

**USDA-NIFA Multicultural Scholars Program (MSP) Scholarship Opportunities**  
***Department of Food Science & Nutrition***  
**California State University, Fresno**

**INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of the Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program is to provide scholarships to support recruiting, engaging, retaining, mentoring, and training committed, **eligible multicultural scholars**, resulting in the baccalaureate degree in Food and Nutritional Sciences.

The scholarships are intended to encourage outstanding students from groups that are historically underrepresented and underserved to pursue and complete baccalaureate degrees in Food and Agricultural Sciences that would lead to a **diverse and highly skilled workforce**.

Through these scholarships, the goal of the MSP is to increase the participation of historically underrepresented groups in USDA mission areas and prepare them for the professional and scientific workforce.

**CURRENT GRANT PROGRAM**

The current MSP grant brings together two Universities (CSU Fresno and CSU Stanislaus) and a Junior College (Modesto Junior College). The program is designed to meet the national need for scientists trained in the food and agricultural sciences, by recruiting, training and pipelining ten (10) underrepresented outstanding students into productive careers in the food and agricultural industry.

**PROGRAM BENEFITS**

The USDA-Multicultural Scholars Program (MSP) will provide:

- Academic support (tuition/fees, books, housing etc.) at a maximum funding level of \$6,500 per scholar per year for two years (a total of \$13,000 per scholar for two years)
- One-time Summer Internship placement for scholars with industry or grant-funded stipend support of \$4,000 per scholar
- Academic mentor for each scholar for academic advising throughout the two-year college experience
- Professional development opportunity for scholars during their college experience

**THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

Scholarships are only valid for use in CSU Fresno's Department of Food Science and Nutrition. The scholarship may be renewed each year, contingent upon satisfactory academic performance and normal progress toward the bachelor's degree.

## GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

Applicant must:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Expect to hold an Associate of Science diploma in Agriculture or related sciences
- Have a collegiate (Junior College) cumulative GPA of 2.8 or better (on a 4.0 scale)
- Provide evidence of provisional admission to CSU Fresno
- Intend to study Food Science or Culinology at CSU Fresno
- Demonstrate leadership and community service
- Submit a signed and dated application (original signature only)
- Submit additional verification information or document upon request by the program

## Who Should Apply

The Multicultural Scholars Program is available to junior college transfers (A.S.) entering their junior year in the university. For information on how to apply for admission, visit:

- CSU Fresno: <http://www.fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/are/admissions/index.html>

## Application Deadline

All application materials must be submitted on or before the **Friday, April 27, 2018 deadline**. Applicant will receive an email acknowledgment of submission within five working days after the receiving of the application package by the Department of Food Science and Nutrition. The same email address for application will be used for follow-up communication regarding further information request and the final award decision.

## INSTRUCTIONS

All application materials must be submitted in one application package. Complete application packages must include the following:

- ✓ Completed Privacy Act Advisory Statement and Release Form
- ✓ Completed Biographical Questionnaire
- ✓ Signed and dated application (including signature of parent or guardian, if the applicant is under 18 years old)

After initial application review and selection, final candidates will be required to provide the following documents for further consideration:

- ✓ Two letters of recommendation in sealed envelopes
- ✓ Letter of admission (or evidence of application) into CSU Fresno Food Science and Nutrition Department

*Please note:* The selection of scholarship recipients will be influenced by the submission of complete, neat, and legible application packages. The application form may be typed or filled in by hand (in black or blue ink only).

**PRIVACY ACT ADVISORY STATEMENT**

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with this request for information. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements for this Act, please be advised:

1. Furnishing the information requested is voluntary.
2. The data will be used for selection of Multicultural Scholars, printing of certificates, and related activities.
3. The data is maintained in a privacy act system as defined by NARA under OMB.
4. Failure to complete the form will mean that you cannot be included among those candidates being considered for designation as Multicultural Scholar.

