



**Missouri
State**
UNIVERSITY

Inclusive Excellence Scholarship

The Scholar's Guide

Updated August 24, 2023

**Missouri
State** | OFFICE of
MULTICULTURAL
SERVICES

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



About the Scholarship

Framework & History

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

The Inclusive Excellence Scholarship (IES) is a curricular experience where scholarship 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 various offices within 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 backgrounds, cultures and identities of others. Students in the program are highly encouraged to take advantage of the resources in the Multicultural Resource Center (MRC), which provides a computer lab, limited free printing, lounge space for studying and socializing, and a small library.

As a Public Affairs institution that values Ethical Leadership, Cultural Competence, and Community Engagement through the practice of inclusion, this scholarship program is one that helps develop student leaders to serve as social change agents who will support a culturally conscious and inclusive campus community. The Office of Multicultural Services looks forward to your participation as an Inclusive Excellence Scholar and the perspectives you will bring to our campus and community.

Multicultural Services is within the Division of Student Affairs that includes the following: Multicultural Programs, the Multicultural Resource Center (MRC), Access & Success Programs, and the federal TRIO Programs. Recipients of this scholarship will work directly with the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, Multicultural Services and the Director of Multicultural Programs.

Application Information

To be considered for this scholarship, the student must be committed to fostering an ethical, connected, and collaborative community, as embodied in Missouri State University's Public Affairs Mission. Additionally, students must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Have an interest in and/or commitment to working with diverse individuals and/or groups (e.g., age, disability status, socioeconomic class, veteran status, nationality, race, ethnicity, sex, indigenous-status, LGBTQIA+ status, ESL speakers, and/or religion) to promote principles of equity and inclusion;
- Be from a low-income background (e.g., receive benefits from programs such as Free or Reduced Lunch, WIC, SNAP, TANF); or
- Be a first-generation college student (i.e., neither of your parent(s)/guardian(s) has a bachelor's degree).

The student's academic performance and their record of school and community service will also be considered.

Application Overview

The Inclusive Excellence 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](#).

The application consists of two parts:

1. Applicants provide: academic information, as well as a list of their participation in organizations and activities, and awards and honors received.
2. Applicants provide: an essay 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 Program.

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.

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.

Questions should be directed to the Office of Admissions toll 800-492-7900 (toll free), or by email at Admissions@MissouriState.edu.

Renewal & Appeal Information

Renewal Criteria

1. Inclusive Excellence Scholarship recipients may renew their scholarship for a maximum of three (3) years beyond the first year.
2. 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.
3. 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 Services. See "Program Requirements" for details.
4. 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, any remaining scholarship funds may be applied to tuition and fees for the first year of graduate study. However; this scholarship will not carry forward in the instance the recipient is receiving a graduate assistantship.

For additional information regarding scholarships, including enrollment standards and renewal guidelines, see [Scholarship Enrollment and Renewal Standards](#).

Appeal Process

If a student does not meet the renewal criteria, there are no provisions beyond the Scholarship Reinstatement policy listed below for reinstating a scholarship for future semesters. However, if problems occur due to some extenuating circumstance or medical emergency, students may appeal to the Scholarship Appeal Committee through the Office of Student Financial Aid with a letter explaining the situation, along with supporting documentation. Appeals are granted only in extreme circumstances beyond the student's control. If a student experiences other challenges throughout the year, such as difficulty with classes, time management, work or family responsibilities, or other co-curricular commitments, be aware that these are not considered extenuating circumstances. In these cases, it is important to consult with your academic advisor to determine feasibility of the MSU summer enrollment option and utilize MSU resources earlier in the semester to receive the guidance and assistance necessary to remain on track academically.

For students who did not meet the minimum credit hours and/or GPA but wish to appeal their fund termination, please complete and submit the [Institutional Scholarship Appeal form](#).

For students who did not meet the program requirements (events, service hours, etc.), please contact Dr. Rabekah Stewart immediately at RStewart@MissouriState.edu.

