



Our Scholars Say...

“The National Security Scholars Program presents students with a unique experience and wonderful connections. Being able to hold an internship at a company that aims to make a difference for the country we all love is the most rewarding experience I could ask for.”

~ Junior, Notre Dame of Maryland University, TechUSA intern

“The interview process for becoming a NSSP scholar was an extensive one. From the polygraph testing to the psychological exam, I truly understood that this privilege of obtaining a security clearance was not to take lightly. I understood the work I would be trusted with is crucial to the safety of countless people.”

~ Junior, Stevenson University, Leidos intern

“My double major in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mathematics and Statistics will provide me with a meaningful and dynamic engineering education that will hopefully allow me to make a significant contribution to the field of national security after graduation. With this monetary assistance I am one step closer to my dreams.”

~ Senior, Johns Hopkins University, NSA intern

The National Security Scholars Program (NSSP) is an exclusive program only available through the Independent College Fund of Maryland (the I-Fund) to full-time undergraduates attending one of the following member colleges and universities:

- Capitol Technology University
- Goucher College
- Hood College
- Johns Hopkins University
- Loyola University Maryland
- McDaniel College
- Mount St. Mary’s University
- Notre Dame of Maryland University
- St. John’s College
- Stevenson University
- Washington Adventist University
- Washington College

For more information, please contact
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or visit micua.org/nssp.



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of Maryland

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National Security Scholars Program



and

the National Security Agency





“I feel that being a part of the National Security Scholars Program is a huge stepping stone for the beginning of my career. The chance to obtain a security clearance will open up many other opportunities after graduation.”

~ Senior, Mount St. Mary’s University,
Exceptional Software Strategies intern

Overview

Protecting our nation’s most critical assets from hazards—both internal and external, natural and man-made—makes the national security field a vital focus for the future. Cyber security, in particular, is one area posing complex challenges for the world today. It underpins almost every facet of modern society and provides critical support for the U.S. economy, civil infrastructure, public safety, and national security. Information technology has transformed the global economy and connected people in ways never imagined.

Responding to the needs of the national security industry, the Independent College Fund of Maryland (the I-Fund) helps develop a workforce prepared to handle the many aspects of protecting businesses through its National Security Scholars Program (NSSP). The I-Fund links students interested in serving their country with defense industry giants through the NSSP. The program provides a unique opportunity for scholars to explore a future in the field of national security and offers a road map to potential employment upon graduation.

Return on Investment

Just 10% of program donations are maintained for administrative costs—with 90% allocated directly to students.

Program Benefits for Partners

- Fully cleared interns (TS-SCI with full scope poly)
- Direct access to I-Fund member campuses
- Increased visibility of mission and opportunities for employment
- Distinct pipeline of highly-differentiated, mission-focused interns
- Tangible impact on qualified employees entering national security field
- Interns hired in the Industry Alliance

Program Benefits for Scholars

- Paid internship opportunities with defense and intelligence industry partners
- Assistance with processing toward a valuable national security clearance
- Scholarships sent directly to an I-Fund member college or university for the academic year following the year in which application is submitted

Candidate Eligibility

- Must be a U.S. citizen at time of application
- Must be a full-time undergraduate attending an I-Fund member college or university
- Must be a sophomore or junior with a minimum of 24 credit hours at October application deadline
- Must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0
- Must be majoring in or have defined interest in one of the preferred majors or related fields
- Must submit 300-500 word essay along with letters of recommendation and transcripts
- Must be available for an in-person interview on two days in early November
- Must successfully complete security clearance process by May 15
- Must be able to serve summer internship following clearance process

To Apply

Interested candidates should visit micua.org/nssp.

TIMELINE

September-October

- *Campus presentations*
- *Open application process*

October-November

- *Close application process*
- *NSSP Board meets mid-October for initial screening of applications to identify candidates invited to interview*
- *In-person interviews over two days in early November to include selection of semi-finalists*

December-May

- *Program semi-finalists notified and prescreened via phone by NSA representative*
- *Successful candidates directed to complete and submit long form by December date*
- *Security clearance process ongoing with clearance approval deadline of May 15*
- *Intern sponsors prioritize intern candidates for placement*
- *Internship matches assigned by mid-May*

June-August

- *Scholarship award notification made by early June*
- *Internships served*
- *Annual NSSP dinner in June for NSSP Scholars and Program Partners*
- *Website and collateral materials updated*

Visit www.micua.org/nssp