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!

Some information is only available to the APL STEM Office and cannot be seen by mentors. Sensitive information is usually hidden.

It's important to live near the Lab so that you can commute here easily. Almost all of our summer students come in-person to the Lab four days per week, though we do have a small number of students who intern virtually. You still need to live nearby.

Note, we are not located in Baltimore!

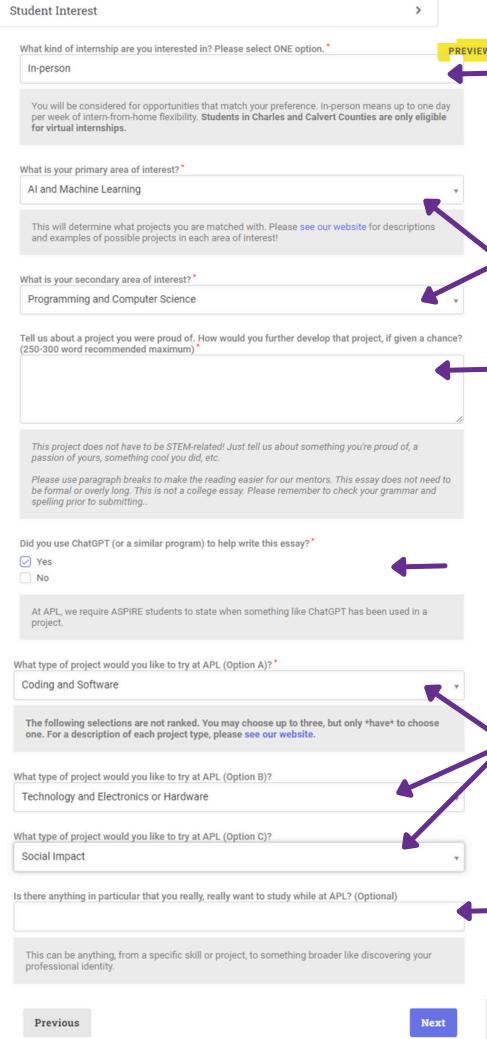
Even if you're planning on interning virtually, you'll still need to come to APL in-person at least once for onboarding, and again for orientation. We do not do any remote onboarding. We are not accessible by public transit.

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.



PREVIEW MOD

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 "inperson," 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 and check out the descriptions on our website. Just know that your first choice area of interest is weighted much more heavily than your second choice. We don't have any medical internships.

Mentors want to learn more about you—what your interests are, how you solve problems, and how you ask and answer questions. Essays are a big part of the selection process for many mentors. Spend some time on this, and don't make it overly formal. They want to know who *you* are, not who you think you should sound like.

If you use something like ChatGPT to help write your essay, you must indicate that via the checkbox. ChatGPT is neutral at APL; you won't get in trouble for using it, as long as it's disclosed. Once you begin your internship, there are very strict rules around when ChatGPT can and cannot be used for data security reasons.

Project types just let mentors know a bit more about your interests. Regardless of the area of interest you chose, you can indicate any kind of project you might like to try. Please look at our website for examples of what each project type could mean.

Just because you indicate interest in a project type does not mean you're guaranteed placement with one of those project types.

If there's a specific thing you'd love to learn more about that you haven't had a chance to mention so far, now is your chance!

class). If your classes vary slightly (i.e., Algebra II IB instead of Algebra II), you may

choose the closest match.

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.

Select any programming languages or software with which you have experience.	PREVIEW MODE
Python	
MATLAB	
Java	
Javascript	
C++	These are the most common
HTML	
Unity	programming languages that
AutoCAD	our mentors are looking for. If
Microsoft Excel or Google Sheets	you know one, great, please tell
R	us! If not, no worries. ASPIRE
Rust	students are not required to
C#	have programming knowledge
CSS	to apply.
SQL	ιο αρρίγ.
Fusion360	
Other	
None	
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.	ol
Of all the classes you've taken, which one was your favorite? *	
Share your most important extracurricular activities, hobbies, and/or leadership experiences	Extracurriculars, hobbies, and professional experiences are also important to our mentors. Share yours, here!
These may include things like being leader of a school club or society, sports teams or extracurriculars, service opportunities, other professional experiences, such as being a shift lead or keyholder, or your hobbies.	
Of the following professional skills, which do you think are your strongest? Please choose up to skills.	o THREE
Active listening	
Collaboration/teamwork	Professional skills are just as
Communication	
Confidence	important as STEM skills.
Creativity	
Critical thinking	We want you to do some self-
Following instructions	reflection and choose your top
Independence	three skills from the list on the
✓ Leadership	left. There are no wrong
	answers!
Learning new concepts quickly	
Networking Organization	
✓ Problem solving	
Public speaking	
Time management	
Willingness to learn	
Work ethic	
O Work edito	
Please only choose up to THREE skills	Make sure to check here if you've
Select all APL STEM programs in which you have participated	ever participated in Maryland MESA or APL STEM Academy.
Maryland MESA	
APL STEM Academy	If you are a former/current ASPIRE intern and want to stay with your
Which, if any, of the following organizations are you a part of?	former/current mentor, you need to
ACES of Montgomery County	fill out a continuation form, not an
Alpha Achievers	application. Email
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. (AKAs)	ASPIRE@jhuapl.edu for more info.
Boys & Girls Club of Baltimore	
Building STEPS	
Charles H. Flowers High School Science and Technology Program	
Delta Scholars	
Ingenuity Project	

