



Alcorn[®]

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND APPLIED SCIENCES

NRCS Scholars Program Application 2025-2026

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in Alcorn State University College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences NRCS Scholars Scholarship Program. The purpose of the program is to support the recruiting, engaging, retaining, mentoring and training of undergraduate students pursuing studies in the food and agricultural sciences. The scholarship is intended to encourage outstanding students at 1890 institutions to pursue, and complete, baccalaureate degrees in the food and agricultural sciences that will lead to a highly skilled food and agricultural systems workforce.

The program is open to high school seniors and current students starting their first semester as sophomores who exhibit exemplary leadership traits and demonstrate community service. The scholarship is highly competitive and provides up to \$10,000 an academic year that can be applied towards tuition, books and software, room and board for up to four years to selected students accepted to the College of Agriculture and Applied at Alcorn State University.

Selection Criteria

In order to be eligible for the scholarship, students must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a U.S. citizen.
2. Have been accepted into an academic major in the areas of food, agriculture and natural resources offered by the College of Agriculture and Applied at Alcorn State University.
3. Be enrolled as a first semester freshman or first semester sophomore at Alcorn State University in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences academic major of interest upon acceptance.
4. Pursue a career in the food, agricultural or natural resource-related areas.
5. Have a minimum cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0 at the time of application and maintain at least a 3.0 each semester while receiving the scholarship.
6. Have a combined Math/Verbal SAT score of 1030- 1050 or a composite score of 20 or more on the ACT. (*High school applicants only*)
7. Be enrolled as a full-time student in a College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences academic major, which is defined as being registered for a minimum of 12 hours.

Required Documents

In addition to the above criteria, the following application documents are required from high school applicants:

1. Privacy Act Advisory Statement and Release Form.
2. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
3. Biographical questionnaire.
4. Current resume.
5. Essay of 500-800 words, describing the applicant's interest and intent to pursue a career in the food and agricultural sciences or related fields.
6. Current official transcript with the school's seal and/or signature of an authorized school official (preferably through the most recent quarter/semester).
7. High school students must obtain two letters of recommendation (one from the high school counselor and the other one from a high school teacher).
8. First semester sophomore college students must obtain two letters of recommendation (one from either the dean, department chairs, or advisor and the other from a faculty member); and

9. Signed and dated application (including the signature of a parent or guardian, if the applicant is under the age of 18).

Eligible Majors

The College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences offers the following baccalaureate degree programs and concentrations, which comprise the eligible majors for this scholarship:

Degree Program	Concentrations/Cognates
1. Agricultural Economics	N/A
2. Agribusiness Management	N/A
3. Agriculture Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal and Pre-Veterinary Science • General Agriculture and Agriculture Education • Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences • Plant, Soil, and Horticultural Sciences • Biotechnology • Animal/Poultry Science (3+1) with Mississippi State University
4. Human Development and Family Science	N/A
5. Food, Nutrition and Community Health Sciences	N/A
6. Applied Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bio-Medical Engineering Technology • Computer Engineering Technology • Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology • Geospatial Engineering Technology/Homeland Security Management • Natural Resource Management • Radiation and Automation Technology
7. Computer Networking and Information Technology	N/A
8. Robotics and Automation Technology	N/A

Application Deadline

All applications materials must be postmarked no later than **June 13, 2025**, and sent to the attention

of: Alcorn State University
College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences or AgStudentServices@alcorn.edu
Office of Student Services
1000 ASU Drive #690
Lorman, MS 39096-7500

Selection Process

The selection committee reviews the applicant's total packet.

Any application packet with missing items will not be reviewed.

For Office Use Only	
Date Received:	_____
Application Complete:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES
or	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Accepted/Denied:	_____
Reason:	_____
If Selected, Amount Awarded:	_____

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 NRCS Scholars Scholarship Program, printing certificates, and related activities.
3. The data is maintained in a privacy act system as defined by National Archives and Records Administration under the Office of Management and Budget.
4. Failure to complete this form will mean you cannot be included among those candidates being considered for this scholarship.

I, _____, understand that I am a candidate for the **Alcorn State University NRCS Scholars Scholarship Program**, have read the Privacy Act Advisory Statement, and affirm my wish to be considered. In the event I am selected as 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 Alcorn State University as deemed appropriate for purposes of the scholarship program.

I further consent to the release of photographs that may be taken of me, by or for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Alcorn State University. 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 or Alcorn State University.

