

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

GMS Mentoring Program

Web-based Mentor Matching

Campus Based Organizations & Leaders

Leadership Conferences

GMS Introduction/Orientation VA & LA / San Jose **Leadership Academy for Campus Based Leaders**

Alternative Spring Break

GMS Alliances with other national organizations

Academic Empowerment

Transcript Review

Campus Engagement Manager

Graduate Education Planning

Graduate School Institutes

GMS Alumni Program

GMS Alumni Association (GMSAA)

GMSAA Advisory Council & Regional Advisors

GMSAA Annual Meeting

GMSAA Newsletter & Website



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 semester after a student's graduation from high school, 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.



Sample Essays:

<https://ngocnhile.wordpress.com/gmsp2/>





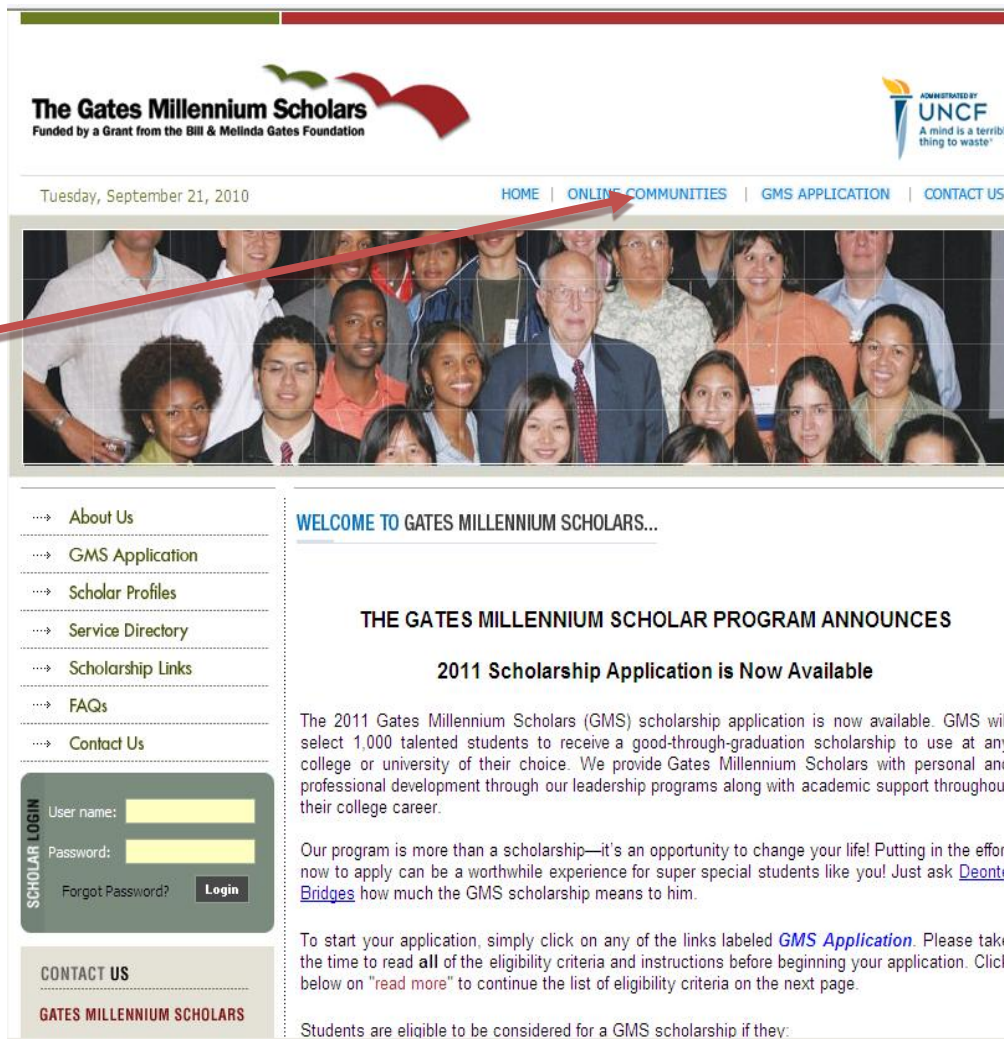
STEP FIVE: CREATE A TIMELINE TO ENSURE YOUR APPLICATION IS COMPLETE BEFORE THE DEADLINE

- 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. At the top, there is a header with the organization's name and logo, and a date: Tuesday, September 21, 2010. The navigation bar includes links for HOME, ONLINE COMMUNITIES, GMS APPLICATION, and CONTACT US. Below the navigation bar is a large photograph of a diverse group of people. A red arrow points from the text on the left to the 'ONLINE COMMUNITIES' link. Below the photograph is a sidebar with a list of links: About Us, GMS Application, Scholar Profiles, Service Directory, Scholarship Links, FAQs, and Contact Us. To the right of the sidebar is a main content area with a 'WELCOME TO GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARS...' heading, followed by a sub-heading: 'THE GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLAR PROGRAM ANNOUNCES 2011 Scholarship Application is Now Available'. Below this is a paragraph of text about the scholarship application process, and a 'SCHOLAR LOGIN' form with fields for User name and Password, and a 'Login' button. At the bottom of the sidebar is a 'CONTACT US' button and the text 'GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARS'.



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:

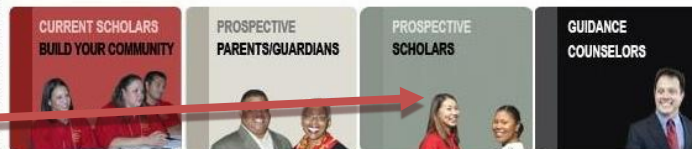
[Forgot Password?](#)

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.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT


Jimmy Mercado
is a student at University of California-Berkeley

[more..](#)

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS


GMS Welcomes the Tenth Anniversary Class
2006-2007 GMS Annual Report

04/20/09
08/29/07

[more..](#)



CONTACT INFORMATION

Gates Millennium Scholars

P.O. Box 10500

Fairfax, VA 22031-8044

TEL: 1-877-690-4677

contactus@gmsp.org

