



**ACM & Big Ten Academic Alliance  
Graduate School Exploration Fellowship (GSEF)  
Student Application**

**To ensure that you meet eligibility requirements, please respond to the following questions. Please circle Yes (Y) or No (N).**

**Are you . . .**

- Y N** a US citizen/permanent resident or non-US citizen with DACA?
- Y N** enrolled as a full-time student at an ACM College and will have sophomore standing according to your home College's graduation requirements after January 2019?
- Y N** a first-generation college student as established by the U.S. Department of Education (*see last page*)  
**and/or**
- Y N** a student who has a demonstrated need/income level established by the U.S. Department of Education (*see last page*)  
**and/or**
- Y N** a member of an underrepresented group in graduate education (Black, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, etc.)?  
**and/or**
- Y N** a student who has followed a non-traditional pathway to college due to exceptional talent and motivation in the face of adversity?
- Y N** able to verify excellent undergraduate academic achievement with a cumulative GPA of 3.0\* or higher? (4.0 Scale)?
- Y N** planning to pursue a doctoral degree or complete graduate studies in humanities, humanistic social sciences, and/or the arts?
- Y N** planning to participate in an off-campus study/study abroad program that ends no later than June 1, 2020 (if studying away at all)?

\*If you do not meet this minimum requirement, but have a GPA that is close, please reach out to your campus coordinator to discuss your candidacy

An application guide, list of campus coordinators, and FAQs can be found at: [ACM.edu/GSEF](http://ACM.edu/GSEF)

**GSEF Application Checklist:**

- Completed entire application
- Faculty recommendation(s)
- List of preferred participating research universities or departments
- Completed personal statement (up to 1000 words)
- Completed statement of research interests (up to 1000 words)
- Authorization of Transcript Release
  
- Please tell us how you heard about the GSEF Program: \_\_\_\_\_

## GSEF Application

Check with your campus coordinator for application due dates.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Name:**

\_\_\_\_\_

(Last)

(First)

(Preferred, if applicable)

**Date of birth:**

\_\_\_\_\_

(Month/Day/Year)

**Student ID #:**

**Address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

(Street)

(City)

(State, Zip code)

**Email address:**

**Cell Phone #:**

**Sex:** \_\_\_Male \_\_\_Female \_\_\_Other/Prefer not to specify

**Birthplace:** \_\_\_\_\_

(City, State, Country)

**Citizenship:** \_\_\_U.S. Citizen \_\_\_Permanent Resident \_\_\_Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Ethnicity / Race (check all that apply):**

- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Asian American (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Black/African American
- Caucasian
- Hispanic/Latino(a)
- Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Check any TRiO program(s) in which you have participated:**

- Talent Search
- Upward Bound
- Upward Bound Math/Science
- Veterans Upward Bound
- EOC
- SSS

**EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION**

Cumulative GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ Major GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Major(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Minor(s, if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Research interest(s):

List the name of up to THREE professors on your home campus who you feel could serve as your primary Faculty Mentor:

Preliminary Topic(s) for Summer Research Project:

**(OPTIONAL) PREFERRED PARTICIPATING RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES AND DEPARTMENTS**

You may indicate your preferences regarding the participating university departments and/or institutions in which you might like to pursue a summer research opportunity. Although it is unlikely that you will be matched with your preferences, this information is helpful in the placement evaluation. The coordinators will find the best placement possible for you.

**STATEMENT OF RESEARCH INTEREST**

Your personal statement MUST address the following:

- Provide an understanding of your research areas of interest to the reader
- Why this discipline is of great interest to you
- Specific experiences and traits that highlight your academic success and preparation to pursue research

**PERSONAL STATEMENT**

Your personal statement MUST address the following:

- Why you want to pursue a Ph.D. or other terminal graduate studies programs
- What your academic aspirations and career goals include
- How the Graduate School Exploration Fellowship will help you achieve this goal

**Statement Length: 1000 words maximum for each essay. If chosen as a GSEF fellow you will have an opportunity to revise each statement. Please submit in Word format.**

**FACULTY RECOMMENDATIONS**

You must provide the Selection Committee with at least one (preferably two) faculty recommendation letters that assess your ability for academic research as well as your motivation and ability to succeed in graduate school.

**NOTE: We will only accept letters of recommendation from faculty members who can attest to your ability to do independent research and who understand your desires to obtain a graduate degree.** In the spaces below, provide the names and valid email addresses of your faculty recommenders.

*Recommender #1*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title/Position:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Extension #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Recommender #2*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title/Position:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Extension #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Authorization for Release of Student Academic Information**

I understand that some of my records may be protected under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and cannot be released without my written consent. I hereby waive all provisions of the law and privilege relating to my academic transcripts and full educational records. I certify that this consent has been given freely and voluntarily. The authorization is good for the length of the application process and fellowship (for 3 years from the date I sign this release).

By submitting this [Graduate School Exploration Fellowship](#) Application and signing below, I grant permission to release my transcripts, academic record, and information contained in the application materials to the program staff at the ACM and Big Ten Academic Alliance involved in GSEF and [Summer Research Opportunities Program \(SROP\)](#) so that they can verify my eligibility and match me with appropriate faculty and graduate student mentors.

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

**SIGNATURE**

I certify that the information provided in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and complete.

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

You may submit completed applications to your campus coordinator.  
Please check with the campus coordinator for application deadlines at your college.  
An application guide, list of campus coordinators, and FAQs can be found at: [ACM.edu/GSEF](http://ACM.edu/GSEF)

## ***U.S. Department of Education Guidelines***

### **First-generation:**

An individual, neither of whose parents *completed* a baccalaureate/bachelor's degree (typically 4-year undergraduate degree);

***or***

An individual who, prior to the age of 18, regularly resided with and received support from only one parent and whose supporting parent did not complete a baccalaureate/bachelor's degree.

***or***

If your parent(s) and/or guardian(s) attended college but do not have a bachelor's degree (i.e., did not graduate), you are considered to be first-generation.

### **Federal TRIO Programs Annual Low Income Levels**

(Effective **January 31, 2017** until further notice)

<b>Size of Family Unit</b>	<b>48 Contiguous States, D.C., and Outlying Jurisdictions</b>	<b>Alaska</b>	<b>Hawaii</b>
<b>1</b>	\$18,090	\$22,590	\$20,790
<b>2</b>	\$24,360	\$30,435	\$28,995
<b>3</b>	\$30,630	\$38,280	\$35,220
<b>4</b>	\$36,900	\$46,125	\$42,435
<b>5</b>	\$43,170	\$53,970	\$49,650
<b>6</b>	\$49,440	\$61,815	\$56,865
<b>7</b>	\$55,710	\$69,660	\$64,080
<b>8</b>	\$61,980	\$77,505	\$71,295

For family units with more than eight members, add the following amount for each additional family member: \$6,270 for the 48 contiguous states, the District of Columbia and outlying jurisdictions; \$7,845 for Alaska; and \$7,215 for Hawai'i.

The term "low-income individual" means an individual whose family's taxable income for the preceding year did not exceed 150 percent of the poverty level amount.

The figures shown under family income represent amounts equal to 150 percent of the family income levels established by the Census Bureau for determining poverty status. The poverty guidelines were published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the [Federal Register](#) on January 31, 2017.