

GY8 BLAST New Scholar Application AY21–22

The Biomedical Learning and Student Training (BLaST) program invites applications from undergraduate students to participate as BLaST Scholars. BLaST is a National Institutes of Health (NIH)–funded initiative with the overarching goal of enhancing undergraduate training in biomedical research through increased diversity of students, increased integration of research and teaching, and enhanced integration of rural campuses into a cohesive biomedical community in Alaska.

To achieve this goal, BLaST Research Scholarships are offered to students from all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. The BLaST Research Scholarship covers tuition, fees (up to 15 credits per semester) and provides a stipend for the entire 2021–2022 academic year.

To be eligible for a BLaST Research Scholarship, students must:

- have an interest in biomedical research;
- be considering a career in healthcare, biomedicine, or research in life or social sciences;
- have and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher;
- complete 12 or more credits in both the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters;
- be a U.S. citizen, U.S. non–citizen national or permanent resident;
- be enrolled full–time in an academic degree program in biomedical science fields at UAF in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Applications are due by 11:59pm February 7, 2021.

Please familiarize yourself with the BLaST Program and our One Health approach to biomedicine by visiting our webpage at www.alaska.edu/blast

You should receive a confirmation email after you submit your application. If you do not, please contact Adam Chisom, BLaST Program Administrator, at 907–474–2422 or ajchisom@alaska.edu

If you have questions, please contact us – uaf-blast@alaska.edu or 907.474.5111.

Name *

First Last

UAF ID (if known)

Primary Email *

Secondary Email *

Phone Number *

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Gender *

- Female
- Male
- Other
- Prefer not to respond

Address *

Street Address

Address Line 2

City

State / Province / Region

Postal / Zip Code

Country

Class Standing in Fall of 2021 *

- First year student
- Sophomore
- Junior
- Senior

Will you be an incoming first year college student in fall of 2021? *

- Yes
- No

Current Cumulative GPA (on a 4.0 scale) *

Maximum of 5 digits. Currently Used: 0 digits.

If incoming first year college student, please list high school GPA.

If you would like to provide comments regarding your GPA, please do so.

UAF Degree Program *

Department (e.g. Biology and Wildlife, Psychology) *

Expected Graduation Date
(Provide semester and year) *

How did you hear about BLaST? *

Citizenship: (choose one) *

- U.S. Citizen
- Permanent Resident
- U.S. Non-Citizen National
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Essays

Concisely and articulately answer the following essay questions in 300 words or less.

Strive for your best writing and have several advisors (mentors or peers) give you feed back prior to submission.

If you have questions, need assistance or if you would like to arrange for feedback prior to submission contact BLaST – blast.uaf@alaska.edu or 907.474.5111.

1. Describe your career aspirations with respect to biomedicine.

What interest do you have in biomedicine? Do you have a specific career path in mind? Is there any aspect of biomedicine that you find particularly interesting? Biomedical careers includes those who conduct research in both physical and mental health, and medical practitioners that treat the physical and mental health of patients.

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Maximum of 300 words. Currently Used: 0 words.

2. BLaST is a research based program. Describe your interest in research.

What interest do you have in research? Have you had previous research experience? If no prior research experience, why do you want to be involved in research? What benefits do you expect to gain from participating in research?

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Maximum of 300 words. Currently Used: 0 words.

3. Describe a One Health issue relevant to you or your community.

One Health is the concept that human, animal, and environmental health are so inextricably linked that none can be optimal unless all are optimal.

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Maximum of 300 words. Currently Used: 0 words.

4. Aside from financial assistance, describe how the BLaST community and resources can help you reach your goals.

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Maximum of 300 words. Currently Used: 0 words.

5. Describe how your personal diversity or your background would contribute to building a diverse research community.

Your unique perspective might derive from multiple characteristics such as those listed by NIH (in below paragraph) and other aspects of personal diversity or experience.

*

Maximum of 300 words. Currently Used: 0 words.

6. What motivates you to succeed academically? Is there a challenge you've overcome to continue your education?

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Maximum of 300 words. Currently Used: 0 words.

BLaST is funded by the NIH and the NIH encourages institutions to enhance the participation of individuals from groups identified as underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral and social sciences, such as: 1) individuals from racial and ethnic groups that have been shown to be underrepresented in health-related sciences on a national basis [Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders]; 2) individuals with disabilities, who are defined as those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; and 3) individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, defined as (a) individuals who come from a family with an annual income below established low-income thresholds periodically published at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/index.shtml> and (b) individuals who come from an educational environment such as that found in certain rural or inner-city environments that has demonstrably and directly inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop and participate in a research career. For a complete description of the NIH's Interest in Diversity see: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-031.html>

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution.

Check All That Apply *

- From racial and ethnic groups that have been shown to be underrepresented in health-related sciences on a national basis
- Have a disability
- From a family with an annual income below established low-income thresholds
- From a rural educational environment
- From an inner-city educational environment
- Choose not to respond
- None of the above

Race (Check All That Apply) *

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Caucasian
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- More Than One Race
- Choose not to respond
- Other

Ethnicity (Choose one) *

- Hispanic or Latino
- Not Hispanic or Latino
- Choose not to respond or unknown

Disability Status (Check all that apply) *

- Hearing Impairment
- Visual Impairment
- Mobility / Orthopedic Impairment
- Cognitive Impairment
- Neurological Condition

- Choose not to respond
 - None of the above
 - Other
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