

# ASPIRE 2025 Internship Application

PREVIEW MODE

Welcome to the 2025 ASPIRE Internship Application. Please gather all your required materials now. We have changed our requirements from 2025. Please click [here](#) to view changes.

**Incomplete applications will not be considered.** You cannot save your progress once you begin.

**The application form will automatically close at 11:59pm on 2/15/2025.**

Applications received before 1/1/25 will be discarded.

**Minimum Requirements - We can only consider students who meet the minimum eligibility requirements.** More information can be found on our website, [here](#)

Are you a US Citizen? \*

Yes

JHU APL is a secure facility, so only US Citizens are eligible to participate in this program. Unfortunately, green card holders are not eligible to participate.

This information is not visible to mentors

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? \*

No

This information is not visible to mentors

Do you have at least a 2.8 GPA? \*

Yes

This information is not visible to mentors

What grade will you be in during the 2025-2026 school year? \*

12th grade

Select your birth year \*

2007

This information is not visible to mentors

Select your birth month \*

March

This information is not visible to mentors

Do you live in one of the following areas? (All are in MD unless otherwise noted) \*

Yes

Alexandria County (VA), Anne Arundel County, Arlington County (VA), Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Calvert County (virtual only), Carroll County, Charles County (virtual only), District of Columbia, Fairfax City (VA), Fairfax County (VA), Frederick County, Howard County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County

Transportation Acknowledgement \*

I understand that I must provide my own transportation to and from APL

JHU APL is located at 11100 Johns Hopkins Road, Laurel, MD 20723. APL is **not accessible by public transportation**. Once you have an ASPIRE badge, there is an extremely limited JHU APL-only shuttle that may be caught at limited times of day from the Laurel MARC station to campus and back.

Students planning on a virtual internship must still provide their own transportation to and from the lab to pickup their laptops and equipment, etc.

Please check [here](#) to acknowledge that you must provide your own transportation..

Next

APL is a Department of Defense (DoD) cleared facility. For this reason, ASPIRE cannot admit students who are green card holders or permanent residents. Check out our STEM Academy program instead!

Some information is only available to the APL STEM Office and cannot be seen by mentors. Sensitive information is usually hidden.

It's important to live near the Lab so that you can commute here easily. Almost all of our summer students come in-person to the Lab four days per week, though we do have a small number of students who intern virtually. You still need to live nearby.

**Note, we are not located in Baltimore!**

Even if you're planning on interning virtually, you'll still need to come to APL in-person at least once for onboarding, and again for orientation. We do not do any remote onboarding. We are not accessible by public transit.

# Biographical Information

First Name \*

Testerton

This should match your legal ID. Mentors will only see your preferred name.

Preferred Name \*

Test

You can re-enter your first name here, provide a nickname, or tell us another name you'd like to be called. This will be the name on your email address, and the name mentors will see when they contact you.

Middle Initial (enter "NA" if none) \*

t

Last Name \*

Testing

Preferred Pronouns (check all that apply)

- He/Him/His
- She/Her/Hers
- They/Them/Theirs
- Prefer not to say
- Other

If you indicated, "Other", please list your pronouns here if you are comfortable doing so

Student Email \*

test@test.com

We will provide your email address to interested mentors and your recommender. Do not use your school email address. JHU APL's emails may be blocked.

Student Cell Phone \*

1234567890

Parent's email (if student is under 18)

testparent@test.com

School District (County) \*

Howard County

School Name \*

Test Academy

Select "internship" from the dropdown. \*

Internship

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Do you prefer to go by a name other than your first name? You can list it here. This will be your name on all APL documents, etc.

If you prefer to go by your legal first name, just type it here again.

Use an email you're going to check often! We're going to send you lots of emails.

**Do not use your school email.** It may block senders from outside the school.

What kind of internship are you interested in? Please select ONE option.\*

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In-person

You can choose to intern virtually (all intern work from home) or in-person at APL. If you're in-person at APL, you have up to one day per week of interning from home.

You will be considered for opportunities that match your preference. In-person means up to one day per week of intern-from-home flexibility. **Students in Charles and Calvert Counties are only eligible for virtual internships.**

If you select "virtual," we're going to try and pair you with mentors who also want a virtual student; if you select "in-person," we'll try and pair you with a mentor who want to work with a student in-person. In both cases, students have to achieve a minimum of 190 hours of internship time over the summer.

What is your primary area of interest?\*

AI and Machine Learning

This will determine what projects you are matched with. Please [see our website](#) for descriptions and examples of possible projects in each area of interest!

