



2011-2012 GMS Deferment Packet

Priority Deadline: Friday, July 22, 2011

Gates Millennium Scholars
UNCF—the United Negro College Fund
8260 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive
P.O. Box 10500
Fairfax, VA 22031
Fax: 703-205-2079 | E-mail: renewal@gmsp.org



Gates Millennium Scholars
American Indian Graduate Center Scholars
4520 Montgomery Blvd., NE, Ste. 1-B
Albuquerque, NM 87109-1291
Fax: 505-884-8683 | E-mail: gms@aigcs.org



Gates Millennium Scholars
Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund
1900 L Street, NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20036
Fax: 202-530-0643 | E-mail: gms@apiasf.org



Gates Millennium Scholars
Hispanic Scholarship Fund
55 Second Street, Suite 1500
San Francisco, CA 94105
Fax: 415-808-2411 | E-mail: gmsinfo@hsf.net



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Submit your 2011-2012 deferment documents to GMS by Friday, July 22, 2011. See page 1 of the deferment packet for GMS contact information.

Web-based Resources for 2011-2012 GMS Renewal Process:
Scholar Website (www.gmsp.org) ♦ Scholar Connection (www.gmsconnection.org)

The Scholar Website and Scholar Connection are important resources for Gates Millennium Scholars.

SCHOLAR WEBSITE



SCHOLAR CONNECTION



SCHOLAR WEBSITE (www.gmsp.org):

UPDATE!



In addition to Internet Explorer, other web browsers such as **Firefox, Chrome and Safari** will allow full access to your GMS profile information when visiting the Scholar Website.

You have the ability to change your Scholar Website login information if you have not done so already. Log on to www.gmsp.org with the username and password provided to you by the Gates Millennium Scholars Program and follow the screen prompts to change your login information.

! Please do not share your Scholar Website **username and password** with anyone else.

Click on:

- ✓ **My Profile** to update your contact information. GMS will send all correspondence to your preferred mailing address. **IMPORTANT: IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO NOTIFY GMS OF CHANGES TO YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION.**
- ✓ **My Status** to find out if GMS received the documents you sent AND to check the amount and status of your GMS award.
- ✓ **My Documents** to submit documents to GMS electronically.



SCHOLAR CONNECTION (www.gmsconnection.org):

- Scholar Connection is the GMS community's very own social networking site.
- Use Scholar Connection to network with fellow Gates Scholars.

Here is an overview of what Scholar Connection has to offer:

- ✓ Create Your Profile
- ✓ Upload Pictures
- ✓ Access Feature Articles
- ✓ Download GMS Forms
- ✓ Participate in Discussions
- ✓ Create Lasting Friendships

Submit your 2011-2012 deferment documents to GMS by Friday, July 22, 2011. See page 1 of the deferment packet for GMS contact information.

GMS Deferment Guidelines

GMS recognizes that circumstances may prevent a Scholar from attending school full-time for a short period. Therefore, GMS offers a deferment status option that allows Scholars to postpone disbursement of their scholarship award.

Please note: GMS reserves the right to approve or decline deferment requests. Deferment Scholars do not receive GMS funding.

- There are **THREE** categories of deferment:
 - **CIRCUMSTANTIAL** (Medical, Service)
 - **DISCRETIONARY** (Academic, Personal Hardship, Transitional)
 - **GRADUATE** (Teaching/Public Health, Master's, M.D., Doctoral)
- There is a maximum deferment time for each Deferment type. **Note:** Discretionary Deferments (used separately or in some combination) can be no more than one year total.
- Deferment requests will only be considered for a period of up to one year *per request*.
- Deferment extension requests are reserved for extraordinary circumstances. **Please note that deferment extension requests will not be processed without supporting documentation.** Appropriate supporting documentation will vary depending on the individual's circumstances but must support the case being made for the extended deferment request. Additionally, the Scholar must include information pertaining to their future educational plans. Deferment extensions are reviewed on a case by case basis and Scholars are notified of the decision in writing.
- Final decisions on deferment requests are rendered by the GMS Administrative Office. Decision letters are mailed within 30 days of the initial request – provided all of the necessary documentation is promptly received.
- Once Scholars exhaust their GMS approved deferment period they are expected to enroll (full-time) into a U.S. accredited institution that is accredited by one of seven agencies approved for GMS funding. Scholars who do not enroll full-time in an eligible accredited will no longer be eligible for future GMS funding.
- Prior to enrollment into a graduate program, GMS requires the Scholar to submit a Graduate Program Inquiry Form along with supporting documentation to determine if the desired program is eligible for GMS funding.

