

Rocky Mountain Hydrologic Research Center (RMHRC) Annual Scholarship

Rubric for Evaluation of RMHRC Scholarship Applications

Each applicant is judged on the following categories: 1. Research significance, 2. Academic achievement, 3. Potential for success, and 4. Financial need. Additionally, applicants for the Emerging Scholar scholarship are evaluated based on how they have overcome challenges to become hydrological researchers; applicants for the Supplemental Research Funding scholarship are evaluated based on the value added to their research by the scholarship; and applicants for the Ecohydrology scholarship are evaluated based on their initiative and creative and innovative approaches to problem solving. Each category is weighted equally and ranks are assigned based on a synthesis of the applicant's curriculum vitae, personal statement, transcripts, letters of recommendation, and statement of financial need. It should be noted that academic achievement should weigh transcripts as only one piece of evidence among others, such as involvement in student organizations and research experience, whereas potential for success should be based on leadership, volunteer work, work ethic, and/or work in the field beyond required coursework.

Select One:

- Emerging Scholar**
- Supplemental Research Funding**
- Ecohydrology (starting in 2027)**

A. Research Significance (score: ____) 20%

Please rank the significance of the proposed hydrological research according to the following point system:

21-25: Very High - The research proposed by the applicant addresses a critical need in the field of hydrology in a novel manner and will result in research publications that will be frequently cited by other researchers in the field of hydrology.

16-20: High - The research proposed by the applicant addresses an important need in the field and will result in research publications that will be cited by other researchers in the field of hydrology.

11-15: Moderate - The research proposed by the applicant addresses a need in the field that will result in research publications that may be cited by other researchers in the field of hydrology.

6-10: Low - The research proposed by the applicant addresses a topic that has already been studied or that is tangentially related to hydrology and is unlikely to result in research publications that are cited by other researchers in the field of hydrology.

1-5: Very Low - Research is not directly related to hydrology and resulting research publication is unlikely to be cited by other researchers in the field of hydrology.

B. Academic Achievement (score: ____) 20%

Please rank the applicant's achievement and potential for success according to the following point system:

21-25: Very High - All recommendations commend the applicant for performing above and beyond the expected level of academic standing. The student is an excellent contender for the award.

16-20: High - The applicant is a solid student and a very good contender for the award. The recommendations are strong but not exceptional.

11-15: Moderate - The applicant performs well academically, but does not necessarily distinguish themselves from their peers. Applicants who have taken fewer courses related to hydrology/water resources or who have lower class standing may fit into this category as well, given their limited exposure to the field. One recommendation may be weaker than the others.

6-10: Low - The applicant has only limited course work in hydrology/water resources courses without significant accomplishment in the field. Recommendations are not strong.

1-5: Very Low - This applicant is not a good candidate for the award.

C. Potential for success (score: ____) 20%

Please rank the applicant's demonstration of potential for success based on the following point system:

21-25: Very High - Applicant takes initiative and is often the leader of a group. Has an exceptional work ethic, in addition to volunteer activities and work beyond the required coursework.

16-20: High - Applicant shows an above average work ethic. Has done volunteer work in addition work in the field beyond required coursework.

11-15: Moderate - Applicant shows some indication of above average work ethic. Has done work in the field beyond required coursework.

6-10: Low - Applicant generally follows the rules and completes the required coursework. The student makes a minimal but sufficient effort.

1-5: Very Low - Applicant has not demonstrated initiative in coursework, research or volunteer activities.

D. Financial Need (score: ____) 20%

Please rank the applicant's demonstrated financial need and merit of intended use of the award according to the following point system:

21-25: Very High - Applicant would benefit greatly from the award, but has minimal financial footing. The applicant and recommenders have displayed thoughtfulness and awareness in considering how the award would fit into and enable the student's scholastic plans. The applicant may lack financial support for attending their program (tuition and fees, etc.), conducting research (research travel, analyses, etc.), or for supporting themselves while attending a degree program (room and board, childcare costs, etc.)

16-20: High - Applicant would benefit greatly from the award, but has a firmer financial footing than a student at a Very High level. The applicant and recommenders write strongly and convincingly about the applicant's financial need. Need may be related to attending their program, conducting research, or supporting themselves while attending a degree program.

11-15: Moderate - Applicant has undertaken their studies under some financial strain, but their burden is less than that of a High or Very High level. The applicant would benefit from the award, but it is not critical to their success. Need may be related to attending their program, conducting research, or supporting themselves while attending a degree program.

6-10: Low - Neither the applicant nor the recommenders have written convincingly about how the award would benefit the student's ability to continue pursuing a degree related to hydrology. The applicant has a seemingly strong financial footing from other sources. Need may be related to attending their program, conducting research, or supporting themselves while attending a degree program.

1-5: Very Low - Other applicants have considerably greater financial need. Need may be related to attending their program, conducting research, or supporting themselves while attending a degree program.

E-1. Emerging Scholar (score: ____) 20%

21-25: Very High - Applicant aspires to be a hydrologic researcher but has not yet received any funding for research or awards/recognition. Applicant has overcome significant challenges to attain education, whether related to financial, social, or other reasons.

16-20: High - Applicant aspires to be a hydrologic researcher but has not yet received significant funding for research or received awards/recognition. Applicant has overcome challenges to attain education, whether related to financial, social, or other reasons.

11-15: Moderate - Applicant aspires to be a hydrologic researcher but has not yet received significant funding for research or received awards/recognition. Applicant has overcome some challenges to attain education, whether related to financial, social, or other reasons.

0-10: Low - Very Low - Applicant has already received significant funding for research or otherwise lacks financial need. Applicant has had few difficulties in attaining education to date.

E-2. Supplemental Research Funding (score: ____) 20%

21-25: Very High - Additional funding would allow applicant to conduct meaningful research that would expand scope of research and would otherwise not be possible without the scholarship.

16-20: High - Additional funding will allow applicant to conduct work that would enhance existing research plan and collect data, conduct analysis, or report results in a way that would otherwise not be possible without the scholarship.

11-15: Moderate - Additional funding would not expand or enhance research but would be used to report or present results to a broader audience.

0-10: Low - Very Low - Research is already well-funded or lacks significance. Additional funding would not enhance research in a meaningful way.

E-2. Ecohydrology Research Funding (score: ____) 20%

21-25: Very High - Applicant is very self-motivated with strong initiative and has demonstrated innovative and creative problem solving skills in their research to date. The scholarship would further the applicant's innovation.

16-20: High - Applicant is self-motivated with good initiative and has demonstrated their ability to apply innovative and creative problem solving skills in their coursework or research to date. The scholarship would allow the applicant implement innovative approaches to ecohydrology research topics that would otherwise not be possible without the scholarship.

11-15: Moderate - Applicant had demonstrated some initiative and innovation and has potential to further develop these skills through the scholarship.

0-10: Low - Very Low - Applicant has not demonstrated initiative in research and has limited experience in ecohydrology.