**MSU Example Application - Voyager Scholarship for Public Service**

To apply for this scholarship you must use the online application available here: <https://www.obama.org/programs/voyager-scholarship/> and submit it by March 27 at 11:59 PM CT

**APPLICANT**

**Applicant Demographics**

First Name:

Middle Initial:

Last Name:

Permanent Address:

Apt/Floor/Unit:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

**Is your permanent (hometown address) in a metropolitan area of 1 million or more people?**

**Yes or No:**

**How do you describe the community in which you grew up (your hometown)?**

**Select Rural, Urban or Suburban:**

**Do you identify as a first-generation college student? Yes or No:**

*Being a first generation student means your parent(s) did not complete a 4-year college or university degree, regardless of other family member’s level of education.*

**Are you a U.S. citizen, U.S. permanent resident or an individual who has been granted deferred action status under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA)? Yes or No:**

**Do you plan to pursue a career in public service upon graduation? Yes or No:**

**What is the issue-area within public service that you plan to pursue a career in after graduation? Select from issues below:**

Arts & Culture Climate Crisis & Environmental Sustainability (Including: Agriculture, Food Security, Renewable Energy, etc.) Criminal Justice Reform (Including: Juvenile Justice, Restorative Justice, etc.) Democracy & Civic Engagement (Including: Voting Rights) Economic Access & Job Creation Education (Including: K-12, Higher Education, Girls' Education, etc.) Healthcare/Public Health (Including: Mental Health, Adolescent, Immigrant, LGBTQ+, and Rural Health) Immigration & Migration Infrastructure & Community Planning (Including: Housing, Urban Planning, WASH, etc.) International Development (Including: Diplomacy, Peace-building, Cultural Exchange, etc.) Justice, Rights, Equity, & Inclusion (Including: Disability Rights, Immigrant & Refugee Rights, Indigenous Rights, etc.) Science, Technology & Innovation Social Entrepreneurship Women's Rights and Gender Equity (Including: Girl’s Education and Empower, Gender-based violence prevention, etc.)

*We have a broad definition of public service, which includes careers in government, nonprofits or the private sector. A career in public service includes a range of occupations—from community organizing to social work and from entrepreneurship to the arts —all committed to solving our biggest challenges together.*

**Do you plan to study abroad at any point during the 2024-2025 academic year? Yes or No:**

*Please note: Voyagers studying abroad will still be eligible as long as their study abroad program meets the following criteria: If a Voyager Scholarship recipient participates in a study abroad program at any time during their junior or senior year, they are eligible to receive the scholarship funds only if: a) The study abroad program is offered through an accredited U.S. 4-year college or university b) The student will be earning credits toward their degree and c) Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the U.S. college or university for their study abroad program. The Obama Foundation reserves the right to deny scholarship funding to any Voyager Scholarship recipient if a study abroad program interferes with the student’s ability to be satisfactorily involved in the Voyager Scholarship program.*

\*Have you previously traveled outside of the United States and territories?

Select Yes No

\*How did you hear about the scholarship?

Select Website Social Media Advisor/Mentor ScholarUp article Email American Indian College Fund  American Indian Resource Center Americorps Info Session Arkansas Tech University Info Session Arkansas-based NCCC Members & Alumni Black Professionals in International Affairs Info Session Cherokee Nation Foundation City College of Chicago Info Session Cobell Scholarship Colorado State University Info Session or Staff Member  Eagle Academy Info Session Feb 29th General Info Session Institute of American Indian Arts Staff Member Mar 8th General Info Session Metropolitan State University Info Session or Staff Member Miami Dade College Info Session Native Forward Scholars New Mexico Department of Higher Education NIU/UIC/Chicago State Info Session Posse Foundation Info Session Rogers State University Info Session or Staff Member Santa Fe Community College Staff Member “The Network” Info Session University of Central Oklahoma Staff Member  University of Colorado, Boulder Staff Member University of Denver Staff Member University of New Mexico Info Session or Staff Member Wesleyan University Info Session Other

If you actively use any of the following social media platforms: LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter/X, Threads, TikTok, and Facebook, please include the site and handle you use in the space provided.

Obama Foundation Opt-In

Select if you opt-in to receive additional information about the latest Obama Foundation news and updates and potential opportunities from the Obama Foundation. If you choose to opt-in, also confirm your preferred email address for receiving the information. To learn more about how the Obama Foundation would use your email, read the Obama Foundation’s [**Privacy Statement**](https://www.obama.org/privacy-statement/)

**OPTIONAL QUESTIONS [we highly recommend you answer these questions]**

The Obama Foundation seeks to assemble a diverse cohort of students who can learn from each other based on a range of experiences, approaches, and backgrounds. To better understand our applicant pool, we offer those applying for the Voyager Scholarship the opportunity to share information about their background with us. Responding to these questions is strictly voluntary. If you do not wish to complete this section, please proceed to the rest of the application.