Print Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Note: Original signatures only. Photocopies will not be accepted.

Candidate's Biographical Questionnaire (please print)

The following questions are designed to collect information about your background, interests and 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 while performing their duties.

A. Biographical Information

Last Name _____ First Name _____ M.I. _____

A#: _____ Gender: _____ Male _____ Female

Permanent Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

U.S. Citizen Yes No Race: Black White Other _____

Telephone (Home) _____

Telephone (Cell) _____ Email Address _____

B. Education

Name of Current High School _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

GPA (on a 4.0 unweighted scale) _____

Note: Grade point averages and standardized test scores should match supporting documentation submitted by counselor. Do not apply if you do not meet these criteria.

1. List any other schools that you attended in the last four years. List the schools in order of attendance, with the one you attended most recently listed first.

Name of school	Location (City & State)	Dates of Attendance

2. List any advanced or special program, courses or summer courses you have taken. List the most recent course or program first.

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

3. What course of study (major) will you pursue? List concentration where applicable.

1st Choice: _____ Concentration: _____

2nd Choice: _____ Concentration: _____

Other Related Discipline/Unlisted Major (please identify):

Note: All academic disciplines may not be available at every 1890 land-grant university. Check the university's academic offerings before applying.

4. Have you made career decisions related to agriculture, food sciences, natural resource sciences or related disciplines?

Yes No

If yes, please explain below:

5. Will you be staying on campus? Yes No

C. Activities

1. List extracurricular activities in which you have participated in school or in the community (i.e. academic activities such as 4-H, FFA, debate, sports, music, art, etc.)

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

2. List volunteer and paid positions you have held in the past four years (including summer employment.)

Volunteer or Paid Positions	Employer/Organization	Date of Service or Employment	Hours per Week	Special Award(s)

Review this form to make sure you have answered all questions completely. Proofread your responses.

I certify that I have 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.

Print your Legal Name

Applicant's Signature

Date Signed

Print Name (Parent or Legal Guardian)

Note: If the applicant is younger than age 18, parental or legal guardian signature is required.

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature

Date Signed

*Note: This form and all other application materials must be postmarked by **June 13, 2025**.*

**Alcorn State University
NRCS Scholars Scholarship Program**

Applicant's Authorization to Release Academic Information (for Counselor)

Applicant's Full Name

Last _____ First _____ Middle _____ Suffix _____

To comply with the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, a school must obtain signed authorization before it can release student information for use in this scholarship program. Permission is hereby given to school officials to release the student's record and other requested information for consideration in the scholarship program named above.

Note: If the applicant is younger than age 18, a parent or legal guardian's signature is required.

Student's Signature _____

Date _____

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Applicant: If you have attended this school for less than two years, you must copy this form and have your previous school also complete this form for you.

School Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone Number _____

Alcorn State University
NRCS Scholars Scholarship Program
Secondary/Post-Secondary School Record (for Counselor)

The applicant's original SAT and/or ACT scores, along with an official secondary school transcript (with seal and signature by an authorized official), including grades 9 through 12, must be attached to this section of the application. If the official transcript and SAT and/or ACT scores are not provided, the applicant will not be considered for the scholarship.

Note: If the applicant is enrolled in official college courses (i.e. dual degree), please submit an official transcript from the college as well.

Applicant's Full Name

Last	First	Middle	Suffix
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Counselor's Printed Name

