

Astronaut Scholarship 2026

Deadline: February 20, 2026 (5:00PM CT)

The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF) award is for outstanding students in the fields of engineering, mathematics and natural or applied sciences who have shown initiative, creativity and excellence. Scholarships are awarded to students who have the intention of pursuing research or advance their field upon completion of their final degree. The Astronaut Scholarship is worth up to \$15,000.

Eligibility

Students must meet the following criteria to be eligible for nomination for an Astronaut Scholarship:

1. Must be nominated for consideration by a professor at UT Austin who knows the student well enough to identify a special drive or talent that foreshadows a creative career leading to the advancement of scientific knowledge and technology
2. Must be a U.S. Citizen
3. Must be a STEM major going into their junior or senior year
4. Must have completed two years of full-time study at UT Austin and have demonstrated exemplary academic performance, as noted in transcripts.
5. Should be a full-time student during both semesters of the ASF supported academic year.
6. Must have conducted considerable amount of work outside the classroom in their chosen field of study. This may include laboratory research, cooperative education, internships, relevant military experience, entrepreneurial endeavors, and/or documented independent work resulting in technical papers, patents, or similar work product
7. Must have intentions to pursue research or advance their field upon completion of their final degrees

Pre-medical students pursuing a practice in professional medicine are not eligible for nomination. However, those intending to perform biomedical research are eligible. Special consideration is not given to students majoring in aeronautical/astronautical engineering or those intending to pursue careers as astronauts.

Nomination Process

The College of Natural Sciences along with the College of Engineering will identify and nominate up to two students to represent The University of Texas at Austin for the Astronaut Scholarship. CNS students interested in being considered for nomination must complete the CNS preliminary application process. If your application is selected for formal nomination, you will be required to complete the official ASF 2026 nomination forms.

Preliminary Application

A complete CNS preliminary application includes the following:

1. **Preliminary Application Form** – students can access the [CNS form here](#).
2. **Two (2) Letters of Nomination** from faculty members or research professors. One letter of nomination must be from a professor at UT Austin. Letters should include details on the student's research achievements and endeavors. Instructions on how to submit the faculty letters of nomination can be found on the CNS Preliminary Nomination Form.
3. **Personal Statement** – students should submit a short statement of personal interests, hobbies, activities and goals. The personal statement should give examples of the involvement and commitment of the student to their studies beyond the formal classroom setting. Creativity is an important attribute and should be documented. Personal statements should not exceed one page typed using 12-point font.
4. **Resume**

Students should upload both the personal statement and resume directly to the [ASF 2026 Preliminary Applications](#) Box folder.

Deadline

The CNS deadline to submit preliminary applications **and** letters of nominations is **February 20, 2026 (5:00PM CT)**. Late and/or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Questions? Contact scholarships@cns.utexas.edu.

Feel free to visit <https://astronautscholarship.org/> for more information on ASF.