Austin College’s Career Empowering
STEM Scholars (ACCESS) Program

With generous funding from the National Science Foundation, six scholarships will be awarded to outstanding freshman applicants through a highly competitive selection process. Austin College’s Career Empowering Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Scholars (ACCESS) program is a holistic approach to supporting students with financial need who are interested in a STEM career (not health science related).

Scholars receive
1. a scholarship of up to $10,000
2. a paid opportunity to participate in summer research
3. individualized STEM mentoring in addition to regular mentoring and
4. monthly professional development meetings with STEM faculty.

The ACCESS Scholarship is renewable annually as long as the recipient maintains a 3.0 cumulative and major GPA on a 4.0 scale. ACCESS scholars must be United States citizens or permanent residents and must intend to major in biology, biochemistry, chemistry, computer science, mathematics, or physics. Women, underrepresented minority students, and first-generation college students are especially encouraged to apply.

Basis for Consideration
The Scholarship Committee will consider candidates based on the following:

• Evidence of academic achievement, minimum GPA for consideration is 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
• Financial need
• Intended major
• Career goals statement
• STEM teacher recommendation letter

The Selection Process
Applicants should plan ahead. FASFA information must be available to determine financial need. Both the application and the recommendation letter must be submitted (or received) by March 1.

Each application will be considered by a committee of representatives from the departments of biology, chemistry, computer science and mathematics, and physics.

Recipients will be notified by the Office of Admission by April 1 and must accept/decline the award offer by May 1.

Austin College Office of Admission | 900 North Grand Avenue Suite 6N | Sherman, Texas 75090
austincollege.edu | 800-KANGAROO | admission@austincollege.edu

Austin College reserves the right to change on an annual basis the types, number, criteria, or values of scholarships. In addition to the General Academic Scholarships awarded each year, Austin College has a limited number of institutional scholarships that require separate applications or nominations. A new student may apply for an unlimited number of institutional scholarships. However, a student may receive only one institutional award in addition to the general academic scholarship. For a student receiving financial assistance, a merit-based award may replace in whole or in part a need-based grant or loan.

Austin College welcomes applications for admission from all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, age, sexual orientation, religion, physical handicap, or national and ethnic origin. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992, Austin College will make every reasonable effort to accommodate the needs of its students with disabilities.
Application Form
ACCESS Program
DEADLINE: March 1

Part I – Basic Information, please print neatly

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Last         First           Middle Initial

Home Address: ____________________________________________________

Street        City           State        Zip Code

High School/College You Attend: ______________________________________

By applying for the ACCESS Scholars Program I, __________________________, give permission for
the Austin College Office of Admissions and the Director of the ACCESS Program to access my Austin College
application materials and financial aid information for the purposes of considering my application for this
program. I understand that some information will be reported, in aggregate form, to the National Science
Foundation to show depth and breadth of applicant pool.

_________________________________________  __________
Signature                      date

Part II – Career Interest Information

Intended Major (Mark the appropriate box, you may mark more than one if you have not decided):

☐ Biology    ☐ Biochemistry    ☐ Chemistry    ☐ Computer Science    ☐ Mathematics    ☐ Physics

☐ Other ________________________________

Intended Occupation: _____________________________________________

In typed one-page or less, please answer to the following questions.

1. What are your career goals?
2. How will an Austin College STEM degree support your career goals?
3. How do you envision that participation participating in the ACCESS Scholars program will enable you
to reach your goals?
Part III - Recommendation Letter  

DEADLINE: March 1

Applicant: Please provide this page to a STEM teacher who has agreed to write a recommendation letter supporting your application to the ACCESS program.

Recommender: The Austin College ACCESS Scholarship Committee asks that your recommendation be typed on school letterhead and address the five criteria below, citing specific examples for each to illustrate the candidate’s merits.

- Description of relationship with candidate, including degree of familiarity
- Evidence of personal character and/or special talents
- Evidence of STEM academic achievement and intellectual curiosity
- Personal impressions of the candidate that indicate he/she would be successful at college
- General supporting comments (information that may include employment, leadership examples, etc.)

Please Print

Student Name: ________________________________

Recommended by: ________________________________

Name

Position and Title: ________________________________

High School or College: ________________________________

Address: ________________________________

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Home Phone: __________________ Work Phone: __________________

Preferred Email Address: ________________________________

Signature __________________ Date __________________

Mail Application and Recommendation to:

ACCESS Scholarship Committee
Austin College Office of Admission
900 North Grand Avenue Suite 6N
Sherman, Texas 75090