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 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.

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!
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.

Biographical Information

First Name *
Teslerton

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) *

Last Name *
Testing

Preferred Pronouns (check all that apply)
- He/Him/His
- She/Her/Hers
- They/Them/Their
- 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.

Do not use your school email. It may block senders from outside the school.
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 research). We have very few, if any, placements in biology and chemistry at all.

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 intern from home flexibility.

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

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!

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

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.
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.

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@jhuapl.edu with any questions

Good luck!