Circumstantial Deferments				
Deferment Type	Purpose	Examples	Maximum Duration	Documents Needed
Medical	To accommodate a medical condition that impedes the ability to maintain full-time status or complete coursework.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Medical illness or condition ▪ Pregnancy 	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GMS Deferment Request Form ▪ Medical or health support services documentation
Service	To accommodate time needed to fulfill community or military service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Religious missionary service ▪ Peace Corps or Americorp program ▪ U.S. military service 	Up to two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GMS Deferment Request Form ▪ Letter of support from service organization

Submit your 2011-2012 deferment documents to GMS by Friday, July 22, 2011. See page 1 of the deferment packet for GMS contact information.

Discretionary Deferments

The **combined** maximum duration of a Scholar's Discretionary Deferments can be no more than **one year**.

Deferment Type	Purpose	Examples	Maximum Duration	Documents Needed
Academic	To accommodate a change in enrollment status, or academic difficulty, or if Scholar has exhausted the GMS funding term limit at the undergraduate education level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Part-time enrollment ▪ Academic suspension ▪ Withdrawal from institution 	Up to one year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GMS Deferment Request Form
Personal Hardship	To accommodate a temporary crisis in the Scholar's personal life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Family obligations ▪ Personal decision 	Up to one year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GMS Deferment Request Form
Transitional	To accommodate a need for time upon graduation from an associate, bachelor's or master's degree program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gain work experience ▪ Academic Preparation (i.e., post-baccalaureate studies) 	Up to one year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GMS Deferment Request Form ▪ Transcript reflecting date of graduation

Graduate Deferments

In acknowledgement of the rigor of graduate studies, GMS understands that deferment time may be needed in order to fulfill degree requirements. Therefore, Graduate Deferments are available to Scholars to help facilitate the completion of their degree programs.

Deferment Type	Purpose	Example(s)	Maximum Duration	Documents Needed
Teaching/Public Health	<p>To accommodate requirements to teach in order to obtain teaching certification or to pursue a master's or doctoral degree.</p> <p>To accommodate requirements to work in the field of public health in order to pursue a master's or doctoral degree in public health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gain teaching experience ▪ Gain public health work experience 	Up to three years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GMS Deferment Request Form ▪ Letter of verification from a school administrator where the Scholar is employed or will complete full-time teaching. ▪ Letter from Scholar's employer to confirm public health employment.
Master's	To accommodate need for additional time to complete a master's degree program beyond the two-year GMS funding limit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exhausted master's level funding from GMS 	Up to one year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GMS Deferment Request Form ▪ Enrollment Verification from the Registrar's Office
M.D.	To accommodate required semester, quarter or year-long M.D. coursework as part of an M.D./Ph.D. or M.D./M.P.H. program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Required to take M.D. courses as part of an M.D./Ph.D. or M.D./M.P.H. program 	Up to four years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GMS Deferment Request Form ▪ Letter of verification from the Dean (outlining program timelines)
Doctoral	To accommodate receipt of external or institutional gift aid during a doctoral program, in order to preserve GMS funding for dissertation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scholar enrolled in doctoral program and wants to preserve GMS funding for dissertation 	Up to three years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GMS Deferment Request Form ▪ Departmental confirmation of full funding

Submit your 2011-2012 deferment documents to GMS by Friday, July 22, 2011. See page 1 of the deferment packet for GMS contact information.



2011 – 2012 GMS DEFERMENT REQUEST FORM

Please type or legibly print your responses in blue or black ink for the following:

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

This form will be used to update or change your preferred contact information in our database.

GMS ID (5 digits): _____ Last 4 Digits of Social Security Number: _____

First Name Middle Name Last Name (and former last name, if applicable)

Street Address Apt City State Zip

Preferred Phone – is this a cell phone number? Yes No

Is there a secondary phone number? Yes No If yes, please provide: (_____) _____

Alternate E-mail Address

LAST SCHOOL YEAR (2010-2011 INFORMATION):

1. Were you on GMS Deferment during 2010-2011? Yes No – If you answered “No” skip to number 2

1a. If you were on GMS Deferment in 2010-2011, were you enrolled at an institution? Yes No

1b. If you were on GMS Deferment in 2010-2011 **AND** also enrolled at an institution, indicate in number 2 the College/University you attended.

