



MARS Pioneer Student Scholarship Program

The Massachusetts Association of Recreational Sports (MARS) Pioneer Student Scholarship Program has been developed to provide students with financial assistance for attending the Region 1 Conference and Annual Conference. By design, this scholarship provides the state association with opportunities to offer assistance to those students who excel in their academic, co-curricular, and recreational pursuits.

While this scholarship may be beneficial to students who are currently active in attending NIRSA and MARS sponsored conferences and workshops, it is MARS intention that future scholarships and financial assistance may provide others with the opportunity, incentive and means to attend the NIRSA Annual Conference.

The intent of this scholarship is to provide students with opportunities for personal and professional growth through their involvement on a state and regional level.

Scholarship Eligibility

To be considered for scholarship awards during the academic year, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Be currently enrolled as a student in Massachusetts, majoring in recreation or a related field, and/or be employed by the campus recreation department at their institution.
2. Have a minimum current cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a scale of 4.0. Grade conversion should be calculated prior to applying for those on a 5.0 scale.
3. Submit a letter of support from a professional staff member.
4. Submit a current résumé along with the completed application.
5. Please indicate on application: Graduate or Undergraduate Scholarship category.

Selection Criteria

1. Candidates must meet all eligibility requirements to be considered for selection.
2. Candidates and their submitted materials (resume, essay responses, and letter of recommendation) will be rate on the following:
 - a. Academic performance
 - b. Leadership and involvement in the field of recreational sports
 - c. Involvement with local, campus and academic organizations and activities
 - d. Their thoughtful assessment of perceived value obtained by attending the Regional Conference

Selection Committee

The Scholarship Committee will consist of at least three professional members of MARS. The State Director will act as an ex-officio member, voting only to break any ties that occur during the selection process.

Updated 9/20/2021



Execution of Awards

Two student-based (one graduate student, one undergraduate student) scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$250.00. Awards will be determined by the Scholarship Committee, along with the MARS Leadership Team. Students may use the award to attend the NIRSA Annual Conference.

Obligations of Recipients

1. Recipients must notify the MARS Pioneer Student Scholarship Committee Chair in writing to confirm they will be attending the 2021/22 NIRSA Regional/Annual Conference.
2. Recipients must attend the 2021/22 NIRSA Regional/Annual Conference or forfeit their award. If any award recipient is not able to attend the conference, the award will be awarded to the next highest ranked applicant.
3. After providing the MARS scholarship selection committee with proof of registration, the recipient will be reimbursed in the dollar amount of the award.
4. Recipients are expected to serve in a volunteer capacity while at the conference or workshop. For example, they may work the registration table, the Career Opportunities Center or monitor a session. The State Director is available to assist recipients who are interested in obtaining assignments to determine appropriate opportunities.
5. Recipients are expected to attend the State Meeting at the Annual Conference to be recognized. If a recipient is unable to attend they must contact the MARS State Director to make him/her aware of this. Please **email** completed application, resume, and letter of support to **ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**:

Email Subject and Attention: (Student Name) - MARS Pioneer Student Scholarship Application

Ryan Parsons, BU (Committee Chair)

rparsons@bu.edu

Kenny Turbush, BC

turbush@bc.edu

Jamie Shannon, Holy Cross

jmshanno@holycross.edu

Beth Goldenberg, UNH

Beth.Goldenberg@unh.edu



MARS Pioneer Scholarship Application

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

Home/Cell Telephone: _____ Work Telephone: _____

College/University: _____

Class: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Graduate

Undergraduate Major: _____ Minor: _____

Graduate Degree Program: _____

Accumulative GPA (converted to a 4-point scale): _____

GPA verified by the Director of Campus Recreation: _____

Director's Signature

Scholarship Applying for: NIRSA Regional Conference

Using 150 words or less per answer, please type your responses to the following essay questions on a separate sheet of paper:

- 1. Explain how you became involved in the field of campus recreation.**
- 2. What is your current level of involvement with campus recreation?**
- 3. What benefits do you derive from your involvement with campus recreation?**
- 4. How do you think you will benefit by attending the NIRSA Annual Conference?**
- 5. What are your short and long-term goals within campus recreation?**

I have enclosed my current résumé.

I have enclosed one letter of recommendation.

The letter of recommendation will be sent by: _____

I have enclosed typed responses to the essay questions.