2022

December

Linking Minority Students to Careers

LINK Program
Cleveland State University
engagedlearning™

APPLICATION PACKET

Please return completed and signed application form to:
Stephanie Palmer, M.B.A., Success and Initiatives Coordinator
Office of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement,
Cleveland State University, 2121 Euclid Avenue, Rhodes Tower 1203,
Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

Applications accepted on a rolling basis.
For additional information, email Stephanie Palmer, s.kennedy@csuohio.edu or
telephone – 216-687-9335.

Table of Contents

Linking Minority Students to Careers
LINK Program
Cleveland State University
engaged learning

DECEMBER 2022

LINK Program Overview

Program Goals

Since 1988, CSU's LINK Program has provided minority students, largely from Greater Cleveland-area high schools, with internship and cooperative education opportunities. Its goals have been both to promote minority student participation in STEM fields that are in high demand as well as to serve as a recruitment and retention tool for promising students. The program has been successful largely because of strong support from corporate and organizational employers and LINK alumni as well as a mentoring program for students that has anchored the initiative.

LINK builds on the program's long-standing strengths while sharpening its scope in such a way as to ensure high performance and sustainable effectiveness. The Program draws upon the resources and services available throughout Cleveland State University as well as the other functions of the Division of University Engagement, including the Office of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement and the Diversity Institute.

Program Scope

Under the new program guidelines, the LINK Scholars Program serves up to 40 full-time, undergraduate students of color each year. Students are eligible to apply for the program during spring semester of their first year on campus. Although the program's developmental structure is suited primarily for rising sophomores, students who transfer into the University with more than 30 credit hours are eligible for consideration. Students receive up to $2,000 in scholarship funds upon acceptance into the program. It is the program's intention to renew the scholarship for each subsequent academic year that the student is enrolled at CSU and meets program requirements for a total of three years. Students from STEM majors are eligible to apply.

LINK Program Details

Selection

Students are eligible to apply for the program during the spring semester of their first academic year. Finalists for the program will participate in an interview process. Those students best positioned to be selected will have:
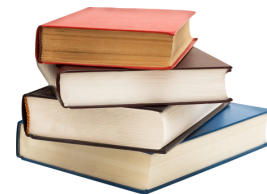
- Achieved at least a 2.5 GPA during their first semester at CSU.
- Displayed commitment to their chosen career path.
- Demonstrated the tenacity, grit and determination needed to successfully pursue a career plan that leads to full-time employment upon graduation.

Eligibility

To maintain eligibility in the program, students will be expected to:

- Maintain a 2.5 GPA.
- Obtain and successfully fulfill the requirements of a paid internship or co-op during the summer or academic year after their first full year of participation in the program and each subsequent summer or academic year until graduation.
- Attend monthly meetings, check-ins, and events.
- Engage in activities offered through the Office of Inclusion of Multicultural Engagement, the Office of Civic Engagement, the Department of Student Life, a student organization, or an employer.

Program Benefits

As part of their selection into the program, LINK Scholars receive:

- Up to $2,000 in scholarship funds during their first year of eligibility and renewal of the scholarships, based on the availability of funds, until graduation.
- Access to services available through Engineering Student Success Scholar's program, including online tutoring, courses and workshops.
- Assistance from a Program Coordinator to monitor students' consistent advancement through graduation and full-time employment.
- An Employer Champion, specifically recruited for the LINK Scholars Program, to provide mentorship and guidance.
- Occasional special programming for LINK Scholars as arranged by the Program Coordinator.
- Academic support through the multicultural student success programs offered through the Office of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement.

LINK Program Details (continued)

Program Oversight

The Program is managed by the coordinator of the LINK program within the Division of Campus Engagement, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Funding

Funding for program scholarships is provided by corporate and private donors, and foundations. CSU will actively solicit private funding for the program, both its scholarship and operations.

LINK Program Selection Process

LINK Program on-line application is now available on the CSU Website:
https://www.csuohio.edu/engagement/link-program

Applicants must be students at Cleveland State University and entering spring semester of their freshman year. Applications to the LINK program will be accepted in March.

A selection committee that includes CSU staff, faculty, and community collaborators convened by Stephanie Palmer, Success and Initiatives Coordinator, will review applications for participation in the LINK Program. The process will follow these steps:

1. Applicants must submit completed Program Scholarship application for participation in the LINK Program at Cleveland State University. A completed application packet must include:

   a. Completed application form and transcript
   b. Personal Interest Essay (up to 1000 words)
   c. Two written recommendations in support for the applicant's participation and scholarship award.

