

# ASPIRE 2024 Internship Application

PREVIEW MODE



Welcome to the 2024 ASPIRE Internship Application. Please gather all your required materials now. You will be required to upload a resume and a **completed and signed** school acknowledgement form. **Incomplete applications, including those submitted with a completed and signed school acknowledgement form, will not be considered. No late forms will be accepted.** You cannot save your progress once you begin.

The application form will automatically close at 11:59pm on 2/15/2024

## ASPIRE Application Tips and Tricks

Remember: Your application must be completed in one sitting. **You can't save your progress.** Type your answers in Google Docs and then paste them in!

### Required Paperwork

School Acknowledgement Form \*

Choose File ASPIRE Su... 7-5 - 7-9.pdf

Upload a completed, up-to-date, copy of the School Acknowledgement Form, signed by your school counselor, internship coordinator, or principal. **Any application uploaded without the completed and signed form will be discarded. No late forms will be accepted.** Forms must include your graduation year and GPA. Do not upload a school acknowledgement form from a previous ASPIRE application

[You can find the school acknowledgement form, here](#)

Your counselor, internship coordinator, or principal's email address \*

test@test.com

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

test1@test.com

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 3/1/23.** 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.

← If your school acknowledgement form isn't completed, signed by your counselor, internship coordinator, or principal, and uploaded at the time of submission, we **will** disqualify your application. No exceptions. No email submissions.

← 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.

PREVIEW MODE

(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.

Next

← 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.

PREVIEW MODE

**Minimum Requirements - We can only consider students who meet the minimum eligibility requirements.** More information can be found at 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.

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? \*

No

Do you have at least a 2.8 GPA? \*

Yes

← 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!

Do you have permanent residence in the Washington-Baltimore metro area? \*

- Yes
- No

In other words, do you live within about an hour commute to APL?

What grade will you be in during the 2024-2025 school year? \*

11th grade

Select your birth year \*

2008

Select your birth month \*

March

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.*

*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..*

Previous

Next

### Biographical Information

PREVIEW MODE

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.



We are asking if you live nearby. Does it take you an hour-ish or less to get to the lab? Great! Then you live in the Washington-Baltimore metro area. If it takes you a really long time to drive to APL, then you're probably outside the Washington-Baltimore metro area.



### 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. We do not do any remote onboarding. We are not accessible by public transit.



Do you prefer to go by a name other than your first name? You can list it here. This is 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.

Student Cell Phone \*

Parent's email (if student is under 18)

School District (County) \*

School Name \*

Select "internship" from the dropdown. \*

Previous

Next

PREVIEW MODE

### Student Interest

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

You will be considered for opportunities that match your preference. In-person means up to one day per week of intern-from-home flexibility.

What is your primary area of interest? \*

What is your secondary area of interest? \*

Why did you choose this area(s) of interest? What do you want to learn at APL? (250 words recommended) \*

I firmly believe that computer science and engineering are the tools to make the future brighter, better, and more accessible. I chose these areas of study because I am fascinated by their versatility and nuance. I've been dabbling in programming since middle school and am intrigued by how many different fields can utilize computer science, from finance, to healthcare, to cybersecurity, to general tech and beyond. As a creative person and avid gamer, I'm particularly interested in investigating programming in conjunction with game design and virtual reality, though I'm equally as interested in exploring cybersecurity and other computer science applications.

My second area of interest, engineering, is also near and dear to my heart. While I've taken a number of engineering classes in school, I've never been able to use my engineering skills in the real world. I am interested in exploring a hands-on engineering project that will allow me to think critically and work collaboratively with other engineers. For example, I would really enjoy a project related to solving global issues, such as addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. I would also learn a lot from seeing how a real team of engineers works through difficult problems collaboratively.

Tell us about a project you were proud of (250 words recommended) \*

One of my proudest accomplishments was winning my school's trivia bowl last year. I had been training with a group of friends for month. Several times a week after school, we would get together and study. Our study materials were varied and, honestly, a little eccentric. Sometimes we studied trivia books, sometimes we went through quizzes online or played Trivial Pursuit, and sometimes we watched Jeopardy reruns. We studied geography in particular, trying to memorize the names of rivers and lakes in Europe and Asia. We noticed Jeopardy contestants getting stumped on these questions pretty often.

Finally, the day of the competition came. I looked around my room at all of the flashcards and trivia facts on sticky notes and knew that I was ready. The competition was held in three rounds—one group round and two individual rounds—with questions becoming progressively more difficult each round. My group made it through the first round with no problem. During the second round, however, half my study group was eliminated on a

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.

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.

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.

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. Just know that your first choice area of interest is weighted much more heavily than your second choice.

Note that we don't have any medical placements. We may rarely have placements that are healthcare adjacent (i.e., COVID-19 reserach). We have very few, if any, placements in biology and chemistry at all.

Your essays don't need to be long or overly-formal. Mostly, mentors read these essays to get to know you better before they decide to interview you. Feel free to show some personality and don't be afraid to be yourself. Please do make sure to check your spelling and grammar before you submit, though.

question about manufacturing practices in the Midwest. There were only six people, total, participating in the final round. By the last question, there were only three of us left. The final question was about the Mekong River in Southeast Asia—and I knew the answer! As it turns out, I was the only one who knew the answer.

Next, I plan on winning Jeopardy.

*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..*

## Student Skills and Experience

PREVIEW MODE

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

PREVIEW MODE

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.



- Physics
- Principals of Java Programming
- Web Tools and Digital Media
- Website Development
- Other
- None

PREVIEW MODE

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.

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
- 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

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

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.

PREVIEW MODE

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!

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

Telling mentors about your hobbies and extracurricular activities helps them get to know you better. Feel free to showcase your personality.

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

Select all APL STEM programs in which you have participated

- Maryland MESA
- APL STEM Academy
- Former ASPIRE Intern

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
- Delta Scholars
- Ingenuity Project
- 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.
- Sigma Gamma Rho
- STEM Ready
- Top Teens

Previous

Next

PREVIEW MODE

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

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.

### 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!

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

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

Yes

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

Try it on my own

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

Previous

Next

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.

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.*

If so, please enter their name(s) here

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

Check here to acknowledge the following: \*

- I understand

ASPIRE internships must begin 6/25 or 6/26. There may also be mandatory activities on 6/27. 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.

Previous

Submit

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.

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.

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.



**You did it!**



**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
- You likely will not hear back from a mentor until the end of May.
- Check our website frequently for updates
- Email ASPIRE@jhupl.edu with any questions

**Good luck!**