



Believe in Ohio

Statewide STEM Scholarship Program

Scholarship Application

All Ohio high school students, who are juniors or seniors during the 2020-2021 school year, and who meet the qualifications below, are invited to apply for a **\$1,000 Believe in Ohio STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Scholarship**

The purpose of this scholarship program is to recognize students throughout Ohio for their contributions to STEM Innovation and Entrepreneurship. To ensure that students from all parts of Ohio receive recognition, at least one \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded in each of Ohio's ninety-nine State House of Representative districts, and thirty-three Ohio State Senate districts.



Ohio has a long tradition of innovation. Thomas Edison and Orville and Wilber Wright changed the way we live and travel. Neil Armstrong and John Glenn showed us what was beyond the clouds and dared us to dream. Ohio is the birthplace of great innovators and courageous trailblazers. We're calling on you to step forward and join this legacy. Combine your passion for science and technology with a spirit of entrepreneurship to be part of Ohio's future. We believe in you. We believe in Ohio. And we hope you will Choose Ohio First.

Mike DeWine

Jon Husted

HOW TO APPLY FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP

- A. Applicants must be a junior or senior in good standing at any Ohio high school (Class of 2021 or 2022).**
- B. The applicant should have distinguished themselves in a significant, rigorous STEM or entrepreneurship competition, research project, or published manuscript that demonstrates the applicant's potential to become a future innovator.** (See additional explanation on the page that follows, as well as some examples of the types of student experiences that might distinguish the applicant.)
- C. Applicant must develop and/or source the following three written documents, and compile them into a single PDF document in the numerical order noted below, which the applicant must attach to their online application form that can be found at <https://form.jotform.com/OhioScience/STEM-scholarship>**
 1. A transcript that shows a Grade Point Average of 3.0 or better at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.
 2. An essay written by the applicant (maximum of two total pages and 750 words, 12pt font (Times New Roman, Arial, Verdana, or Calibri), 1 ½ or double spaced), that answers these three questions:
 - a. Why is the statement "STEM + Entrepreneurial Mindset = Innovation" important?
 - b. Why do you think you deserve this scholarship, and how will it help you prepare for your future?
 - c. Which [Choose Ohio First](#) program at an Ohio college or university interests you the most, and why? (Please note, you will need to apply to the *Choose Ohio First* program(s) that interest you separately from this application.)
 3. Provide a maximum of a one-page synopsis that discusses the significant, rigorous STEM or entrepreneurship competition, research project, or published manuscript that demonstrates the student's potential to excel as a future innovator. (See point B above, and additional information on the page that follows.)
- D. Complete the online application form** which will ask the applicant for all their contact information. It will also ask the student to provide the Ohio House and Ohio Senate legislative district numbers in which they live, and the names of their current Ohio House and Senate officeholders. (How to find this information is explained on the page that follows.) **The online application can be found at: <https://form.jotform.com/OhioScience/STEM-scholarship>**
- E. Applicant must provide two letters of recommendation** from a (non-family member) teacher, counselor, STEM or business professional or community leader that discuss the qualities that recommend the applicant for this scholarship. The recommendation letters, referencing the applicant's name & high school should be emailed to: scholarship@ohiosci.org

ALL OF THE STUDENT'S APPLICATION MATERIALS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2021.



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Additional Explanatory Information

What constitutes “a significant, rigorous STEM or entrepreneurship competition, research project, or published manuscript that demonstrates the applicant’s potential to become a future innovator”?

- Project/work/research must include an original, properly cited, appropriately researched, written report that justifies and explains the ideas and conclusions expressed.
- While the project/work/research does not have to be an original idea, it must at least meaningfully improve on an existing idea.
- The project/work/research must have been externally validated. External validation means there is a mechanism for the student’s body of work to be evaluated, judged, or recognized by independent, professional content experts or the consuming public. A high school capstone project that is graded by the student’s teacher is not an example of external validation.

