



What is FOSSI?

- The Future of STEM Scholars Initiative (FOSSI), is a collaboration between the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), The American Chemistry Council (ACC), Chemours, and The HBCU Week Foundation aimed at creating pathways for more underrepresented groups to enter and succeed in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) careers within the chemical industry.
- FOSSI will fund 4-year scholarships of \$10,000 per year, provide internship opportunities, and facilitate mentoring and leadership training for students majoring in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).
- Our initial focus is on students studying at HBCUs. This effort will be expanded and offered to other underrepresented groups in the future.

Which STEM majors are pertinent to the chemical industries?

Fields of study within STEM that are most pertinent to the objectives of the chemical industries fall within categories including but not limited to: biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, health sciences, information technology, mathematics, and physics.

How are scholars funded?

Corporations and individuals can underwrite FOSSI scholars at various financial levels.

What are the criteria for applying?

- Demonstrated financial need.
- Applicants must be completing or have completed high school successfully with a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Applicants must be entering their freshman year of college, pursue studies in a pertinent field associated with STEM [as described above], and ultimately attend a Historically Black College or University (HBCU).
- Applicants must be a citizen or legal permanent resident of the United States.

Are family members and employees of founding partners, sponsoring companies and those involved in the application review process eligible to apply?

Family members of non-management employees of HBCU Week, AIChE, the American Chemical Council, Chemours, and other FOSSI-sponsor companies are eligible for scholarships — provided that applicants disclose the relationship and that the employee is not part of the scholarship review committee. Family members of non-management employees may comprise no more than 50% of annual recipients and may receive no more than 50% of annual scholarship dollars.

Are the scholarships available to everyone?

Yes, as long as they meet the stated criteria.

How does FOSSI complement AIChE's Henry and Melinda Brown Scholarships and other related scholarships?

This initiative adds components of educational and vocational support, offering opportunities for leadership development, mentoring and internships; it is open to Brown Scholarship recipients.

**How can I apply?**

The inaugural application process opened on December 11, 2020. Going forward, applications will open on November 15, prior to the year of matriculation. You can apply at www.aiche.org/FOSSI or at www.HBCUWeek.org.

What is the deadline for applications?

Applicants must complete and submit a scholarship application **by February 15, 2021**.

Who may file the application?

The student must file the application.

What is the decision process for scholarships?

A committee convened by the HBCU Week Foundation will work with FOSSI partners including AIChE, ACC, and Chemours, and award the scholarship based on a comprehensive evaluation process.

When are applicants informed whether they will receive a scholarship?

HBCU Week will notify the recipients and award the scholarship funds via phone call, email, and official letter on **April 15, 2021**.

How much is the scholarship?

If selected as a recipient, the student will receive scholarships of \$10,000 per year for up to four years, totaling up to \$40,000. The multi-year scholarship will be reviewed annually and is contingent upon satisfactory academic performance in a full-time course of study at an HBCU.

Is the scholarship limited to undergraduate study?

Yes, the scholarship is limited to undergraduate study.

How are scholarships paid?

The HBCU Week Foundation will pay the scholarship directly to the educational institution. Scholarships are awarded annually.

Are there additional benefits to the scholarship recipient?

Yes, the FOSSI program will offer students internship opportunities, leadership development, and mentoring opportunities as well as other training and special events.

Do sponsoring companies have designated scholars?

No, they are part of a scholars' cohort.

Will there be opportunities for companies to engage with scholars?

Yes, through employee resource groups, speakers, interactive forums, and networking sessions.

Are all FOSSI scholars guaranteed internships?

No, sponsoring companies will post internship opportunities at www.aiche.org/FOSSI and students who are rising sophomores and juniors can apply.



How many internship opportunities are available?

This will vary annually, and will depend on the sponsoring companies and how many positions are available.

Are internships paid?

Internship compensation varies according to each sponsor company's policies.

Can companies offer co-op opportunities to FOSSI scholars?

Yes, but not all HBCUs allow their students to participate in co-ops.

What happens if a student has to delay their year of study? Can the scholarship be postponed?

In the event of unanticipated events, we will work with the scholar to arrive at the best possible outcome.

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