



## Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for the program the applicant should:

- **U.S. Citizen:** Be a U.S citizen or permanent resident. Students will be required to provide proof of citizenship per the requirements below.
- **Essex County, NJ Resident:** Have a primary residence in Essex County, New Jersey. Priority will be given to students in the City of Newark, Irvington, Orange Township, and East Orange school districts, although students across all of Essex County will be considered.
- **Financial Need:** Demonstrate financial need. Please refer to the income guidelines below to see if your family meets the criteria. Students will be required to provide proof of income per the requirements below.
- **High School Student:** Be a 2020-21 11th grade student and attend a public high school or charter- public high school in Essex County.
- **Academic Commitment:** Demonstrate a commitment to academic achievement. A target Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.75 or better on a 4.0 scale is recommended or students should clearly demonstrate an upward academic trajectory.
- **3-Week Commitment:** Be able to participate fully in the three-week Summer Academy to be held between July 1, 2021 and August 18, 2021.

Should you have any questions regarding any aspect of the application process or eligibility, please do not hesitate to email our team at [apply@coopermanscholars.org](mailto:apply@coopermanscholars.org).

## Verification: U.S. Citizenship/Permanent Resident/Financial

Candidates should submit all of the below documentation by the **December 4<sup>th</sup>** Early Application Deadline or the **December 11<sup>th</sup>** Final Application Deadline. Upload all documents via the on-line application. Applications are incomplete without proper documentation.

If you have questions about any of these materials, please contact us **before** the application deadline, so you are prepared to upload your required documents.

### 1) Verification of U.S. Citizenship or Permanent Resident Status:

The Cooperman College Scholars program is only able to admit students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents. We ask that applicants upload a **photocopy** of one of the following documents to the Cooperman College Scholars team.



- The student’s birth certificate showing that he/she was born in the United States, which includes Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Swain’s Island, or the Northern Mariana Islands.
- A U.S. passport, current or expired.
- U.S. State Department Form FS-240 (Consular Report of Birth Abroad), FS- 545 (Certificate of birth issued by a foreign service post), or DS- 1350 (Certification of Report of Birth).
- A Certificate of Citizenship (N-560 or N-561), issued by USCIS to individuals who derive U.S. citizenship through a parent.
- A Certificate of Naturalization (N-550 or N-570), issued by USCIS through a federal or state court, or through administrative naturalization after December 1990 to those who are individually naturalized.
- Permanent Resident Card or Resident Alien Card (Form I-551, aka Green Card).

## 2) Verification of Household Financial Situation:

The Cooperman College Scholars program evaluates each student’s financial situation to determine eligibility for the scholarship. Prospective students must live in a household whose annual gross income does not exceed 250% of the federal poverty guideline. Use the chart below to see if your family meets the criteria.

Family Size	Gross Yearly Income	Gross Monthly Income
1	\$31,900	\$2,658
2	\$43,100	\$3,591
3	\$54,300	\$4,525
4	\$65,500	\$5,458

Source: US Department of Health and Human Services – 2020 Federal Poverty Guideline (x 250%)

- Applicants should provide a 2019 tax return (Form 1040) from both biological parent(s) regardless of whether they currently live in the same household.
  - If parents are married **AND** filed a *joint* tax return, one Form 1040 is fine.
  - If parents are separated, provide tax forms for both biological parents.
  - If parent is remarried, report biological parent and stepparent income.
  - Please **DO NOT** submit tax forms of grandparents, foster parents, siblings, uncles, aunts or anyone else *unless they have legally adopted the student*.
  - If your parent(s) do not file a tax return, please complete an [Income Verification Form for Non-Filers](#). This form is necessary only for students who are not submitting a tax return.
- Applicants not in contact with one or both biological parents, and therefore unable to access financial documentation, can email [financialdocs@coopermanscholars.org](mailto:financialdocs@coopermanscholars.org) for additional guidance. Please know that CCS will require a written statement from a social worker, teacher or counselor who can attest to your particular situation.

Please email our team at [apply@coopermanscholars.org](mailto:apply@coopermanscholars.org) with any questions about your eligibility,

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