



**Missouri
State**

UNIVERSITY

Inclusive Excellence Scholarship

The Scholar's Guide

Updated August 24th, 2021

**Missouri
State** | OFFICE of
MULTICULTURAL
SERVICES

**Missouri
State** | OFFICE of
STUDENT
FINANCIAL AID



About the Program

Framework & History

[This information is also located on our website.](#)

The Inclusive Excellence Scholarship Program, formally known as the "Multicultural Leadership Scholarship Program" and "Inclusive Excellence Leadership Scholarship Program" is a curricular experience where scholars and award recipients participate in the exploration of identity and self through critical classroom discourse as well as co-curricular engagement in programs and community service opportunities sponsored by Multicultural Programs and offices housed in the Multicultural Services unit. Scholars and award recipients will have the distinct opportunity to explore their multiple identities, celebrate their personal heritage, as well as learn about and appreciate the cultures and identities of others. Students in the program are highly encouraged to take advantage of the resources in our Multicultural Resource Center, which provides a computer lab, limited printing, lounge space for studying, and library.

As a Public Affairs institution that values Ethical Leadership, Cultural Competence, and Community Engagement through the practice of inclusion, we view this scholarship program as the vessel that develops student leaders to serve as social change agents that advocate and support a culturally conscious and inclusive campus community. The Office of Multicultural Programs, and the entire Multicultural Student Services unit, looks forward to your participation in the Inclusive Excellence Scholarship Program and the perspectives you will bring to our campus and community.

Multicultural Student Services is the unit in the Division of Student Affairs that houses the offices of: Multicultural Programs, Access & Success Programs, and the Disability Resource Center. Recipients of this scholarship will work directly with the Director and Assistant Director of the Office of Multicultural Programs. The Mary Jean Price Walls Multicultural Resource Center is in the Plaster Student Union on the 1st Floor and includes the Transition Closet & LGBTQ+ Services Coordinator (Assistant Director of the Office of Multicultural Programs) office.

Value & Application Information

The Inclusive Excellence Scholarship is valued at \$4,000 per year (\$2,000 for the Fall semester and \$2,000 for the Spring semester).

To be considered, high school seniors must meet requirements for admission to the university by December 1 and have demonstrated academic achievement and a commitment to becoming a leader in an inclusive society. The goal of the committee will be to select a cohort of students each year who have a diverse set of backgrounds and experiences and who seek the opportunity to contribute to the [university's goal of creating a climate of inclusive excellence](#).

Recipients of this scholarship will be chosen by the Inclusive Excellence Scholarship Selection Committee based on their: academic record, their combination of school, community, and family involvement and activities, and their demonstrated commitment to becoming a leader in an inclusive society.

Application & Renewal Overview

1. Unlike Missouri State's automatic scholarships (the Dean's, Provost and Board of Governors scholarships), the Inclusive Excellence Leadership Scholarship is competitive. **To be considered, students must be admitted to the university and submit a separate application by the December 1 application deadline.** Students may [apply for admission online](#).
 - a. The application consists of two parts:
 - i. Applicants provide their: address, contact and academic information, as well as a list of organizations and activities participated in and awards and honors received.
 - ii. Applicants provide: an essay not exceeding two pages in length outlining why they believe they are qualified for this scholarship relative to the criteria of the scholarship and affirming their interest in and commitment to participating in the Inclusive Excellence Leadership Program.
2. It is **strongly recommended** that students review the required application information **before applying** and have all materials ready to submit. Applicants should be prepared to finish the application in one sitting, as they cannot save their work and come back to it later. Applicants can fill in each field manually or they may cut and paste.
 - a. Applicants should make certain that they have submitted a transcript showing their 6th semester class rank percentile and cumulative grade point average and their highest ACT or SAT score to the Missouri State Office of Admissions by the December 1 deadline.
 - b. Questions should be directed to the Office of Admissions toll 800-492-7900 (toll free), or by email at Admissions@MissouriState.edu.
3. Inclusive Excellence Leadership Scholarship recipients may renew their scholarship for a maximum of three (3) years beyond the first year.
 - a. Recipients must complete 27 credit hours before the end of **each academic year**. A single Academic Year is comprised of (in order) a Fall, Spring, and Summer semester. A new Academic Year begins each Fall Semester.

- b. Recipients must maintain a 2.75 **cumulative** grade point average of Missouri State University coursework and complete required events and service hours as designated by the Office of Multicultural Programs. See Programmatic Requirements for details.
- c. Recipients who graduate **in four years or less**, meet renewal criteria their fourth year, and begin a Missouri State University graduate program the semester following their graduation may receive this scholarship for their first year of graduate study. This scholarship will not carry forward in the instance the recipient is receiving a graduate assistantship.