ASPIRE is a serious time commitment. Please check your schedule to make sure it's compatible with ASPIRE before applying!

You cannot change your preference after you submit your application.

What is your secondary area of interest?\*

Programming and Computer Science

Go with your gut on these! Choose what looks fun to you and don't overthink it. We do not know how many placements we'll have in each category when you apply, so just go for what sounds fun and check out the descriptions on our website. Just know that your first choice area of interest is weighted much more heavily than your second choice. **We don't have any medical internships.**

Tell us about a project you were proud of. How would you further develop that project, if given a chance? (250-300 word recommended maximum)\*

Mentors want to learn more about you--what your interests are, how you solve problems, and how you ask and answer questions. Essays are a big part of the selection process for many mentors. Spend some time on this, and don't make it overly formal. They want to know who \*you\* are, not who you think you should sound like.

*This project does not have to be STEM-related! Just tell us about something you're proud of, a passion of yours, something cool you did, etc.*

*Please use paragraph breaks to make the reading easier for our mentors. This essay does not need to be formal or overly long. This is not a college essay. Please remember to check your grammar and spelling prior to submitting..*

Did you use ChatGPT (or a similar program) to help write this essay?\*

- Yes
- No

If you use something like ChatGPT to help write your essay, you must indicate that via the checkbox. ChatGPT is neutral at APL; you won't get in trouble for using it, as long as it's disclosed. Once you begin your internship, there are very strict rules around when ChatGPT can and cannot be used for data security reasons.

At APL, we require ASPIRE students to state when something like ChatGPT has been used in a project.

What type of project would you like to try at APL (Option A)?\*

Coding and Software

Project types just let mentors know a bit more about your interests. Regardless of the area of interest you chose, you can indicate any kind of project you might like to try. Please look at our website for examples of what each project type could mean.

The following selections are not ranked. You may choose up to three, but only \*have\* to choose one. For a description of each project type, please [see our website](#).

What type of project would you like to try at APL (Option B)?

Technology and Electronics or Hardware

Just because you indicate interest in a project type does not mean you're guaranteed placement with one of those project types.

What type of project would you like to try at APL (Option C)?

Social Impact

Is there anything in particular that you really, really want to study while at APL? (Optional)

If there's a specific thing you'd love to learn more about that you haven't had a chance to mention so far, now is your chance!

This can be anything, from a specific skill or project, to something broader like discovering your professional identity.

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Please list your GPA \*

3.2

List your unweighted GPA, if possible. Note: This information will not be visible to our mentors. If your school doesn't give GPAs, just put "N/A"

Select any of the following common math classes you've taken in high school \*

- Algebra 1
- Algebra 2
- Geometry
- Trigonometry
- Pre-Calculus
- Calculus
- Research Statistics
- Linear Algebra
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Statistics
- Other
- None

These are only the most common math classes; this is not an exhaustive list. You do NOT need to indicate if a class is honors-level or G/T. If your classes vary slightly (i.e., Algebra II IB instead of Algebra II), you may choose the closest match.

Select any of the following common STEM classes you've taken in high school \*

- Advanced Data Structures
- Advanced Design Applications
- Advanced Object Oriented Design
- Advanced Physical Science
- Advanced Technology Applications
- Aerospace Engineering
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Astronomy
- Biology - AP
- Biology
- Chemistry - AP
- Chemistry
- Computer Programming 3-Advanced Topics in Computer Science
- Computer Programming
- Computer Science A - AP
- Computer Science Java - AP
- Computer Science Principals - AP
- Cybersecurity and Computer Networking 1
- Cybersecurity and Computer Networking 2
- Environmental Science - AP
- Environmental Science
- Forensic Science
- Foundation of Technology
- Foundations of Computer Science
- Foundations of Technology
- Introduction to Engineering Design
- Marine Science
- Physics 1 - AP
- Physics 2 - AP
- Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism - AP
- Physics C: Mechanics - AP
- Physics
- Principals of Java Programming
- Web Tools and Digital Media
- Website Development
- Other
- None

These are only the most common STEM classes; this is not an exhaustive list. You do NOT need to indicate if a class is honors-level or G/T (though please indicate if it's an AP class). If your classes vary slightly (i.e., Algebra II IB instead of Algebra II), you may choose the closest match.

Make sure this is unweighted. An unweighted GPA is always a 4.0 or below. Also, our mentors can't see your GPA when they're looking at applications. Your GPA just needs to be a 2.8 to apply.



