 

**National Science Foundation S-STEM Scholarship Program**

**Mathematics and Physical Sciences (MAPS) Scholarship**

# Application Materials

**for 2017-2018 Academic Year**

IMPORTANT: READ AND RETAIN FOR YOUR RECORDS

Deadline for Application Materials to be Received by:

**August 11, 2017 for 2017-2018 Academic Year**

## Introduction

The goal of MAPS is to be a supportive academic enriching program for students who meet selection criteria at the freshman and sophomore year to increase student retention and graduation in STEM fields at UC Merced.

In addition to financial assistance, the UC Merced MAPS program provides a focused and integrative experience for students by emphasizing career and personal counseling, tutoring, mentoring, career development, opportunities for summer research or application-oriented experiences, and student collaboration, as well as other academic and personal advantages gained by being fully engaged in the University community.

### Selection Criteria:

* Be enrolled as a full-time student at UC Merced at the incoming freshman level.
* Have a declared major in applied mathematics, chemistry, or physics.
* Be eligible to take introductory college level physics, mathematics, and/or chemistry courses.
* Have a minimum high school cumulative GPA of 3.0.
* Demonstrate financial need, defined for undergraduate students by the U.S. Department of Education rules for need-based Federal financial aid (FAFSA).
* Have U.S. citizenship or permanent residence status.

Membership in MAPS is semester based and may be for up to two years. Student academic performance and program participation are reviewed every semester. Students who do not meet the “*retention criteria*” below may have their membership terminated at any time. Financial and service support will be available to help students meet these retention criteria. A stipend is provided for students to ensure that they can spend time on research projects and other program activities. “Program Benefits and Services” below has a list of activities MAPS students are expected to participate in. .

### Retention Criteria

* Must maintain 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA for college math and science courses. o Must participate in all MAPS related activities (evaluated by the program director) o Must be a full-time student at UC Merced

## Program Benefits and Services

### Financial scholarship - $5,000 per year for up to two years.

* **Mentoring** - Guidance and contacts with faculty and graduate students in STEM field.
* **Academic Success Course** – faculty from the School of Natural Sciences will help students acquire critical thinking skills for math and science majors.
* **Internships-Career Services** - Internships and workshops to provide students with practical work experience.
* **Tutoring and Academic workshops** - Academic assistance in math, chemistry, physics, and/or calculus.
* **Seminars** –Participation in monthly scientific and scientific related seminars to learn about recent research and opportunities in STEM.
* **Fieldtrips** - To visit research facilities and/or private industries twice a year to learn about job opportunities and prospects available to individuals with a competitive STEM background.

## Application Materials

**A complete application consists of the following:**

* 1. MAPS Scholarship Program Application Form (Page 4 of this booklet)
	2. Your Official High School Transcript (for freshman) or UC Merced Transcript (for sophomore)
	3. Personal Statement Essay (limited to 1000 words)
	4. Contact Information of Two References

*All students who meet the selection criteria are strongly encouraged to apply for this National Science Foundation Scholarship. Particular emphasis will be placed on broadening the participation of members of groups historically underrepresented in science and engineering: African Americans, Alaskan natives, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Pacific Islanders, women and persons with disabilities.*

## If you have questions about the MAPS program at UC Merced, please contact Dr. Petia Gueorguieva at pgueorguieva@ucmerced.edu

*Detail information on the MAPS Program can be found at http://stemresourcecenter.ucmerced.edu/maps-program*

**MAPS Scholarship Program Application Form**

**Section 1. Applicant Information**

Applica

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| --- |
| nt’s Name:  |
| Last Name | First Name | Middle Initial |

UC Merced Student ID: E-mail:

Major Field of Study at UC Merced:

High School Cumulative Grade Point Average (for freshman): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School (for freshman): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

UC Merced Cumulative Grade Point Average (for sophomore): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Have you completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)?

YES

NO

Please check the box if you have verified your personal records, including mailing address and phone number at my.ucmerced.edu. Also, you will update them whenever they change if you are accepted into the MAPS program.

Please sign below to indicate that you have read and agree to the following:

*I hereby apply for Mathematics and Physical Science (MAPS) Scholarship at the University of California, Merced, and certify that to the best of my knowledge all of the above statements are true and complete. I also understand that submitted records will not be returned, copied, or forwarded. I authorize the MAPS program personnel to access my student records and monitor my academic progress. Also, I will allow information about me and my research to be used by the program for evaluation purposes and publications.*

*I understand and agree that if selected to participate of the MAPS Program, I will participate in all activities, maintain my academic performance and adhere to other retention criteria. I will comply with all applicable National Science Foundation terms and conditions governing my scholarship. I agree to abide by the university policies stated in the UC Merced General Catalogue. After my participation in the MAPS Program, I agree to maintain contact with the MAPS Program. I also understand that my failing to meet the MAPS program requirements may result in discontinuation of the MAPS program scholarship and privileges.*

**Signature: Date:**

## Section 2. Official High School Transcript (for freshman) or UC Merced Transcript (for sophomore)

Please attach a copy of your transcript.

## Section 3. Personal Statement

Please write a personal statement essay for your application to the MAPS scholarship program. The statement should be typed, double-spaced, using a 12-point font (Times Roman or similar), and 1” page margins. ***Your essay should be no more than 1000 words.*** Your essay should include the following information.

* The path you took to get into UC Merced. You may include any special aspects of your personal or family background or information regarding obstacles you may have overcome to complete your education, such as socio‐economic or educational disadvantages.

## Section 5. Contact Information of Two References

Please, provide the name and contact information of your two references who can reflect on your academic merit and potential for success.