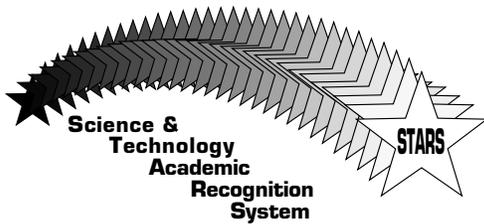


Application for
Science and Technology Academic Recognition System
(STARS)

The following sections comprise the complete application package for the Army Research Laboratory Science and Technology Academic Recognition System (STARS). The package includes:

- I. Program Overview
- II. Eligibility Criteria
- III. Mailing Instructions
- IV. Fellowship Application Form (transcript required)
- V. Research Abstract
- VI. Personal Research Goals
- VII. Applicant References (Two required. One reference must serve as research advisor/mentor if applicant is selected)
- VIII. Sponsoring Institution Certification

Submission of Parts IV through VIII will constitute a completed application
Incomplete or late applications will be discarded.



Program Overview (Part I)

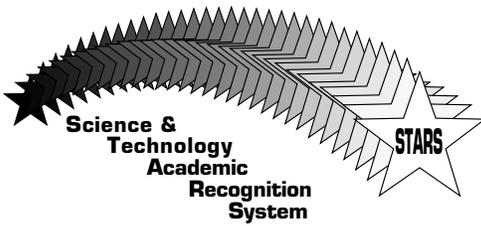
The Director, US Army Research Laboratory (ARL), desires to alleviate a projected future shortfall of graduate (Master's and Ph.D.) level scientists and engineers by availing himself of a heretofore under utilized cohort of students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority Institutions (HBCU/MIs). Past efforts to recruit and retain the best graduating seniors from those universities with a large number of minorities have been disappointing. The two most significant factors contributing to the low recruiting rate of this particular group are competitive research opportunities with industry and the timing of recruiting efforts at graduating institutions. The proposed STARS model is a combined training and development program, and is designed to reach a significant number of students attending HBCU/MIs who are enrolled in science, engineering and mathematics (SEM). For the purposes of this program, SEM includes the following courses of study: engineering (electrical, electronic, mechanical, materials, aerospace, ceramic, chemical, psychology, industrial and general), metallurgy, chemistry, physics, mathematics, statistics, computer science, meteorology, operations research analysis, and systems analysis. STARS will target, for career service, top quality students at the completion of the junior year of study and provide early exposure of the student to the ARL's world class research capabilities and programs.

STARS provides undergraduate students with summer research appointments at ARL facilities and graduate students tuition and expenses up to \$30,000 per year for two years of graduate study.

STARS is intended to reach SEM students who are US citizens, possess a cumulative 3.5 grade point average. Full eligibility criteria are outlined in Part II of this application package. All post baccalaureate awards are contingent upon selectees' acceptance into an accredited graduate program of a minority institution.

A panel of senior research scientists and engineers will review the applications and rank them as to their potential for success in graduate school and research.

STARS is intended as a summer employment program for students. ARL hopes to interest new scientists and engineers in a government career with a view to alleviating a projected future shortfall in scientists and engineers. Following selection for a STARS fellowship (graduates only), awardees will be required to sign a training agreement with ARL acknowledging a period of obligated Federal service. The ARL Director may, for good cause, waive, in whole or in part, a selectee's obligation to repay expenses incurred by the Government in connection with training. Selected undergraduate students will receive a Student Temporary Employment (STEP) appointment at a salary equivalent to their academic year at their university. Upon graduation (B.S. degree), selectees with a minimum 3.5 GPA may be enrolled in the STARS fellows program and eligible for tuition and expenses to pursue a M.S. or Ph.D. degree. During the first and second year of graduate study, selectees will work in an ARL laboratory when school is not in session. Individuals with B.S. degrees may apply directly to the STARS fellows program, and if selected, receive tuition and expenses up to \$30,000 per year for two years. Continued funding for STARS is contingent upon the availability of financial resources.

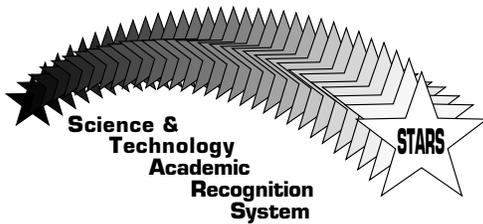


Eligibility Criteria (Part II)

You are eligible to apply for the US Army Research Laboratory Science and Technology Academic Recognition System (STARS) if you meet the following criteria: (1) you are a US citizen; (2) you are enrolled in a fully accredited higher education institution which is a Historically Black College or University or other Minority Institution; (3) your enrollee institution has classified you as at least a junior at the end of the current semester; (4) you are currently involved in an institution-approved science or engineering research project; (5) your grade point average at the time of application is no less than a 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

Continued participation in STARS requires that you maintain a 3.5 grade point average during the entire period of enrollment in the program and that you receive satisfactory performance reviews for all periods when you are working under the guidance of an ARL mentor (summers, mentor breaks, etc.) As with all Federal programs, continued implementation of STARS is contingent upon future congressional funding.

All forms must be neatly typewritten (suitable for photocopying) and completed according to instructions. A photocopy of your transcript may be included with the application, however ARL reserves the right to request an official transcript. Partially or inaccurately executed forms will be discarded. Information requested in the application packet will be used solely to select awardees of the STARS.

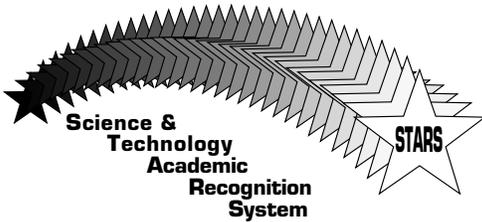


Mailing Instructions (Part III)

Mailing address for application package:

US Army Research Laboratory
2800 Powder Mill Road
Attn: AMSRD-ARL-D-MO
Adelphi, MD 20783-1197

All applications, regardless of media, must be received by November 30, 2004



Institution Certification - Part VIII

This is to certify that _____, a STARS applicant, is:

(1) currently enrolled in a baccalaureate degree in the _____ (college or department) of this institution during the _____ academic year.

(OPTIONAL)

(2) an under-represented minority student, i.e., belonging to a particular ethnic or racial group that has been determined to be under-represented in the graduate programs in science, engineering and mathematics (SEM) in the US. For the purposes of this program, SEM includes the following courses of study: engineering (electrical, electronic, mechanical, materials, aerospace, ceramic, chemical, psychology, industrial and general), metallurgy, chemistry, physics and other physical sciences, mathematics, statistics, computer science, meteorology, and operations research analysis.

(3) has a cumulative 3.5 grade point average, on 4.0 scale; and is

(4) a US citizen.

Typed Name _____

Typed Name _____

Signature _____

Signature _____

College Dean or Department Head

Title - Authorized University Official

Telephone and Fax Nos

Telephone and Fax Nos