The next few fields include the most common STEM classes we see in our applicants--meaning that most applicants have taken at least one of these classes! Choose anything that is applicable to you. If you don't see a class listed here that you want to mention, you can type it in, below.



We are not concerned with whether or not the class is honors-level, or a GT or IB class. We would like to know if it's an AP class, though.

Select any programming languages or software with which you have experience. \*

- Python
- MATLAB
- Java
- Javascript
- C++
- HTML
- Unity
- AutoCAD
- Microsoft Excel or Google Sheets
- R
- Rust
- C#
- CSS
- SQL
- Fusion360
- Other
- None

←

These are the most common programming languages that our mentors are looking for. If you know one, great, please tell us! If not, no worries. ASPIRE students are not required to have programming knowledge to apply.

List any other STEM classes you have taken that you find relevant

[Empty text input box]

These may include classes you've taken in school but weren't listed here, classes outside of school (such as APL STEM Academy classes), etc.

←

Want to tell us about other STEM classes you've taken? Are there more programming languages you know? Put them here!

Of all the classes you've taken, which one was your favorite? \*

[Empty text input box]

Share your most important extracurricular activities, hobbies, and/or leadership experiences

[Empty text input box]

These may include things like being leader of a school club or society, sports teams or extracurriculars, service opportunities, other professional experiences, such as being a shift lead or keyholder, or your hobbies.

←

Extracurriculars, hobbies, and professional experiences are also important to our mentors. Share yours, here!

Of the following professional skills, which do you think are your strongest? Please choose up to THREE skills. \*

- Active listening
- Collaboration/teamwork
- Communication
- Confidence
- Creativity
- Critical thinking
- Following instructions
- Independence
- Leadership
- Learning new concepts quickly
- Networking
- Organization
- Problem solving
- Public speaking
- Time management
- Willingness to learn
- Work ethic
- 

←

Professional skills are just as important as STEM skills.

←

We want you to do some self-reflection and choose your top three skills from the list on the left. There are no wrong answers!

Please only choose up to THREE skills

Select all APL STEM programs in which you have participated

- Maryland MESA
- APL STEM Academy

←

Make sure to check here if you've ever participated in Maryland MESA or APL STEM Academy.

Which, if any, of the following organizations are you a part of?

- ACES of Montgomery County
- Alpha Achievers
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. (AKAs)
- Boys & Girls Club of Baltimore
- Building STEPS
- Charles H. Flowers High School Science and Technology Program
- Delta Scholars
- Ingenuity Project

←

If you are a former/current ASPIRE intern and want to stay with your former/current mentor, you need to fill out a continuation form, not an application. Email ASPIRE@jhuapl.edu for more info.

- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.
- Eleanor Roosevelt High School Science and Technology Program
- Kappa League
- Let's Go! Boys and Girls
- Maryland CURE Scholars
- Next One Up
- NSBE Jr.
- Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.
- P-TECH at Paul Laurence Dunbar High
- Sigma Gamma Rho
- STEM Ready
- Top Teens

Select all that apply

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## Self-Evaluation (Please note that all questions in this section are optional.)

Did any of your parents/guardians receive a four-year college degree?

No

We are curious if you are the first person in your family planning to go to college! **Mentors cannot see your answer to this question**

Are you eligible for free or reduced cost meals at school (FARMS)?

Yes

Mentors cannot see your answer to this question

Do you speak any languages other than English? If so, which one(s)?

In general, when faced with a difficult task, do you prefer to wait for instructions, or take a chance and try on your own (even though you may fail)?

Wait for instructions

This is not a trick a question. We're just curious about your style!

In general, would you prefer to work with just your mentor, or part of a small group of students/mentors?

Working as part of a small group

When in a group project, do you prefer to do research or give a presentation?

Give a presentation

When faced with a challenge, are you more likely to act cautiously or follow your intuition?

Follow my intuition

If given the option, would you prefer to help create your ASPIRE project, or work on something already established at APL?

Work on something established

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All of the fields in this section are optional. They're just ways for the mentors to get to know you better. If you aren't comfortable filling out any of these fields, or don't think they're valuable, you can leave them blank.

Mentors cannot see your answers to the questions about degrees held by your parents/guardians or if you're eligible for free or reduced cost meals at school.

