



# Beacon Student Success Fellowship (BSSF)

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Who is eligible?** You must be an *undergraduate* student returning in the upcoming fall semester as an enrolled part-time or full-time student in [academic good standing](#). Students graduating this spring and summer (May -August) are *not* eligible.

**What summer experiential learning opportunities are eligible for BSSF funding?** Unpaid or underfunded internships, volunteer experiences, study abroad, faculty-supervised research projects, participation in an academic symposium, travel related to academic projects and study, service learning, courses offering field experience, and other forms of experiential learning are eligible. Regular summer courses with no experiential component are *not* eligible.

**How will applicants be evaluated?** You will be evaluated on the quality of your application, including your materials (including your budget), demonstrated financial need, and the impact of the experience on your future goals.

**Do I have to secure my experience prior to applying to BSSF?** No, but you have to be in the application process for an eligible summer experience to complete the BSSF application. Typically, the deadline for BSSF applications occurs before some programs provide confirmation of acceptance into the program. However, you *must* provide verification of your acceptance into the summer experience to receive the award.

**When will students be notified?** You will be notified by mid-May.

**Selected students WILL have to provide verification of their summer experience before receiving an award:** Refer to the *Verification Documentation for Your Experience\** for what is proper documentation and confirmation of your summer experience.

**What if my experience changes?** If your experience changes *before* the BSSF deadline, you may update your online application prior to submitting, by clicking the save your progress link at the bottom of the application. If your experience changes after the deadline, you must tell us of the change and provide updated information by emailing the Academic and Career Engagement and Success (ACES) Center at [aces@umb.edu](mailto:aces@umb.edu). If you are chosen to receive a BSSF award, you will be notified and have the ability at that time to confirm your experience, describe any change in the experience, or decline the funding.

**What if I no longer need the funding?** You should email the ACES Center at [aces@umb.edu](mailto:aces@umb.edu) and place in the title of the email "BSSF Funding Request–Withdrawn". List your name, the experience, and briefly state why you no longer need funding.

**Will the BSSF impact my financial aid?** Awarded students will have the Beacon Student Success Fellowship credited towards their spring semester university account. It will be incorporated into your current academic year financial aid package and should not affect your upcoming fall (and next academic year's) financial aid package. For more details on financial aid implications, refer to the *Financial Aid and Bursar's Office Information About Your Award\** document.

**If selected, when will the BSSF funds be transferred to my student account?** Awarded students will be notified by mid- May. ***Students that meet the verification deadline and properly confirm their summer experience typically receive their BSSF funds in their student account by the end of June***, if not sooner. Students need to financially plan accordingly.

**What are the program requirements for BSSF?** If you receive an award, you must complete the verification and sign the *BSSF Student Contract\**, a mid-summer check-in, and the final evaluation in mid-August. You must also create a poster summarizing your summer experience and attend the Fall BSSF Poster Symposium.

\* Available on the [BSSF application website](#)

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