



High School

Aspirnaut™ is a K-20 STEM pipeline program that partners the experiential and content expertise of Vanderbilt University with rural K-12 schools. The goal is to increase STEM achievement and increase the number of rural students entering the STEM workforce. Students spend six weeks in a research experience as a member of a team of scientists, conducting research, gathering results, and presenting findings in oral and poster presentation sessions. Students also receive enrichment activities which support academic and professional development, and mentorship by professionals in the scientific community. More information can be found on our website: www.aspirnaut.org.

Eligibility Criteria

- Students considered for this program will be those who have achieved excellent grades and test scores in math and science and who have demonstrated a commitment to pursuing a career in a STEM field
- Students must be at least 15 years of age at the start of the program and have current health insurance for the duration of the program
- Recruitment is focused on individuals who are from backgrounds which are underrepresented in the STEM fields. Examples are those from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups and American Indians/Alaska Natives, those from economically diverse backgrounds such as qualifying for free or reduced lunch programs, those from geographically diverse areas such as living in rural/low population areas, and those with parental levels of education of high school diploma or below.
- Applications will include an official copy of the student's transcripts and test scores (standardized tests, ACT, etc.), along with 2 letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a teacher in science, technology, or mathematics. The second letter could be from school administrators, employers, volunteer work coordinators or other mentors who can meaningfully address the student's creativity, motivation, and problem-solving capabilities

Students who are selected to participate will receive a stipend for time spent working in the lab, and the program will cover the cost of room and board. Travel to and from the university in Nashville, TN is NOT covered by the program. Students should arrive with some money to cover personal spending.

To apply, students should visit:

<http://www.aspirnaut.org/what-we-do/summer-research-internship-for-rural-high-school-students/>

In addition to the application, we require the following:

- Official transcript with the most recent semester's final grades and test scores (only supplementary material that will be accepted until January 15, 2018)
- Two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a math/science/technology teacher

Applications close 11:59PM CST on December 31, 2017.