

Goldwater Ambassadors Program Introduction



Outline

- Introduction to the Goldwater Scholar Community
- Goldwater Ambassadors Program information and FAQs
- How to get involved with the Goldwater Ambassadors Program
- Other Resources/Announcements

What is the Goldwater Scholar Community?

- Organization connecting of all previous Goldwater Scholarship recipients
- Serves as a platform to connect scholars, provide career development resources, and promote outreach

GSC Committees

Diversity and Inclusion

External outreach (Goldwater Ambassadors Program, Application Resources)

Mentorship

Internal program pairing scholars in different career stages

Conference

Organizes virtual conference + events at in-person conferences

Webinar

Organizes webinars related to research development

Social Events

Organizes virtual + in-person events to connect Goldwater Scholars

What is the Goldwater Ambassadors Program?

- Mentorship program facilitated by the Goldwater Scholar Community that pairs undergraduate students with Goldwater Scholarship Recipients
- The program especially aims to reach mentees from backgrounds that are underrepresented in STEM

Program History

- Founded in 2021
- ~50-100 mentees each year
- Mentee Statistics from 2024-2025 cycle
 - ~55% identify as underrepresented minorities
 - ~59% identify as women
 - ~5% are community college students

What can mentees gain from this program?

- Monthly 1:1 meetings to track mentee's progress in developing as a researcher
- Assistance with application and fellowship writing
- Access to Goldwater Scholar Community
 - Seminars and conferences
 - Additional networking

FAQs

Q: Who is eligible to be a mentee for this program?

A: Any undergraduate student with an interest in math/science research can be a mentee. There is no restriction on grade level or demographic group. The mentee application is blind to factors such as grades and previous research experience.

Q: Do I have to apply for the Goldwater Scholarship to be a mentee in this program?

A: Applying for the Goldwater Scholarship is not required, but if you do choose to apply, your mentor can assist with that process.

FAQs

Q: How am I matched with a mentor?

A: The program coordinators primarily match based on general research interest (ex. Math, Chemistry, Life Sciences). If a mentee indicates other preferences, such as being matched with a mentor with a shared identity, we do our best to take that into account as well.

Q: Is there a deadline to apply?

A: We match by a rolling process throughout the summer and fall. It is preferred that you apply before November to get the most out of the program.

FAQs

Q: How much of a commitment is this program?

A: The expected commitment is ~1 monthly meeting with your mentor; however, frequency of meetings can vary based on your needs. This cycle will take place over the 2025-2026 school year, but you can choose to continue participating in the program for additional cycles.

Q: How will this program affect my chance of being awarded the Goldwater Scholarship?

A: Program coordinators/mentors are **not** involved in the Goldwater Scholarship selection process. We hope that mentorship will be helpful as you craft your application, but being a part of the program itself does not influence your chance of being selected.

Campus Reps: How to Support Us!

- Distribute information about the Ambassadors program to your campus community
 - Undergraduate Research Offices
 - Science-related Professional/Student Organizations
 - Prospective Goldwater Scholarship Applicants
- Application Form:
 - <https://goldwatercommunity.org/goldwater-ambassadors/>

Additional questions can be sent to sydney.e.nelson@vanderbilt.edu

Undergraduates: How to Apply

Ambassadors Program Application form link:

<https://goldwatercommunity.org/goldwater-ambassadors/>

Questions? Please email:

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Get your Goldwater application reviewed by a Goldwater Scholar!

Fill out this Google form and we'll notify you when applications for this program open!



Other Goldwater Scholar Community Resources

- Webinars – open to the public
 - Topics include fellowship/graduate school applications, research skill development, diversity in research, and more
 - We hope to do a Goldwater application workshop this year – stay tuned!
 - Follow us on social media to see webinar announcements
- Compiled Goldwater Application Resources
 - <https://goldwatercommunity.org/application-resources/>

Connect with us!



@goldwaterscholars



Questions?

Thank you for attending!