



S4: EMPOWERING YOUR STEM SUCCESS

Scholarships to Empower
Student Success in the
Natural Sciences



The S4 program at UNC is sponsored by the S-STEM program of the National Science Foundation (NSF)



What are the goals of the NSF S-STEM program?

- **Reduce financial barriers** for academically talented students pursuing STEM degrees
- **Increase recruitment, retention, and graduation** in STEM fields
- **Provide academic and career support** such as mentoring, research opportunities, internships, and advising
- **Strengthen the STEM workforce** by preparing students for graduate study and STEM careers
- **Promote evidence-based student success practices** that improve STEM education and student outcomes



Interested in majoring in STEM?

You could receive up to \$15,000 per year to support your education at UNC

- **Biological Sciences B.S.**
 - Cell and Molecular Biology
 - Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
 - Liberal Arts
 - Pre-health and Biomedical Sciences
- **Chemistry B.S.**
 - Biochemistry (ACS Certified)
 - Chemistry (ACS Certified)
 - Forensic Science
 - Industrial Chemistry
 - Pre-Health
- **Climate Science B.S.**
 - Meteorology
- **Environmental Earth Sciences B.S.**
 - Geology
- **Physics B.S.**
 - Astronomy
 - Engineering Physics
- **Mathematics B.S.**
 - Computer Science
 - Pure and Applied Mathematical Sciences
- **Computer Science B.S.**
- **Data Science and Statistics B.S.**



WHAT YOU'LL RECEIVE AS AN S4 SCHOLAR

Up to \$15,000 Per Year

Receive **up to \$15,000 annually**
for up to four years to help cover
educational costs while you
focus on your studies.



- Scholarship amounts to scholar's unmet financial need, up to \$15,000 per year
- Unmet Financial Need = Cost of Attendance – Scholarships/Grants (*not loans*)
- Calculated by Office of Financial Aid at UNC



WHAT YOU'LL RECEIVE AS AN S4 SCHOLAR

August 14-19, 2026

Summer Bridge Program

Kick off your first year with a **Summer Bridge** experience designed to help you:



- Build academic confidence
- Connect with other S4 scholars
- Find your place in STEM at UNC

- **Start strong in college:** Get an in-depth introduction to campus life and key student resources.
- **Build your support network:** Connect with research mentors, professional mentors, advisors, and instructors
- **Develop success skills:** Gain essential academic and college success strategies
- **Grow with your cohort:** Participate in activities that build connections, teamwork, and community



WHAT YOU'LL RECEIVE AS AN S4 SCHOLAR

Mentoring That Matters

Get ongoing support from:

- Faculty mentors
- Peer mentors
- Advisors committed to your success



- **Receive ongoing support** from peer mentors, faculty mentors, and academic advisors
- **Benefit from proactive advising** to help you stay on track in your STEM degree
- **Take key first-year STEM courses together** (e.g., General Chemistry I, Calculus I) as part of a supportive cohort
- **Access dedicated tutoring** through UNCo Tutoring Services



WHAT YOU'LL RECEIVE AS AN S4 SCHOLAR

Paid Research & Career Experiences

Strengthen your career preparation with:

- Paid research opportunities
- Internships related to your field
- Conference presentations and professional development



- **Participate in undergraduate research experiences** with guidance from faculty
- **Connect with industry:** Build professional skills through internship placements with UNCo industry partners
- **Share your work:** Present your research or internship experiences at campus events like the Fall Undergraduate Research Symposium or Spring Showcase
- **Present at national conferences:** Receive support to attend and present at events such as the National Conference on Undergraduate Research



WHAT YOU'LL RECEIVE AS AN S4 SCHOLAR

STEM Workshops & Community

Join workshops and events that help you:

- Build academic and professional skills
- Create a strong STEM community and network
- Develop leadership experience



- **Monthly skill-building workshops** designed to support your success in the program and beyond
- **Career exploration sessions** to help you learn about different STEM career pathways
- **Professional networking workshops** to build connections with mentors and professionals
- **STEM innovation talks** highlighting real-world applications and impact
- **Practical skill development** focused on academic strategies, professional growth, and personal development



What can I do with a STEM degree?

Chemists:

Industry sector	Annual mean wage
Scientific Research and Development	\$ 110,600
Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	\$ 86,740
Chemical Manufacturing	\$ 87,430 - \$ 101,350
Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing	\$ 107,120
Federal, State, and Local Government	\$ 131,010



U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Healthcare:

Profession	Annual mean wage
Physicians and Surgeons	\$239,200
Physician Assistants	\$133,260
Pharmacists	\$136,030
Dentists	\$ 179,210



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What can I do with a STEM degree?

Physicists:

Industry sector	Annual mean wage
Scientific Research and Development	\$ 169,950
Engineering Services	\$ 159,290
Instruments Manufacturing	\$ 151,350
Colleges and Universities	\$ 107,360
Federal, State, and Local Government	\$ 137,470



U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Geoscientists:

Industry sector	Annual mean wage
Electric Power Generation	\$ 133,360
Scientific and Technical Consulting	\$ 86,200
Oil and Gas Extraction	\$ 156,580
Federal, State, and Local Government	\$ 113,610



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What can I do with a STEM degree?

Biologists:

Profession / Sector	Annual mean wage
Biochemists and Biophysicists	\$ 103,650
Microbiologists	\$ 87,330
Zoologists and Wildlife Biologists	\$ 70,600
Scientific and technical Consulting	\$ 80,070
Federal, State, and Local Government	\$ 94,900



U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Mathematicians:

Industry sector	Annual mean wage
Scientific Research and Development	\$ 154,870
Aerospace Manufacturing	\$ 171,370
Colleges and Universities	\$ 57,430
Federal, State, and Local Government	\$ 128,300



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How do I apply to the S4 program at UNC?

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.*



How do I apply to the S4 program at UNC?

Essay Questions

1. Address the points below to help us learn more about you and your STEM goals (350–500 words):
 - **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.*



How do I apply to the S4 program at UNC?

Essay Questions

- 2. Describe a challenge you have faced and reflect on how it has shaped you as a STEM student (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 (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.*



How do I apply to the S4 program at UNC?



- Final deadline: May 1, 2026



QUESTIONS?



email: S4@unco.edu



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