

The Student Transition, Achievement, Retention and Teaching Scholarship

A Scholarship Opportunity at Johnson State College for Environmental Science, Biology, and Mathematics[†] Majors

Johnson State College received a \$551,810 grant from the National Science Foundation in June 2012 to provide scholarships for promising students in the sciences. The “Student Transition, Achievement, Retention and Teaching” (START) scholarship provides up to \$10,000 per year to qualified students who choose to major in environmental science or biology. Students may apply for support for the final year of this program (the 2017/2018 academic year). Students must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average and demonstrated financial need in order to apply. This is one of several steps JSC is taking to support academically talented students of modest financial means who are committed to earning a college degree.

START scholars will have numerous opportunities to conduct faculty-mentored research, attend and present at national and regional conferences, and take classes with other START scholars. Academic advising, learning communities, and career counseling are also part of being a START scholar.

The Bentley Hall science building underwent major renovations in 2011. We have new teaching and research laboratories along with community spaces for study and discussion. Our laboratories are appropriately equipped and we have excellent computing facilities. Ongoing research initiatives at JSC, in which START scholars may be involved include chemical, biological and geological investigations in the Lamoille River Watershed; analysis of bacteria from the closed Vermont Asbestos Group mine in Lowell and Eden; assessments of landslide potential in Jeffersonville; and characterization of hazardous algal blooms in association with the “Research on Adaptation to Climate Change” project.

Work with us, learn with us, and then seek an advanced degree or employment in a related field. Please complete the application on the following page if you are interested in applying for a START scholarship.

www.jsc.edu

[†]Support for mathematics is provided by an additional funding source and is only open to VT residents.

For more information, contact Dr. Leslie Kanat at (802) 635-1327 or les.kanat@jsc.edu.

How to Apply for a START Scholarship at JSC

Eligibility requirements

- Majoring (or plan to major) in Environmental Science, Biology, or Mathematics[†] at Johnson State College.
- Cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or higher.
- Unmet financial need as indicated on the FAFSA.
- Fewer than 60 college credits.
- US citizen, permanent resident or refugee; mathematics majors must be Vermont residents.

Required Application Information

The START Scholarship Selection Team would like to know more about you. Please provide the following items.

1. Create a cover letter that describes why you would be an appropriate recipient of a START scholarship. Be sure to include the following items: your name, the date, and the reasons why you chose your major, and three possible scenarios for your future.
2. Please include the following two lists: i) a list of high school and college science and math courses taken in the past two years (we are interested in the number, range, depth and breadth of your experiences), and ii) a list of your participation in science fairs, extra-curricular activities, laboratory assistance opportunities, hobbies, workshops, and volunteer activities (include the dates associated with each of these experiences).
3. Write a two-page, typed essay, addressing a current issue in environmental science, biology or mathematics that demonstrates your quantitative reasoning and writing skills. Your essay should have an informative title, defend a clearly-defined thesis, have an appropriate conclusion, and include references as appropriate.
4. Provide two letters of recommendation from individuals at academic institutions that address your academic potential. These letters may be the ones submitted with your application to Johnson State College, in which case you may simply refer us to your JSC application in lieu of including them.

Send the required materials (the four items noted above) by email, fax or US Post to:

Leslie Kanat, Ph.D.

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Johnson State College

337 College Hill

Johnson, VT 05656

les.kanat@jsc.edu

phone: (802) 635-1327

fax: (802) 635-1461

<http://www.jsc.edu/start>

Questions about the START scholarship should be directed to Dr. Kanat as noted above.

Scholarships are awarded on a rolling basis, so submit your materials as soon as possible.

The Review Process

Upon receipt of your application materials, the START Scholarship Selection Team will request and review the following information about you that is on file at Johnson State College:

- JSC admissions application and current academic transcript
- SAT or ACT scores
- Unmet financial need (educational loans count as unmet need)

Once the team confirms that you meet the eligibility requirements, members will review your application materials, taking into account the quality of your writing, including proper grammar and spelling.