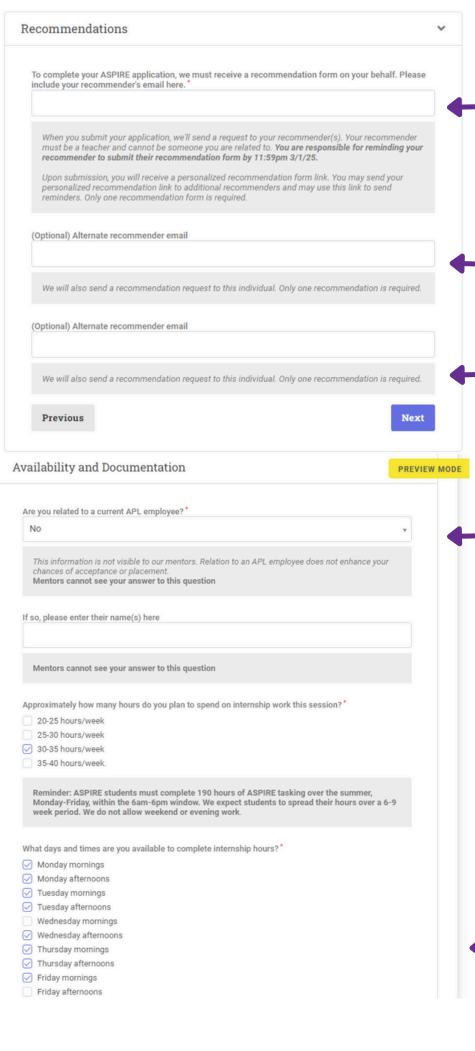
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.	
 Eleanor Roosevelt High School Science and Technology Program 	
☐ Kappa League	
✓ Let's Go! Boys and Girls	
Maryland CURE Scholars	
Next One Up	
■ N\$BE Jr.	
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.	
P-TECH at Paul Laurence Dunbar High	
Sigma Gamma Rho	
STEM Ready	
☐ Top Teens	
Select all that apply	
Previous	Next

Self-Evaluation (Please note that all questions in this section are optional.)

Did any of your parents/guardians receive a four-year college degr	ree?
No	*
We are curious if you are the first person in your family planning see your answer to this question	to go to college! Mentors cannot
re you eligible for free or reduced cost meals at school (FARMS)?	?
Yes	*
Mentors cannot see your answer to this question	
o you speak any languages other than English? If so, which one(s	3)?
n general, when faced with a difficult task, do you prefer to wait for ry on your own (even though you may fail)? Wait for instructions	or instructions, or take a chance and
Trait for moraditions	
This is not a trick a question. We're just curious about your style	!
n general, would you prefer to work with just your mentor, or part o	of a small group of students/mentors:
Working as part of a small group	*
When in a group project, do you prefer to do research or give a pre	sentation?
Give a presentation	*
When faced with a challenge, are you more likely to act cautiously	or follow your intuition?
Follow my intuition	*
f given the option, would you prefer to help create your ASPIRE prestablished at APL?	oject, or work on something already
Work on something established	*
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.

Mentors cannot see your answers to the questions about degrees held by your parents/guardians or if you're eligible for free or reduced cost meals at school.



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.

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.

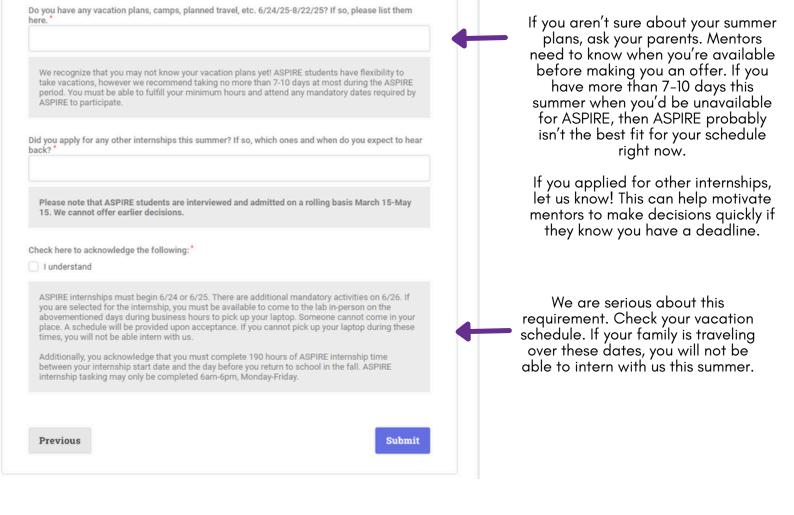
We suggest listing alternate recommenders in case your primary recommender does not submit on time, or is not available.

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. Mentors are not told if you are related to an APL employee when looking at your application.

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.





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
- The earliest you'll hear back from a mentor is mid-March, but more likely it'll be mid-late April.
- Check our website frequently for updates
- Email ASPIRE@jhuapl.edu with any questions

Good luck!