents your own original work (such as using AI):

- Plagiarism: application materials should not include thoughts, ideas, experiences, or writing directly from others – expected to be written and created by you, the applicant.
- AI Use: AI platforms, such as Large Language Models (LLMs), like Chat GPT and others, can be helpful tools – however, it is expected that materials submitted as part of your application must be your work, not written by artificial intelligence.

*It will be up to the Application Review Committee to determine plagiarism and AI use in application materials.

HOW DO I APPLY?

1. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Colorado Application for State Financial Aid (CAFSA) before submitting your application.
2. Prepare Application Questions (listed above) to paste into application.
3. Gather your school and transcript information, and contact information for a STEM teacher to provide a reference.
4. **Apply! Deadlines: Priority by February 2, 2026, Final by May 1, 2026**

Questions? Email S4@unco.edu