Beacon Student Success Fellowship
Frequently Asked Questions

**Who is eligible?** You must be an *undergraduate* student returning in Fall 2021 as an enrolled part-time or full-time student in academic good standing. Students graduating in May or August 2021 are not eligible.

**What Summer 2021 experiential learning opportunities are eligible for BSSF funding?** Unpaid or underfunded internships, volunteer experiences, study abroad, faculty-supervised research projects, participation in an academic symposium, travel related to academic projects and study, service learning, courses offering field experience, and other forms of experiential learning are eligible. Regular summer courses with no experiential component are not eligible.

**How will applicants be evaluated?** You will be evaluated on the quality of your application materials (including their resume and budget), demonstrated financial need, and the impact of the experience on your future goals.

**Do I have to secure my experience prior to applying to BSSF?** No, but you have to be in the application process for an eligible summer experience to complete the BSSF application. Typically, the deadline for BSSF applications occurs before some programs provide confirmation of acceptance into the program. However, you must provide verification of your acceptance into the summer experience to receive the award.

**When will students be notified?** You will be notified by mid-May.

**Selected students WILL have to provide verification of their summer experience by May 14, 2021:** Refer to the [BSSF Verification](#) for what is proper documentation and confirmation of your summer experience.

**What if my experience changes?** If your experience changes *before* the BSSF deadline, you may update your online application by going back online ([http://forms.umb.edu/bssf](http://forms.umb.edu/bssf)), updating your information, and resubmitting the application. If your experience changes after the deadline, you must tell us of the change and provide updated information. If you are chosen to receive a BSSF award, you will be notified and have the ability at that time to confirm your experience, describe any change in the experience, or decline the funding.

**What if I no longer need the funding?** You should email Career Services at careers@umb.edu and place in the title of the email “BSSF Funding Request–Withdrawn”. List your name, the experience, and briefly state why you no longer need funding.

**How will the BSSF impact my financial aid?** Awarded students will have the Beacon Student Success Fellowship credited towards their spring 2021 university account. It will be incorporated into your 2020-2021 academic year financial aid package. For more details on financial aid implications, refer to the [BSSF Financial Aid & Bursar Information](#) sheet.

**If selected, when will the BSSF funds be transferred to my student account?** Awarded students will be notified by mid-May. Students that meet the verification deadline and properly confirm their summer experience typically receive their BSSF funds in their student account by the end of June, if not sooner. Students need to financially plan accordingly.

**What are the program requirements for BSSF?** If you receive an award, you must complete the verification and sign the Student Contract, a mid-summer check-in, and the final evaluation in mid-August. You must also create a poster summarizing your summer experience and attend the Fall 2021 BSSF Symposium.