

Distinguished Scientist Scholar (DSS) Award Guidelines and Application Instructions – Spring 2016

All current students concentrating in biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics or physics are eligible to apply for a Distinguished Scientist Scholar (DSS) Award. These awards are given to exceptional students who have distinguished themselves academically in one of the above-mentioned disciplines in the division of Science, Mathematics and Computing. The exact amount of each award is determined by the Financial Aid office, on average \$5000 for each academic year, and includes the opportunity to apply for a summer research stipend to participate in NSF or NIH sponsored summer research programs at other institutions, if the student is not already eligible for federal funding. Like other science students at Bard, DSS recipients are also eligible for BSRI funding for summer research at Bard. Please note that this is a very competitive process and only a few awards will be given out each year.

- **Eligibility:** To apply for a DSS award (commencing in the fall), a student must meet the following eligibility criteria:
 - Concentrating in one of the following programs: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics or Physics.
 - Not currently receiving a DSS scholarship or award.
 - Cumulative GPA of 3.0 overall in the college.
 - Cumulative GPA of 3.5 in courses in the SM&C Division.
- **Application Procedure:**
 - Write a letter of request to the DSS Committee. The letter should discuss your plan of study in biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics, and/or physics.
 - Write an essay about an experience in science or math that you found particularly interesting.
 - Ask two Bard faculty members to write you letters of recommendation. At least one of these faculty members must be in the SM&C Division. They should submit their letters directly to Megan Karcher.
 - Submit this information as attachments via e-mail to the SM&C Division secretary, Megan Karcher (karcher@bard.edu)
- **Selection Criteria:** Awards will be granted to students showing exceptional qualifications in their areas of study and based upon the following:
 - College academic records.
 - Letters of recommendations from the faculty.
 - A strong interest in working in biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics, or physics.
 - Availability of funds.
- **Deadline:** Applications must be submitted no later than **Friday, April 1st, 2016**.

The DSS Committee will meet shortly after that, and will make recommendations to the Director of Financial Aid, who will determine the final awards. You should receive word of whether you have been selected to receive a DSS award by early May.

Questions? Contact Robert McGrail, Chair of the Division of Science, Math and Computing, mcgrail@bard.edu.