Examples of what might demonstrate the student’s potential to become a future innovator:

- A *Believe in Ohio* STEM Commercialization or STEM Business Plan.
- A Local Science Day, District Science Day, State Science Day, Northeast Ohio Science & Engineering Fair, Best Medicine competition, NWO Science and Engineering Fair, FFA Agri-science Fairs, Google Science Fair, or other similar science or engineering fair project.
- Any other STEM / Innovation / Entrepreneurship competition of rigor (e.g. through Junior Achievement, DECA, FFA or other similar program). Validation for entrepreneurship programs should include a written component that examines competition, marketplace opportunities, allocation of resources, financial projections, etc. Students who have successfully started their own business would be the ultimate example of external validation.
- Research submitted for grant funding, producing a research manuscript for publication, or having research accepted and presented at a meeting, research symposium, or conference, such as, but not limited to: The Ohio Academy of Science Annual Meeting, Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, Wildlife Research Symposium, Environmental Education Council Conference of Ohio.

How to answer the question: “Which *Choose Ohio First* program at an Ohio college or university interests you the most, and why?” (Requirement C.2.c.)

To be able to address this question, the applicant should review the list of the 45+ Ohio colleges and universities that participate in the *Choose Ohio First* program and offer 110+ different programs as noted on the Ohio Department of Higher Education website at: <https://www.ohiohighered.org/cof/participating-institutions>

Please note, you will need to apply to the Choose Ohio First program(s) that interest you separately from this application. Please contact the institutional Choose Ohio First contact(s) listed in the link above to learn more about each institution’s unique Choose Ohio First application and selection process.

How to find out which Ohio House and Ohio Senate legislative district number the applicant lives in and the names of their current Ohio House and Senate officeholders: (Requirement D)

[Click here to search for your House District and Representative’s Name](#)

[Click here to search for your Senate District and Senator’s Name](#)

The Ohio Academy of Science will retain scholarship funds for future distribution for those not needing the money in the year of the award. If the student does not attend an Ohio college or university, post-secondary career center or vocational school, and instead enrolls in an out-of-state institution, any scholarship that they may have earned will be forfeited. Scholarships will only be paid for attending any public or private Ohio college or university, post-secondary career center or vocational school.



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What is the *Believe in Ohio* Program?

The program's mission is to: 1) create a culture of innovation in Ohio high schools, 2) create a pathway between Ohio's high schools and Ohio's colleges and universities, 3) promote Ohio as a great place for students to continue their educations and careers, and, 4) provide higher education scholarships to encourage Ohio students to remain in Ohio. In doing so, it focuses on the practical application of STEM and related fields and the development of an entrepreneurial mindset and critical thinking skills that students will need in the future.

What Scholarship programs does *Believe in Ohio* sponsor:

Believe in Ohio sponsors the *Believe in Ohio* Statewide STEM Scholarship Program which is the subject of this scholarship application. At least one \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded in each of Ohio's ninety-nine State House of Representative districts, and thirty-three Ohio State Senate districts.

Believe in Ohio will also award one hundred \$1,000, and twenty-five \$10,000 scholarships this school year to competition winners as part of its high school STEM Commercialization Plan and STEM Business Plan competitions. To find out more about these programs, please visit the [Believe in Ohio website](#).

What is the *Choose Ohio First* Program?

The *Choose Ohio First* Scholarship Program is a state-funded program aimed at graduating more students in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM). The State of Ohio recognizes that a workforce trained in these areas is essential for strengthening our economy.

History and Overview:

The Ohio General Assembly created the *Choose Ohio First* Program in 2007 to increase the number of Ohio residents completing postsecondary studies in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM), and STEMM education. Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted championed the passage of the *Choose Ohio First* Scholarship Program when serving as Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives and has taken an active role in the program ever since. *

The goal of the program is to advance the economic growth of each region in the state in STEMM-related fields and to support the success of program participants. To be awarded *Choose Ohio First* designation, Ohio's public and nonpublic colleges and universities participate in a competitive process. *

More than 45 Ohio public and private colleges and universities award *Choose Ohio First* scholarships in more than 110 program areas. [See what programs are offered that might interest you.](#)

*Source of information – Ohio Dept of Higher Education website

About The Ohio Academy of Science:

The Ohio Academy of Science (Academy) is the leading organization in Ohio to foster curiosity, discovery, and innovation and to unite all who value education, science, engineering, technology, or their applications, for the benefit of society. Founded in 1891, the Academy is a membership-based, volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organization. Pre-college programs include District and State Science Day and *Believe in Ohio*. Additionally, the Academy conducts an annual meeting which brings together scientists and students from all disciplines across the state and publishes an international, multidisciplinary, scientific journal.

For more information please email info@ohiosci.org or call 614-389-2182