

Virginia Association of Wetland Professionals
Student Research Scholarship
Call for Applications
2020

The Virginia Association of Wetland Professionals (VAWP) is soliciting scholarship applications from undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in Virginia institutions.

At the association's establishment in 1993, the VAWP defined a mission is to:

- Bring together wetland scientists, regulators, managers, design professionals, attorneys and other wetland professionals in an independent forum that promotes discussion and exchange of ideas on wetland issues important in Virginia;
- Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of wetland management through the development and operation of certification programs, training and education in wetland delineation, functional assessment, best management practices, mitigation and other areas;
- Encourage improved public and private partnerships, planning and protection of wetlands based on best available science, technology and engineering practices;
- Encourage the conservation and responsible use of wetland resources; and,
- Encourage and promote continued research and public education in the area of wetland functions and values.

While the VAWP historically focused on wetland science, this scholarship is open to any applicant conducting research in the wetland science / natural resource / environmental science fields, as associated with VAWP's mission.

The winner of the scholarship will receive an award in the amount of \$500.00. If you or your company is interested in donating to the scholarship, please contact Wes Hudson as noted below.

The deadline for all applications is **September 18, 2020**. If you have any questions, please contact Wes Hudson (VAWP Education Committee Chair) at herman.hudson.85@gmail.com.

**Virginia Association of Wetland Professionals
Student Research Scholarship
2020**

The Virginia Association of Wetland Professionals (VAWP) was established in 1993 to encourage the advancement of wetland science and conservation.

Through this award, the VAWP will provide a \$500.00 scholarship to an outstanding student pursuing undergraduate or graduate research at a Virginia academic institution. While the VAWP historically focused on wetland science, the scholarship is open to any applicant conducting research in the wetland science / natural resource / environmental science fields.

The student's research must demonstrate a specific interest in advancing the mission and ideals of the VAWP. Scholarships will be paid directly to the selected applicant.

Applicant Requirements

The minimum criteria for an applicant include:

- A minimum GPA of 3.0.
- Current enrollment in a Virginia undergraduate or graduate degree program in a wetland science / natural resources / environmental science or related field.
- Currently conducting or planning research in the environmental science field.
- Plans to pursue a career in the environmental sciences.
- A commitment to present the research at a future VAWP event.

Applicant Process

All applications must be submitted electronically to Wes Hudson (VAWP Education Committee Chair) at herman.hudson.85@gmail.com by September 18, 2020. If you have any questions, please contact Wes Hudson.

Selection Process

Every application will be evaluated first by the Education Committee for completeness and qualifications for meeting the applicant requirements. All qualifying applications will then be independently reviewed by the VAWP Board and Education Committee. Note that Board members or Education Committee members who are involved in a student's research will be recused from the selection process.

Evaluations will be based on the following criteria:

1. Clear statement of hypotheses, objectives, or research questions.
2. Significance or potential impact of the proposed research to advancing knowledge and understanding in its field.
3. Creativity or originality of the approach or concepts in the proposed research.
4. Relevance of the proposed research as related to the aims of the VAWP.
5. Letters of recommendations.

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Personal Information

Name _____
Last First Middle

E-mail address _____

Primary Phone (____) _____

Current Mailing Address (Street, City, State, Zip):

Permanent Address (Street, City, State, Zip) (If different from mailing address):

Educational Background

Current Undergraduate /University _____

City, State _____

Expected Date of Graduation _____ Degree to be Received _____

Major/Area of Concentration _____

Grade Point Average _____

(Minimum GPA of 3.0 required. Attach copy of transcript to application. Unofficial is acceptable)

Previous Colleges/Universities Attended, Date Degree Earned and GPA:

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Research Summary

The research summary must include a title limited to 180 characters and a narrative of the research limited to 1,200 words.

The research narrative must include the following:

1. Background about the research topic to convey its relevance and significance as specifically related to the VAWP.
2. A clear statement of hypothesis, objectives, or research questions.
3. A description of methodological approach to be used, including a description of study sites, spatial and temporal intensity of sampling, tools and/or procedures used to generate data and planned quantitative or statistical treatment of data.
4. A description of how collected data will permit interpretations and/or conclusions relevant to the proposed research.

Personal Statement

A statement about your career goals after graduation and why you should receive the scholarship award. Please include any school, professional or community activities you have participated in, any offices held, and any awards received. Statement should not exceed 300 words.

Recommendations

Provide as PDFs. Two letters of recommendation are required. One letter must be written by the applicant's research advisor. The second letter should be written by an individual familiar with the applicant and his/her research and/or career goals in environmental science. Each referee must clearly identify the nature of his/her relationship with the applicant. The research advisor letter of reference must clearly and directly address the proposed research and the applicant's role in project development and initiation, taking into consideration the academic stage in the applicant's career (e.g., seeking a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree). Letters also should evaluate the likelihood that the work will be successfully completed.

Proof of Enrollment at a Virginia Institution

Provide a copy of your tuition receipt or current registration card.