Program Requirements

Scholars should work to meet all program requirements by the specified deadlines to remain in good standing and communicate any issues or concerns that may arise to the Director for Multicultural Programs & Office of Financial Aid.

Academic Requirements

Academic requirements are administered by the Office of Financial Aid and the Assistant Director of Financial Aid for Scholarships. Advisement regarding renewal as it pertains to academic requirements may be requested from OFA at FinancialAid@MissouriState.edu.

Credit Hours

Recipients are required to complete a total of 27.0 coursework Credit Hours in a given Academic Year. Recipients may spread these hours over Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

Recipients are required to reach and **maintain** a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75. This requirement **is cumulative**, meaning that semesters wherein a student has a lower GPA will not impact their scholarship renewal **unless and until** their cumulative GPA drops below the 2.75 value.

Programmatic Requirements

In addition to the Cumulative GPA (2.75) and Credit Hours-per-year (27.0) requirements, all Recipients are required to complete semesterly "Programmatic Requirements" designated by the Office of Multicultural Programs.

These requirements come in three "administrative" forms and two "participation" forms.

- The Administrative requirements are: Start-of-Semester Info Updating, Semesterly Group Check-Ins, and 1:1 Attendance.
- The Participation requirements are: Event Attendance and Community Service Hours.

Start-of-Semester Information Update

Recipients are required to submit a "Start of Semester" update form via the [Office of Multicultural Programs Forms Site](#).

Submission of this Form ensures a double accountability (student & staff) measure for recipient progress through time at Missouri State University.

Semesterly Group Check-In Attendance

Recipients are required to attend a group check-in meeting once per semester. Recipients will RSVP for **one** of these meetings (4 options will be available each semester) when they submit their Start of Semester Update Form.

Submission of this Form ensures a double accountability (student & staff) measure for recipient progress through time at Missouri State University.

Semesterly 1:1

Recipients are required to meet with one of the program administrators at least once throughout the semester to make sure scholars are feeling supported and have a 1:1 opportunity to work through discussions they need to have with the program administrators.

Advisement regarding these times will be issued from the AVP for Multicultural Services.

Event Participation

Recipients are required to attend a set number of events each Fall and Spring semester. For the **2022 Academic Year**, Recipients must attend **three (3) events** hosted by the Office of Multicultural Programs each Fall and Spring Semester.

Students must report their attendance at these events to the Office of Multicultural Programs [via their Forms Site](#). Events must be completed between the 1st day of classes and the 1st day of finals each semester.

- For the Fall 2021 Semester, events must be completed between **08/23/2021 - 12/06/2021**
- For the Spring 2022 Semester, events must be completed between **01/18/2022 - 05/14/2022**

Community Service Hours

Recipients are required to complete a set number of community service hours each Fall and Spring semester. For the **2022 Academic Year**, Recipients must complete **twenty (20)** service hours each Fall and Spring Semester.

Students must report their service hours to the Office of Multicultural Programs [via their Forms Site](#). Service hours must be completed between the 1st day of classes and the 1st day of finals each semester.

- For the Fall 2021 Semester, events must be completed between **08/23/2021 - 12/06/2021**
- For the Spring 2022 Semester, events must be completed between **01/18/2022 - 05/14/2022**

Service hour opportunities may be completed through the opportunities hosted by the Office of Community Engagement, at local nonprofits, etc.

Program Communication

The sole means of official communication between the Office of Multicultural Programs and Recipients will be from the multiculturalprograms@missouristate.edu email.

Notifications & Reminders

At the beginning of each month of the Fall and Spring Semesters, the OMP Staff will issue an email to all current scholars regarding upcoming events hosted by the Office of Multicultural Programs, which Scholars can attend to meet their Event attendance requirements.

This notice will also include:

- Reminders regarding the dates of the Group Check-In Meetings.
- University-wide announcements that Scholars may not have seen/need to be reminded of.
- Opportunities to complete service hours to meet Service Hours requirements.
- Other details and notices deemed applicable by OMP Staff.

Check-Ins

OMP Staff may notify students if they see a final semester GPA value that is of concern (>2.75). Scholars receiving these emails are under no obligation to respond, however, we do note opportunities for a 1:1 meeting (or meetings) with Scholars who may need or want to request academic, social, or general assistance but do not feel comfortable doing so without our initiation.

OMP Staff may notify students if they see a unique opportunity for involvement or service that the scholar has expressed interest in.

Renewal Notices

At the end of each Academic Year's grade reporting date, OMP & Office of Financial Aid Staff will connect to determine renewal status for current Scholars.