## Recommendations

To complete your ASPIRE application, we must receive a recommendation form on your behalf. Please include your recommender's email here. \*

When you submit your application, we'll send a request to your recommender(s). Your recommender must be a teacher and cannot be someone you are related to. You are responsible for reminding your recommender to submit their recommendation form by 11:59pm 3/1/25.

Upon submission, you will receive a personalized recommendation form link. You may send your personalized recommendation link to additional recommenders and may use this link to send reminders. Only one recommendation form is required.

(Optional) Alternate recommender email

We will also send a recommendation request to this individual. Only one recommendation is required.

(Optional) Alternate recommender email

We will also send a recommendation request to this individual. Only one recommendation is required.

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After you submit your application, we will send a personalized recommendation link to your recommender(s) on your behalf. You will also receive this link, and may forward it to additional recommenders. These are brief evaluations, not full blown letters of recommendation.

If we do not have at least one form for you a week before the deadline, we will send you an additional reminder via email.

It's up to you to remind your recommender to submit on time.

We suggest listing alternate recommenders in case your primary recommender does not submit on time, or is not available.

## Availability and Documentation

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Are you related to a current APL employee? \*

No

This information is not visible to our mentors. Relation to an APL employee does not enhance your chances of acceptance or placement. Mentors cannot see your answer to this question

If so, please enter their name(s) here

Mentors cannot see your answer to this question

Approximately how many hours do you plan to spend on internship work this session? \*

- 20-25 hours/week
- 25-30 hours/week
- 30-35 hours/week
- 35-40 hours/week

Reminder: ASPIRE students must complete 190 hours of ASPIRE tasking over the summer, Monday-Friday, within the 6am-6pm window. We expect students to spread their hours over a 6-9 week period. We do not allow weekend or evening work.

What days and times are you available to complete internship hours? \*

- Monday mornings
- Monday afternoons
- Tuesday mornings
- Tuesday afternoons
- Wednesday mornings
- Wednesday afternoons
- Thursday mornings
- Thursday afternoons
- Friday mornings
- Friday afternoons

If you're related to an APL employee, they cannot mentor you and you can't intern in their group.

Being related to an APL employee does not increase your chances of being selected. Mentors are not told if you are related to an APL employee when looking at your application.

Please check your schedule before applying. ASPIRE work, even virtual work, must be completed between 6am-6pm, Monday-Friday. Over the summer, you'll need to average at least 25 hours/week to meet the 190 hour requirement in ~8 weeks.

ASPIRE is quite a commitment. Please be sure you're ready to take it on when you apply.

Do you have any vacation plans, camps, planned travel, etc. 6/24/25-8/22/25? If so, please list them here. \*

We recognize that you may not know your vacation plans yet! ASPIRE students have flexibility to take vacations, however we recommend taking no more than 7-10 days at most during the ASPIRE period. You must be able to fulfill your minimum hours and attend any mandatory dates required by ASPIRE to participate.

Did you apply for any other internships this summer? If so, which ones and when do you expect to hear back? \*

Please note that ASPIRE students are interviewed and admitted on a rolling basis March 15-May 15. We cannot offer earlier decisions.

Check here to acknowledge the following: \*

I understand

ASPIRE internships must begin 6/24 or 6/25. There are additional mandatory activities on 6/26. If you are selected for the internship, you must be available to come to the lab in-person on the abovementioned days during business hours to pick up your laptop. Someone cannot come in your place. A schedule will be provided upon acceptance. If you cannot pick up your laptop during these times, you will not be able to intern with us.

Additionally, you acknowledge that you must complete 190 hours of ASPIRE internship time between your internship start date and the day before you return to school in the fall. ASPIRE internship tasking may only be completed 6am-6pm, Monday-Friday.

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Submit

← If you aren't sure about your summer plans, ask your parents. Mentors need to know when you're available before making you an offer. If you have more than 7-10 days this summer when you'd be unavailable for ASPIRE, then ASPIRE probably isn't the best fit for your schedule right now.

If you applied for other internships, let us know! This can help motivate mentors to make decisions quickly if they know you have a deadline.

← We are serious about this requirement. Check your vacation schedule. If your family is traveling over these dates, you will not be able to intern with us this summer.

## What comes next?

- Make sure your recommender submits your recommendation on time
- Check your emails frequently. If we have a question, we'll email you
- The earliest you'll hear back from a mentor is mid-March, but more likely it'll be mid-late April.
- Check our website frequently for updates
- Email [ASPIRE@jhuapl.edu](mailto:ASPIRE@jhuapl.edu) with any questions

**Good luck!**