**Affirmation of Candidacy and Authorization for Release of Information**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that I am a candidate for the honor of USDA/Multicultural Scholars Program, have read the Privacy Act Advisory Statement, and affirm my wish to be considered. In the event I am named a Scholar, permission is hereby given for the release of materials submitted by me for the use of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Multicultural Scholars Program at California State University, Fresno, as deemed appropriate for purposes of the Multicultural Scholars Program.

I further consent to the release of photographs that may be taken of me, by or for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in connection with the Program. I am (*check one*) willing\_\_\_\_ unwilling\_\_\_\_ to appear on radio and/or television if such arrangements are made by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in connection with the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Candidate's Biographical Questionnaire

The questions that follow are designed to collect information about your background, your interests, and your plans. Your answers to these questions will be used only in connection with your application for this scholarship program and will be divulged only to qualified persons who must see them in the course of their duties.

(Please Print)

### A. Biographical Information

Legal Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last
First
Middle

Sex: F M Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a U.S. citizen? (select one): Yes  No

Permanent Home Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address
City/Town
State
Zip Code

Telephone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Education

1. Name of Junior College currently attending \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address
City/Town
State
Zip Code

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

2. List any other college(s) (if any) that you attended in the last 4 years:

Name of School	Address	Dates of Attendance

3. List any advanced or special program, research project, courses, or summer courses you have taken (most recent first):

Course or Program	Name of School	Address	Dates of Attendance	Hours per Week

4. Check name of Department program to which you are applying:

University	Department Program	Your Choice (Check)
CSU Fresno	Food Science Option	
CSU Fresno	Culinology Option	
CSU Fresno		

**C. Activities**

1. List activities in which you have participated in or outside your school (such as academic activities, publications, debate, drama, sports, music, art, and student government).

Activity	Participation Dates	Office(s) Held	Special Award(s)

- List volunteer services and jobs you have held in the past 4 years (including summer employment).

Volunteer Service(s)/Jobs	Name of Organization or Employer	Dates of Service or Employment	Hours per Week	Special Award(s)

Note: Be concise and limit your response(s) to the space provided.

#### **D. Self Assessment**

- Describe your leadership role in activities in both your school and your community.

(Word limit: 300)

2. Please describe any characteristics of yourself or your family that have been important in your personal development.

(Word limit: 300)

**E. Candidate's Self-Assessment**

1. Describe a recent experience that has given you a sense of satisfaction or pride. Explain why you were satisfied or proud.

(Word limit: 300)

2. Briefly explain the reason that you want to study agriculture or food science in college.

(Word limit: 300)

*Review this form to make sure you have answered all questions completely. Do not exceed the 300 word limit for each of the self-assessment questions. Proofread all your responses.*

I certify that I completed this application and that all statements are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a false statement could eliminate me from consideration for this scholarship.

**Applicant's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_



## Completion Checklist



1.	I have read the eligibility requirements and meet all eligibility criteria	
2.	Copy of admission letter	
3.	Read and completed the Candidate's Biographic Information section	
4.	I have signed and dated the application (original signature only)	
5.	I understand that the application must be submitted (or mailed/post marked) by April 27, 2018	
6.	I understand that after the initial application review and selection, final candidates will be required to provide additional information for consideration	

### Contacts for Questions and Application Submission Information:

- *Applicants seeking admission to pursue degree in Food Science and Nutrition (CSU Fresno) should mail or email applications to:*

Dr. Steven Pao  
Professor and Department Chair  
Department of Food Science & Nutrition  
California State University, Fresno  
5300 N. Campus Dr., M/S FF17, Fresno, CA 93740  
Tel: 559-278-1624  
Email: [spao@csufresno.edu](mailto:spao@csufresno.edu)

- *Questions regarding the application process can also be directed to:*

Dr. Oluwarotimi Odeh  
Program Director  
Agricultural Studies  
Bizzini Hall, C108B  
California State University, Stanislaus  
Turlock, CA 95382  
Tel: (209) 667-3961  
Fax: (209) 664-6649  
Email: [ooder1@csustan.edu](mailto:ooder1@csustan.edu)

(11/1/2017)