**ACADEMICS**

**Class Status in Fall 2024:**

**EXPERIENCE**

**Important:**This section asks applicants to list their public service experience, work experience, other activities and involvement in other leadership development programs. As you complete this section, we ask applicants to please:

* Use full names and descriptions of the experience.
* Provide the full club, organization, or workplace name.
* Be thorough in your responses.
* Each activity should only be listed once. It should not be listed in both categories below.
* Do not use acronyms or abbreviations.

**Public Service Experience**

List your public service and community service activities during the past four years (examples might include but are not limited to: student government, community organizing, work or volunteer experience focused on the public good). Experiences can be paid or volunteer. For each experience, indicate the organization, location, description of service performed, and total hours committed to the experience. We have a broad definition of public service, which could include engaging with government, nonprofits or the private sector and a range of approaches—from social work to entrepreneurship to the arts—all committed to solving our biggest challenges together. You may report up to six public service experiences.

| **Organization** | **Description of Organization** | **Organization Location Address** | **Organization Location City** | **Organization Location State** | **Organization Location Zip Code** | **Detailed Description of Activity** | **Starting Month** | **Starting Year** | **Ending Month** |
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**SHORT ESSAY QUESTIONS**

We want to get to know you. This application is intended to help us understand how you think and what you hope to accomplish. There are no wrong answers. Just be thoughtful and be yourself. Thank you for taking the time to apply. Pay close attention to both content and word count when writing your essay. For best results, type the essay in your choice of a text editor (e.g. Microsoft® Word) and cut and paste your essay in the space below.

**Your Public Service Path**

**If chosen as a Voyager Scholarship recipient, tell us about the issue or field you're interested in exploring during the program.**  Word Limit: 80

**Summer Voyage**

If chosen as a Voyager Scholarship recipient, you’ll have an opportunity to design an immersive travel and work experience for a minimum of six-weeks during the summer between your junior and senior year of college. This Summer Voyage is rooted in exploring new communities and building connections. It could focus on an internship or research opportunity, volunteer experience, or a less structured approach that helps advance your commitment to public service. This opportunity is yours to create and implement —we’ll give you the tools to do it.

**Given the six-week timeframe and $10,000 stipend amount, if you were chosen as a Voyager Scholarship recipient, what would you like to focus on during your Summer Voyage? What are you hoping to learn? How can exposure to new communities help with these goals?** Word Limit: 165

**Curiosity and Connection**

**Describe a time when your opinion or perspective differed from that of your peers, professors, or friends. How did you approach the conversation? Did your perspective change? Who or what changed your perspective? How did this shape how you want to approach difficult conversations in your future public service career?** - Word Limit: 165

**Values and Resilience**

**Describe a recent challenge or failure you have experienced. As you look back on this challenge or failure, what did you learn? How did you overcome it? What role did values play in how you overcame this challenge or failure?** - Word Limit: 165

**LONG ANSWER ESSAYS**

**Impact and Approach**

**Tell us about an experience in your life when you created positive change within a community. Describe the experience: What problem did you address? What community did you serve? What did you learn from the community? How did this experience shape your view of public service?**

Word Limit: 250

**Your Path and Vision**

**What’s a problem that you’d like to solve? How would the world be different if it were solved? How would you use creativity, cooperation, and a shared vision to solve this? How are you already having an impact? - Word Limit: 250**

**Taking Action on Your Vision**

**Based on the vision you shared in your previous response, what would you like to accomplish one year after graduation? What would success look like five years after graduation? How will you collaborate with others to get this done?** - Word Limit: 250

**Personal Circumstances**

**Please describe how and when any personal circumstances have affected your achievement in school, your work experience, or your participation in school and community activities. Space is limited, be concise.** Word Limit: 165

**VIDEO**

**Please note: The online application requires a video. Please visit the website for details. Prompt:**

What gives you hope for the future? How does public service fit into your vision for that future? How does bridge building and understanding play a role in this vision? How will this program help? What do you hope to learn from your fellow Voyagers? The video should be two minutes long and should contain nothing except for you talking. No screenshots or post-production needed. The strength is in your words and ideas, not your video.

**FINANCIAL**

Financial Information – for the MSU example application you do not need to provide your financial information but you will need to refer to your FAFSA and banking information for the online application.

**CHECKLIST**

Use the checklist below to ensure your application is complete by the deadline:

* My online application form is **Submitted.**
* My required documents have been **uploaded**.
* My required documents have been **Accepted.**
* My application status on my **Home page** reads **Complete.**