Tip Sheet for
Math and Science Teaching Scholarships
Get applications at: http://www.csuchico.edu/cmse

General Tips for Completing a Successful Scholarship Application

Basic - But Important

• Don’t miss the deadline.
• Read all instructions carefully.
• Follow the Step-by-Step process in the scholarship application.
• Include all information requested. Incomplete applications are usually not considered.
• Type everything you can in a word processing program (neatness counts).
• Proofread your application and have at least one other person proofread it as well.

Personal Essay

In general, the essay is the most important part of your scholarship application. This is your chance to tell the selection committee about yourself.

Include the following, as appropriate:

• Give an introduction, tell who you are.
• What are your goals (educational, career, and personal)? How do you intend to meet those goals?
• Why would you like to become a teacher? Did something or someone happen to influence your decision?
• Financial circumstances (how do you intend to pay for school)?
• Tell us about your life circumstances, challenges, and/or awards. How would you benefit from this scholarship?

Letters of Recommendation

This is generally the second most important piece of the scholarship application. Choose your recommendations carefully.

• Be sure the letter of recommendation is current-dated within a year.
• Be sure to follow guidelines, i.e., academic, personal or character recommendations. Get letters from persons who know you personally, your potential to teach and do well academically.
• Give letter writers guidance about things you want them to emphasize (e.g., your ability to communicate well with children, your enthusiasm, your organizational skills, etc.). It is very helpful to letter writers to see a copy of the scholarship requirements to guide their communications.
• Letters should be on appropriate forms if required by the application or on letterhead, typed, signed, and sealed with a signature on the envelope if hand delivered.
Specific Tips for the MST and Noyce Scholarship Applications:

The Math/Science Teacher Recruitment Scholarships (MST) are supported by the Mathematics and Science Teacher Initiative (MSTI) at CSUC in order to recruit students to become math and science teachers. Scholarship amounts are up to $5,000/year. Specific requirements:

• **Academic achievement and progress towards an appropriate degree**: Scholarships are competitive, based in part on your grades in science/math and teaching courses to date; if your grades are weak, emphasize strengths!

• **Commitment to becoming a quality teacher**: Requires evidence of your interest, in other words, what have you done that demonstrates why you want to teach?

• **Potential positive impact in the classroom**: make a case for yourself as a role model, as an effective teacher/communicator, and as a motivator of diverse groups of people.

• **Financial need**: Financial need will be considered, so make clear why you could use the money.

The Robert Noyce Scholars Program (Noyce) encourages talented Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) majors and professionals to teach math or science at the secondary level (up to $12,000 a year for up to two years; $10,000 scholarship/$2,000 professional development funds).

There are more requirements and restrictions to these scholarships, check website: [http://www.csuchico.edu/cmse/csuc_students/fa_scholarships.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/cmse/csuc_students/fa_scholarships.shtml)

Noyce Scholar applications require a 1-2 page personal statement including:

• Why do you want to teach science or mathematics?

• What are your personal and professional qualifications, including experiences working with K-12 students?

• Why would you commit to working in a high need school?

• How would you use Noyce scholarship money to fulfill your professional development and goals?

• Are there any specific challenges you face (socioeconomic difficulties, disabilities, etc.)?