Students in the Military and/or Education Abroad

For all students with scholarships, including Inclusive Excellence, students can request to place their scholarship(s) on hold for the semester while away. Those requests are submitted to the Financial Aid office via an online process. In this situation, the scholarship will not pay out and will resume after the student returns. Students will not need to complete program activities due to the hold.

For Education Abroad, most students are still enrolled full-time. In this case, students may still use the scholarship and are required to meet all criteria, including program requirements. However, the education abroad experience is enough to meet the programming component. Students are required to provide an essay, to the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, Multicultural Services, outlining the experience and how it applies to inclusive excellence and the three pillars of the University's public affairs mission. If not enrolled, or enrollment is less than full-time, students should follow the request process to place the scholarship on hold.

When away for military, students should request to place their scholarship on hold.

To request a hold be placed on your institutional scholarship, please complete the [Scholarship Hold Request Form](#).

Scholarship Reinstatement

Students who do not meet scholarship renewal criteria will not receive the scholarship for the following academic year (and will lose one year of scholarship eligibility) but may regain the scholarship for the second following year by completing the required annual MSU credits during that year, having the required cumulative MSU GPA (including all MSU courses) at the end of that year, and completing service hours (if applicable). This is not an automatic process; instead, students must complete and submit the [Request to Reinstatement form](#) and return it to the Office of Student Financial Aid no later than the first day of classes for the academic year for which they are requesting reinstatement.

Renewal Requirements

Scholars should work to meet all renewal requirements by the specified deadlines to remain in good standing and communicate any issues or concerns that may arise to the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, Multicultural Services; the Director of Multicultural Programs AND Office of Student Financial Aid.

Academic Requirements

Academic requirements are administered by the Office of Student Financial Aid and the Assistant Director of Financial Aid for Scholarships. Advisement regarding renewal as it pertains to academic requirements may be requested from the IES-dedicated Financial Aid Counselor, Monica Lewin at MonicaLewin@MissouriState.edu.

Credit Hours

Participants are required to complete a total of 27.0 MSU credit hours each academic year; including fall, spring, and summer terms.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

Students are required to reach and **maintain** a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75; completed at Missouri State University. 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.

Program Requirements

In addition to the cumulative GPA (2.75) and credit hours-per-year (27.0) requirements, all recipients are required to complete "Program Requirements" **EACH SEMESTER** designated by the Office of Multicultural Services.

The following requirements must be completed in order for the scholarship to be renewed:

- Group Connect
- 1:1 Meeting (see 1:1 Meeting section below)
- Event Attendance
- Service Hours

Group Connect Attendance

Recipients are required to attend a group check-in meeting once (1) per semester. There will be several dates announced via Blackboard (Bb) as well as added to the Bb Events Calendar.

1:1 Meeting

Recipients schedule to meet with one of the program administrators as needed. However, students who are close to or below the 2.75 GPA requirement are required to meet and will be notified in advance.

Students must submit their 1:1 Meeting attendance by going to the "1:1 Meeting" folder in the Bb course.

Event Participation

Recipients must attend **three (3) multicultural events** each Fall and Spring Semester.

Students must report their attendance at these events via the IES Blackboard course. Events must be completed between the 1st day of classes and the 1st day of finals each semester. Event calendars are posted monthly in the Bb course.

- *For the Fall 2023 Semester, events must be completed between **08/20/2023 - 12/11/2023***
- *For the Spring 2024 Semester, events must be completed between **01/14/2024 - 05/06/2024***

Community Service Hours

Recipients are required to complete **ten (10) service hours** each Fall and Spring semester for a total of (20) for the year.

Students must report their service hours via the IES Blackboard course. Service hours must be completed during the dates indicated.

- *For the Fall 2023 Semester, service hours must be completed between **08/20/2023 - 12/31/2023***
- *For the Spring 2024 Semester, service hours must be completed between **01/01/2024 - 05/06/2024***

Service hours may be completed through the opportunities posted in the Bb course, hosted by the Center for Community Engagement, at local nonprofits, etc.

Communication

The sole means of official communication between the IES Support Team and recipients will be from the IES@MissouriState.edu email. Scholars will need to check their MSU email regularly for important updates and information about IES.

