Preparing Your Application for the Gates Millennium Scholars Program
The Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program, established in 1999, is a 1.6 billion dollar initiative funded by grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The goal of GMS is to promote academic excellence and to provide an opportunity for 20,000 outstanding students with significant financial need to reach their full potential.
GMS Program Structure

• UNCF—the United Negro College Fund is the administrator of the GMS initiative and has partnered with the following organizations:

  • Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund
  • American Indian Graduate Center Scholars
  • Hispanic Scholarship Fund
GMS Program Overview

- Selects 1,000 candidates a year
- Funds unmet need determined by the financial aid award letter provided by the institution
- Provides opportunity for college education in any discipline or field for undergraduates
- Provides graduate degree funding for continuing Scholars in: computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health, and science
- Renews annually based on satisfactory academic progress, full-time enrollment and timely submission of required documents
Leadership Development Programs

The GMS Leadership Development Programs provide opportunities for Scholars to achieve academic success and assume significant roles as leaders on their campuses and in their discipline, professions, and global community.

There are three objectives of the GMS Leadership Development Programs:

- Enhance Scholar development
- Provide academic support services
- Facilitate access to academic and career resources
• African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific American or Hispanic Americans;
• Citizens/permanent residents of the United States;
• Cumulative GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale (unweighted) at the time of application;
• Matriculation for the first time at an accredited college or university as full-time, degree-seeking freshmen in the fall of 2013, with exception of students jointly enrolled in high school and college (GED recipients are also eligible);
• Significant demonstrated financial need as defined by Federal Pell Grant eligibility criteria; and
• Demonstrated leadership commitment through participation in community service, extracurricular or other activities that reflect leadership abilities.
Application Process

(Nominator Form)
*Evaluation of the student’s academic record*
Educator/Guidance Counselor, teacher or any educator who is familiar with the student’s academic background completes the Nominator Form.

(Recommender Form)
*Evaluation of the students community service and leadership activities*
Community member or individual who is aware of the student’s community service and leadership activities completes the Recommender Form.

(Nominee Form)
*Student Application*
Student completes comprehensive Nominee Personal Information Form.
There are three components to the application
  – Student application (Nominee Form)
  – Evaluation of student’s academic record (Nominator Form)
  – Evaluation of student’s community service and leadership activities (Recommender Form)

All three forms must be completed by the deadline
Applications are evaluated based on academic rigor, community service and leadership activities.

Evaluation of student’s academic record should reflect the rigor of his/her coursework, showcasing his/her commitment to academics and determination to succeed academically.

Evaluation of the community service and leadership should provide insight to the student’s service to community and his/her leadership potential exhibited through extra-curricular activities.
Step Three: Select the appropriate nominator and recommender

- Nominator must be an educator (i.e. Teacher, Counselor, Principal, etc.)
- Recommender must be familiar with the student’s community service and leadership activities.
- Nominator can serve as Recommender, but a Recommender cannot always serve as a Nominator.
- Neither the nominator nor recommender can be a relative of the student.
Tell your story and bring your experiences to life.

Ask supporters to assist you in identifying how far you have come and achieved during the course of your high school career.

Ask supporters to review your essays and provide feedback.

Provide your nominator and recommender with a resume or personal profile.
Complete sections of the application weekly.

Contact your recommender and nominator to ensure they have submitted their forms to complete the application prior to the deadline.

Follow-up periodically to ensure they are progressing to complete their form prior to the deadline.

Submit **BEFORE** the deadline.
Click on “Online Communities” link to the Scholar Connection
Online Communities

Click on one of four icons to access either the:

1. **Scholar Connection**
2. **GMS Imagine for Parents/Guardians**
3. **Prospective Scholars**
4. **Guidance Counselors**
CONTACT INFORMATION

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