2. Finalists must successfully complete an in-person interview conducted by a panel of interviewers selected by Stephanie Palmer, Success and Initiatives Coordinator.

3. Final selection of program participants will reflect a strong, mature, and diverse cohort who are ambitious, collaborate effectively, innovative, productive and proactive, and self-disciplined.

4. The Scholarship recipient will automatically become part of the LINK Scholar Program and will be required to comply with all eligibility requirements, including specific social, academic, and professional development events, various "on campus" activities as outlined by the Success Initiative Coordinator.

5. Grades and participation in LINK Program activities, along with overall academic performance, will be reviewed regularly throughout each semester, at the mid-term, and at the conclusion of every semester. The Scholar must meet these conditions and the University's standards for academic progress and behavior, including but not limited to the CSU Student Conduct Code, CSU harassment, discrimination and Title IX policies.

The scholarship may be renewed at the end of each semester.

LINK Program Application

Personal Information:

Date:

Last Name:

First Name:

Pronouns:

Local Address:

City/State:

Zip Code:

Email:

Cell Phone:

Academic Information:

CSU ID:

Major:

Academic Standing:
(Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, or Graduate)

Grade Point Average (GPA):

Expected Graduation Date:

Interests/Hobbies:

Organizations (On Campus, Community-related, etc.)

LINK Program Application (continued)

Personal Interests: Please attach a personal essay that addresses all of the questions and statements below in a total of up to 1000 words.

1. **Educational Experience:** Briefly describe your recent educational experience. What were your most difficult challenges? How did you address these challenges? List specific campus activities you were/are involved in, including sports and organizations. Describe your motivation for participation in these activities.

2. **Future Goals:** Describe your future goals including college, career aspirations, and other aspirations you hope to achieve in the next 3-5 years. Explain how you think a college education and a degree will help you achieve these goals.

3. **Maturity and Character:** Explain why you are a good candidate to participate in the LINK Program. What do you consider to be your strengths? What personal values, talents, and gifts do you feel you have that will help you to succeed?

4. **Leadership and Citizenship:** Describe ways you have demonstrated good citizenship and leadership on campus and community.

5. **Additional Comments:** Include anything else you would like the selection committee to know about you for this application.

Completed applications must include the essay plus two written recommendations as support for your participation.

One recommendation should be from a school teacher or agency representative. The second recommendation should be completed by another responsible adult of your choice. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

My signature below certifies that the information I have provided, on and attached to this application, is true and correct. I understand that if, at any time, any of the information provided is found to be false, any scholarship funds I have received based on this information will be rescinded possibly creating a balance due to Cleveland State University that I will be responsible for paying. In addition, ***I do hereby consent to the release of information concerning my academic and financial status to Cleveland State University Foundation, scholarship donors, and the LINK Program Selection Committee.***

Signature: _____   Date:_____

LINK Program Recommendation Form

Student Name: _____Phone Number: _____
                (Please Print)

I support the application of _____ for the LINK Program.

Name of individual completing the recommendation form:_____

Relationship to the student applicant: _____

How long have you known the student applicant? _____

What do you consider to be this student's two greatest strengths?

1.

2.

What other attributes does this student possess that make you want to recommend her/him?

Additional Comments:

Signature of individual making recommendation: _____

Title: _____Contact information: _____

Please upload completed and signed application form, essay, letters of support, and recommendation forms to: https://www.csuohio.edu/engagement/link-program

Applications accepted in March. For additional information, email Stephanie Palmer, s.kennedy@csuohio.edu or telephone – 216-687-9335.

The LINK Scholars Program is an initiative of the Division of Campus Engagement, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

WHY JOIN LINK?
- **Improve academic and career success**
- **Receive a professional mentor**
- **Gain leadership and professional skills**
- **Career preparation and assistance with co-ops, internships and permanent employment**

Contact

Stephanie Palmer, M.B.A.,
Success Initiatives Coordinator,
Office of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement
Cleveland State University
2121 Euclid Avenue, Rhodes Tower 1203
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

https://www.csuohio.edu/engagement/link-program ➔
s.kennedy@csuohio.edu ✉
216-687-9335 📞

Linking Minority Students to Careers
LINK Program
Cleveland State University
engaged learning

DECEMBER 2022