Notifications & Reminders

All IES announcements will be made through the IES Blackboard course.

Announcements will include:

- Multicultural Event attendance updates
- Group Connect Meeting dates
- 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 the Office of Multicultural Services

Renewal Notices

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

Once renewal status has 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 Student Financial Aid.

Scholars with questions regarding their renewal may direct them to both the IES email for program requirements) or the Office of Student Financial Aid for academic requirements).

Events

Scholars' Orientation

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

This orientation serves as an opportunity to learn more about the program, review the handbook, and for new and returning scholars to meet and get to know one another.

This year, the orientation is being held on Thursday, **08/24/2023** from **4:30 – 6:30 PM** in the **Plaster Student Union – Theater**.

New Scholars' Banquet

Occurring each Fall Semester, this event is required for **only new** scholars. **Returning** scholars **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 Scholars will hear from senior and executive leadership, IES alumni and current students.

- *For the Fall 2023 Semester, the New Scholars Banquet will be **09/18/2023** 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 IES Scholars with a list of upcoming events that could be used for their event attendance requirement at the beginning of each month. These events will be communicated in the IES Bb Course in the Announcements and Multicultural Events Calendar links.

Scholar Resources

Multicultural Resource Center (MRC)

Located on the 1st Floor of the Plaster Student Union, in front of Starbucks, the Multicultural Resource Center (MRC) has an open common area, study rooms, computer lab, small meeting rooms, and more. Monthly programs are also held in the MRC.

We encourage all scholars to make use of the Center throughout their tenure at Missouri State University.

Multicultural Services Staff

The Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, Multicultural Services, the Director of Multicultural Programs, and all staff of the Multicultural Services unit seek to make each scholar's tenure at MSU a great one. Please let us know if you have any questions, would like any assistance, or feel free to drop in at our offices.

Contact Information

Inclusive Excellence Scholarship

Phone: 417-836-8921

Email: IES@MissouriState.edu

Website: multicultural.missouristate.edu/IELS

Multicultural Services

Phone: 417-836-8921

Email: MulticulturalServices@MissouriState.edu

Website: multicultural.missouristate.edu

Facebook: [mostatems](#)

Instagram: [@mostatems](#)

X: [@mostatems](#)

Multicultural Programs

Phone: 417-836-4483

Email: MulticulturalPrograms@MissouriState.edu

Website: missouristate.edu/multiculturalprograms

Facebook: [mostatemp](#)

Instagram: [@mostatemp](#)

X: [@mostatemp](#)

Office of Student Financial Aid - Scholarships

Phone: 417-836-5262

Email: FAScholarships@MissouriState.edu

Website: missouristate.edu/financialaid/scholarships

IES Administrators & Support Team



Dr. Rabekah Stewart

Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, Multicultural Services

she/her/hers

Dr. Stewart oversees the Multicultural Services cluster of the Division of Student Affairs. As part of her role, she oversees the delineation of program requirements for IES.

Dr. Stewart will assist scholars with:

- *General Questions or Upcoming Events*
- *Program Requirements*
- *1:1 Meetings*



Dr. Nina Barudzic

Director, Multicultural Programs
she/her/hers

Nina manages the Multicultural Resource Center and the Office of Multicultural Programs. As part of her position, she assists the AVP with the oversight of the IES program.

Nina will assist scholars with:

- *General Questions or Upcoming Events*
- *Program Requirements*
- *1:1 Meetings*



Stef Hall

Executive Assistant II, Multicultural Services

she/her/hers

Stef assists with the planning of administrative needs, general support, and event planning for IES.

Stef will assist scholars with:

- *IES Blackboard course*
- *Form submissions*
- *Program Requirements Status*
- *Event Questions*



Monica Lewin

Financial Aid Counselor, Financial Aid, Scholarships Team

she/her/hers

Monica works with the Scholarships Team in the Office of Student Financial Aid. As part of her position, she assists IES students with questions or concerns regarding the academic requirements for the IES Program.

Monica will assist scholars with:

- *Application & Renewal Process*
- *Academic Requirements (credit hours & GPA issues)*
- *Scholarship appeals*