Once renewal status(es) have been approved by the staff, notices will be issued to both Renewed and Non-renewed Scholars. There is a possibility of appeal of a non-renewal status. Should the student wish to issue an appeal for their scholarship, they should follow the prescribed policies and procedures communicated by the Office of Financial Aid.

Scholars with questions regarding their renewal may direct them to both the Office of Multicultural Programs email (for Programmatic Requirements) or the Office of Financial Aid (for Academic Requirements).

Program Events

Scholars Mixer

Occurring each Fall Semester, this event is required for both **new** and **returning** Recipients.

This Mixer serves as a "come-and-go" mix and mingle event for new and returning scholars to meet one another, exchange contact information, and build or grow their network of friends and associates at Missouri State University.

- *For the Fall 2021 Semester, the Scholars Mixer will be 08/27/2021 from 4:00 – 6:00 PM in the Plaster Student Union – 4th Floor Club.*
- *All Scholars will receive an invitation to the event via email.*

Scholars Banquet

Occurring each Fall Semester, this event is required for **new** Recipients. **Returning** recipients will not attend this event.

This Banquet serves as both a formal "Welcome" from the University to our new scholars but as a recognition ceremony wherein all Scholars will receive their IELS Medallion. This Medallion will be kept throughout the Scholars' tenure in the program as a memento of their recognition and participation in the program

- *For the Fall 2021 Semester, the Scholars Banquet will be 09/22/2021 from 5:00 – 6:30 PM in the Plaster Student Union – 3rd Floor Ballroom.*
- *New Scholars will receive a formal invitation to the event via email.*

Events to Attend

The program administrators will provide IELS scholars with a list of upcoming events that could be used for their Event attendance requirement on the first business day of each month.

Scholar Resources

Multicultural Resource Center

Located on the 1st Floor of the Plaster Student Union in front of the Starbucks, the new Multicultural Resource Center has an open common space, study areas, computer lab, and more.

We encourage all scholars to make use of this space throughout their tenure in the program.

Multicultural Student Services Staff

The AVP for Multicultural Student Services, the Director, Assistant Director, & Graduate Assistant of the Office of Multicultural Programs, and all staff of the MSS Cluster seek to make each scholar's tenure in the program a great one. Please let us know if you have any questions, would like any assistance, or feel free to drop in at our office spaces!

Program Contacts



Michelle Gavel

Assistant Director for Scholarships – Office of Financial Aid

she/her/hers

Michelle Gavel adjudicates all scholarships issued by Missouri State University, including the Inclusive Excellence Scholars Program.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding:

- *Renewal of your scholarship*
- *The Appeals process*
- *Academic requirements*

Please contact the office of Financial Aid at FinancialAid@MissouriState.edu or Michelle directly at MichelleGavel@MissouriState.edu



Dr. Rabekah Stewart

Assistant Vice-President – Multicultural Student Services

she/her/hers

Dr. Stewart oversees the Multicultural Student Services cluster of the Division of Student Affairs. As part of her position oversees the delineation of programmatic requirements for the IELS Program.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding:

- *General Program Questions or Upcoming Events*
- *Programmatic Requirements (Event & Service Hour Attendance)*
- *Required 1:1 Scheduling*

Please contact Dr. Stewart at RStewart@MissouriState.edu



Grey Garris

Assistant Director – Office of Multicultural Programs

he/him/his

Grey oversees the planning of administrative needs for the IELTS program as well as Event Planning for the IELTS Program.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding:

- *Administrative Processes (IELS Form Submissions, RSVPs, etc.)*
- *Events Questions & Required 1:1 Scheduling*
- *Programmatic Requirements (Event & Service Hour Attendance)*

Please contact the Office of Multicultural Programs at MulticulturalPrograms@MissouriState.edu or Grey at GreyGarris@MissouriState.edu



Michelle Scott-Huffman

Multicultural Programs Specialist

she/her/hers

Michelle helps out the Office of Multicultural Programs with the planning of events and operation of the IELTS Program.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding:

- *General Program Questions or Upcoming Events*
- *Required 1:1 Scheduling*

Please contact the Office of Multicultural Programs at MulticulturalPrograms@MissouriState.edu



Armani Eason

Graduate Assistant – Office of Multicultural Programs

she/her/hers

Armani aids the Office of Multicultural Programs with the planning of our Tuesday Talks series and operation of the IELTS Program.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding:

- *General Program Questions or Upcoming Events*
- *Required 1:1 Scheduling*

Please contact the Office of Multicultural Programs at MulticulturalPrograms@MissouriState.edu