Counselor's Signature

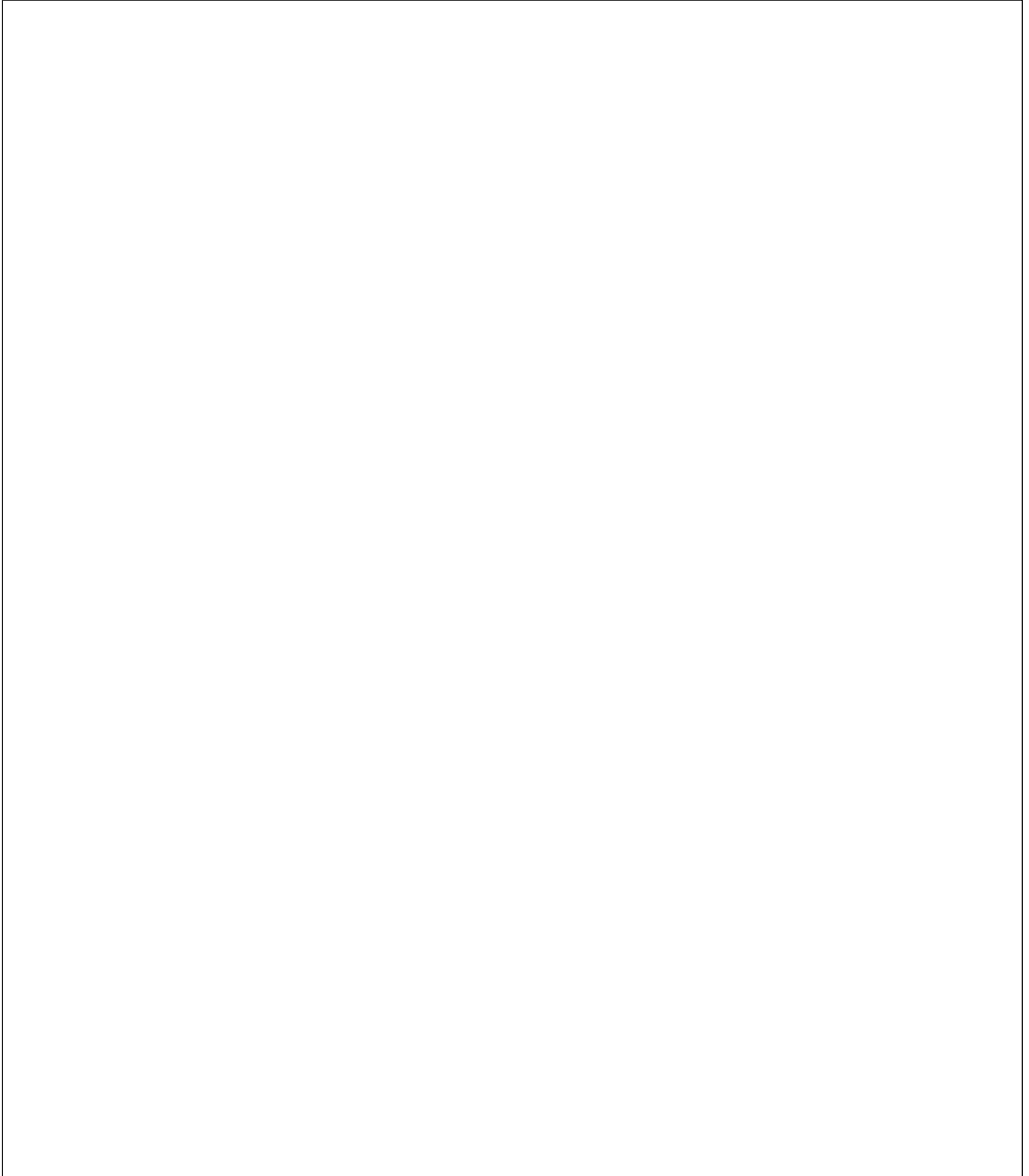
Date

This form, along with the candidate's official school transcript, SAT and/or ACT scores, must be included in the application package. The complete application package(s) must be postmarked by **June 13, 2025**.

D. Essay

Submit an essay of 500 – 800 words, describing your interest and intent to pursue a career in food and agricultural sciences or related fields.

(You may provide your essay below or you may attach a typed copy of your essay to the application)

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to write their 500-800 word essay. The box occupies most of the page below the instructions.

Signatory Page

Final Note: Please review your application to ensure you have answered all questions completely and submitted All required documentation. Proofread, spellcheck, and edit your responses for accuracy.

Certification

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.

Print Legal Name

Signature

Date

**Alcorn State University
NRCS Scholars Scholarship Program
Application Checklist**

- I have read the eligibility requirements and meet all eligibility criteria.
- I am submitting an original application and transcript.
- I completed the Candidate's Biographical Information section.
- I have included and signed the Secondary School Report from my high school counselor and explained the need to have all official transcripts with a seal.
- SAT and/or ACT scores are enclosed with this response.
- I have included the signed School Teacher Assessment.
- I have signed and dated the application (original signature only). If younger than age 18, parents or guardians have signed my application.
- I have enclosed the essay with 500-800 words.
- I have enclosed two letters of recommendation.
- I understand that the full application package must be postmarked no later than June 13, 2025, for consideration for Alcorn State University's NRCS Scholars Scholarship Program.