

Getting Started with the USDA 1890 National Scholars Application

This guide provides detailed insight into the Information that an applicant should have available prior to starting the USDA 1890 National Scholars application.

- 1) Know your citizenship.
 - a. A U.S. citizen is born in the United States or naturalized.
 - b. A U.S. national is anyone born in United States territories Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa or Swains Island with irrevocable rights to reside in those areas.
 - c. Green Card holders are not considered U.S. nationals.
- 2) College students must know their education classification.
 - a. College Freshman: 0-29 completed accredited hours, including summer sessions.
 - b. College Sophomore: 30-59 completed accredited hours, including summer sessions.
- 3) Official transcript means a legible official transcript containing the school's seal, stamp, or signature that indicates the transcript came from the registrar's office. (No third-party necessary for submitting.)
- 4) Submit official transcripts from all high school(s) or colleges(s) you have attended. Transcripts issued any time after December 01, 2024 are required.
 - a. Students attending or who have attended an accredited college/university and have completed more than 29 hours of coursework are only required to submit their college transcripts.
- 5) Remove personally identifiable information (PII) from all transcript pages such as the applicant's age, birthdate, gender, picture, race, and social security number. Redactions may be made using a black marker or online PDF or PC editing applications.
- 6) College students must submit the most recent cumulative GPA.
 - a. The most recent cumulative GPA is the average of all grades earned from the first year (i.e., freshman year) to the present.

- 7) High School students must provide a cumulative unweighted GPA.
 - a. An unweighted Grade Point Average is measured on a 0 to 4 scale that does not consider the coursework difficulty. Example: "A" is considered a 4.0 regardless of whether it was earned in honors, AP, or lower-level classes.

- 8) High School students are required to upload a copy of their ACT composite score showing attainment of a 21 or higher; or an SAT score showing attainment of a 1080 or higher.
 - a. The composite ACT score is the average of your four test scores, rounded to the nearest whole number.
 - b. Superscores, which are the average of your best scores from multiple test attempts, will not be accepted.

- 9) Applicants are required to provide references for the application. You should have contact information, including first and last name, current email address, and phone number available to input for three references to include a:
 - a. Counselor for High School Applicant or Academic advisor for College Applicant
 - b. Supervisor of Paid or Volunteer Work
 - c. Professional or Academic e.g.: Coach, Teacher, Minister, etc.

- 10) Applicants must have already applied to or been accepted or enrolled at an 1890 Land-Grant University. The portal will solicit enrollment status:
 - a. "Applied" means that a student has submitted an application or is in the process of doing so.
 - b. "Accepted" means that an offer has been extended, and the student has committed; usually includes a deposit.
 - c. "Enrolled" means that a student is currently matriculating at an 1890 Land-Grant University.

- 11) Consult each 1890 Land Grant University's website for more detailed information about the institution and its courses of study.

- 12) Consult USDA's agencies and offices web sites for more detailed information about career paths and positions at USDA.

- 13) Applicants must consider their preference of a work environment.
 - a. An office environment is considered an inside work environment with furniture and controlled lighting and temperature where employees perform tasks.
 - b. An outdoor environment is a workplace physically outside where employees perform tasks that are typically exposed to the natural elements.

- c. A laboratory is typically an indoor space with multiple workstations equipped with equipment for conducting experiments, which requires wearing protective gear.
- d. A hybrid work environment is a combination of working in multiple work environments.