2. College/University attended in 2010-2011: _____

State: _____

3. Specify your degree program(s) during 2010-2011:

Associate Bachelor’s Master’s Doctoral Teacher Cert. Ed. Specialist

4. Did you graduate during the 2010-2011 academic year? Yes - Graduation Date: ____/____/____ No

If you answered “Yes”, specify the degree obtained:

Associate Bachelor’s Master’s Teacher Cert. Doctoral Ed. Specialist

— Please proceed to the next page —

Scholar's Name: _____ GMS ID _____

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Requested Deferment Period				
<input type="checkbox"/> 2011-12 Academic Year	<input type="checkbox"/> Fall Term 2011	<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Term 2011-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Spring Term 2012	<input type="checkbox"/> Fall Term 2012
Have you used deferment time in the past? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				

Deferment Type Please see the GMS Deferment Guidelines for more information		
<u>Circumstantial</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Medical <input type="checkbox"/> Service	<u>Discretionary</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Academic <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Hardship <input type="checkbox"/> Transitional	<u>Graduate</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching/Public Health <input type="checkbox"/> Master's <input type="checkbox"/> M.D. <input type="checkbox"/> Doctoral

Reason Type or legibly print the reason for your deferment request and attach appropriate documents to this form. Supporting documentation must be provided for all deferment requests with the exception of Academic and Personal.

SIGNATURE AND AUTHORIZATION:

Your signature is required below. Without it, your deferment request is not complete and cannot be processed.

I hereby certify that the information provided on this 2011-2012 Gates Millennium Scholars Deferment Request Form is, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct. I have not knowingly withheld any facts or circumstances that could jeopardize consideration of my renewal. I authorize the institution(s) I attend(ed) to release and/or disclose to representatives of the Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) program all required and any requested information. This may include, but is not limited to, copies of or information from my official educational records, my enrollment status and history, letters of recommendation, financial aid information, and disciplinary records. In addition, I authorize GMS to release my name in connection with any public announcement of Gates Scholars, with associated research and with the administration and promotion of the scholarship program.

Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY				
GMS administrative office decision		<input type="checkbox"/> Deferment Extension		
<input type="checkbox"/> Approve	Deferment Type: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Approve	Need final decision by Headquarters Deferment Type: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Deny	Reviewed by: _____ Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Deny	Reviewed by: _____ Date: _____	
2011-12 Academic Year	Fall 2011	Winter 2011-12	Spring 2012	Fall 2012

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What do I do after a deferment?

Once your deferment ends, you will need to renew your GMS scholarship by completing the current academic year Renewal Packet, which can be found on the Scholar Website at www.gmsp.org and the Scholar Connection at www.gmsconnection.org. You must submit all renewal forms and supporting documentation by the designated deadline in order to receive GMS funding. However, if you need additional time off, you may submit another deferment request and contact your GMS Administrative Office at 1-877-690-GMSP (4677) to learn about your available deferment time.

All Gates Millennium Scholars entering graduate school in one of the seven funded areas of graduate study (computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health and science), are required to submit a Graduate Program Inquiry Form (GPIF) before starting their desired degree program. The GPIF is currently available for download via the *Forms* section of the Scholar Website (www.gmsp.org) as well as on the Scholar Connection (www.gmsconnection.org).

If you choose not to enroll in a graduate program eligible for GMS funding once your deferment ends, then you will be assigned a NOF – NO longer Funded status.

2. I graduated and I do not plan to pursue another degree. Do I still have to submit documents?

If you graduated and you do not plan to request a deferment or enroll in a graduate program of study eligible for GMS funding, please complete the NOF – NO longer Funded Status Form and submit a copy of your transcript that shows your date of graduation. **NOF – NO longer Funded status means that you are no longer eligible to receive GMS funding.** Once assigned NOF – NO longer Funded status, the status will remain unchanged.

3. My mailing address has changed. What should I do?

Your preferred mailing address will be updated when you submit the Renewal Form, Deferment Request Form or NOF – NO longer Funded Status Form. You may also update your mailing address, e-mail address or phone numbers at www.gmsp.org. Click the “My Profile” icon to view or edit the permanent or preferred contact information. Please allow GMS Staff at least 24 hours to post updated information.

GMS will send all correspondence to your preferred mailing address; it is your responsibility to notify GMS of an address change.