

FY25 NCAS Advocacy — Recruiting — Materials — Info Session Presentation

0:00

Welcome to the info session for NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars, also known as NCAS.

0:07

I am going to share with you today what NCAS is all about, who is eligible, and how to apply.

0:15

Stick around for more information.

0:18

Before we get started with the info session, I want to do a little bit of housekeeping.

0:23

There should be a transcript available with this video.

0:27

If you do not see the transcript, or have any trouble locating it, you can email us. I will provide the email address as we move forward through these slides.

0:36

As you can see on the screen, there's a quote from a student from Paradise Valley Community College.

0:45

They said NCAS helped them gain enough confidence to apply to their dream college.

0:49

You can also see there are some students on the screen there who are touring a NASA engine testing facility.

0:57

I will tell you, speaking of the quote, that this is one of the biggest benefits.

1:03

There are many benefits to NCAS, but this is one of the biggest ones.

1:07

Students lives are often transformed after participating in NCAS.

1:12

We've seen students go on to get their masters and get their Ph.Ds.

1:17

We've seen students do NASA internships and internships elsewhere in the industry. There are some students who are even working at NASA now.

1:26

If you want to see where your life can go, see where your future can take you, and consider things that maybe you hadn't considered before, then we highly recommend that you apply to NCAS.

1:42

My name is Stacy Schmidt, and I am the NCAS recruitment specialist.

1:47

This will allow you to put a face with the voice that you're hearing, and I am happy to be here today with you to share more about NCAS.

1:56

If you're asking yourself what NCAS is, I'm going to tell you what it is.

2:01

NCAS is a STEM engagement activity for Community College students seeking to transfer to a four-year institution or go directly into the labor force.

2:10

If you're going to go on to a four-year institution, or if you want to go straight to work after Community College, NCAS is right for you.

2:19

NCAS uses NASA's unique expertise, research facilities, and other resources in aerospace to engage students in authentic and experiential learning experiences.

2:32

Two consecutive missions comprise NCAS.

2:35

Successful completion of Mission 1 and Mission 2 may lead to a third mission opportunity, as well as the opportunity to apply for an NCAS sponsored NASA internship.

2:48

Let's talk about who can apply to NCAS.

2:51

In order to be eligible for NCAS, you need to be a US citizen.

2:55

You need to be a High School graduate or the equivalent.

2:58

You need to be at least 18 years of age at the start of Mission 1. I'm going to talk a little bit more about those dates as we move forward.

3:05

You need to be currently attending a U.S. Community College.

3:09

You need to have concurrent enrollment or completion of nine or more hours of college STEM course work.

3:15

I'm going to explain this a little bit more.

3:17

Let's talk about the hours first.

3:20

The majority of community colleges use hours to measure their classes.

3:27

Some use credits, some use units.

3:30

We're going to use those interchangeably for right now.

3:34

Hours, credits, units, then the concurrent enrollment or completion.

3:40

Let me give you an example.

3:42

If you took classes in the spring last semester, computer science was worth three hours, credits, or units, and then, if you also took algebra, it was worth three hours.

4:01

Then the computer science and algebra courses would be a total of six hours that you've completed.

4:09

Then in this semester, the fall semester, if you are currently enrolled in a biology course, it is worth three hours.

4:18

You have the six hours from last semester, and you have the three hours from this semester.

4:22

If you combine them, you have the nine hours.

4:25

We will also take STEM hours from multiple institutions.

4:30

Say you have attended a different Community College.

4:33

Now you're at this Community College and you have a transcript from the previous one with some STEM courses on it.

4:38

We will take those hours. You can upload multiple transcripts.

4:42

Also, if you've gone to university and then went back to Community College, that's totally fine.

4:48

We'll take the transcript from the university.

4:51

Also, we welcome STEM hours from all disciplines.

4:56

STEM hours are broader than what you think.

5:00

A lot of times students are just thinking about science courses.

5:04

If you have any questions about whether you meet the nine or more hours of college STEM coursework requirement, upload your transcripts, and apply.

5:13

Upload your transcripts, let us review them, and we will figure that out for you.

5:17

If you are not eligible for some reason, then you can take more STEM courses and apply the next semester.

5:23

But, it's good to find out whether you are eligible.

5:25

So, go ahead and apply, upload your transcripts, and let us see if you are eligible.

5:30

You also need to be able to commit to a five-week online session for Mission 1 and subsequent missions.

5:36

You cannot have previously participated in NCAS.

5:41

The reason that we put that bullet on here is because students will complete NCAS and then go back and apply again because they got so many benefits from participating.

5:54

So, if you've participated in NCAS, there's really no reason to apply again.

6:00

There are many other opportunities for you at NASA and we will certainly help direct you to those.

6:07

Also, the intent for NCAS is to support and guide students who have not yet acquired a four-year STEM degree.

6:12

Say for instance, you went to a university, you got a four-year degree in some kind of STEM coursework, and you are back at a Community College, NCAS really isn't the right place for you.

6:25

There are internship opportunities and other opportunities, and if you email us, we will certainly help connect you to those.

6:32

If you went to a university and you got a four-year degree that's not a STEM degree; we've seen that before.

6:38

If students have completed their degree and then decide that they want to go back to Community College to pursue STEM, then NCAS is correct for you and we encourage you to apply.

6:50

If you have any questions about that, you can email us and I'm going to share the email address with you in just a second.

7:00

Look at the screen and see if your major is listed. You will see the very last one on the list says, 'and more'.

7:09

This ties directly back to what I said previously about STEM coursework.

7:14

The category of STEM is incredibly broad.

7:18

It's much broader than most people think.

7:20

So, you can see on the screen that there are majors like biology and mathematics that would apply to what people normally think about as STEM.

7:32

But, in addition to that, there's administration of justice, global studies, nursing, social sciences, and so many more.

7:46

We just want to make sure that you understand that NCAS is not limited to what people think of as strict STEM majors.

7:55

STEM majors are very broad.

7:57

And if you are on the fence, even if you are majoring in English, we still want you to apply.

8:03

And I think you'll get a lot out of NCAS.

8:05

Do not limit yourself by thinking that because it's NASA, we only take applicants who are STEM majors.

8:12

That is not true.

8:14

The category of STEM majors is much broader than you think.

8:20

Now, let's talk about how to apply to NCAS.

8:24

I am going to spend a little bit of time on this information and the reason is because when students apply to NCAS and don't get accepted, it is because they did not follow the instructions for the application.

8:39

I'm going to spend some time here to make sure that this doesn't happen to you.

8:43

I encourage you to take a screenshot of this information or take a picture on your phone that you can go back and look at later.

8:50

You can take notes or do whatever you need to do to make sure that you have followed every single step for the application.

8:57

No sense in applying for NCAS and then not getting accepted because you didn't complete the application properly.

9:04

I'm going to help you do that right now.

9:07

Go to the NCAS website, which is go.nasa.gov/NCAS.

9:15

At the end of this presentation, I am going to give you the QR code that'll take you directly to the website.

9:20

If you want to pull it up, I encourage you to do that at go.nasa.gov/NCAS

9:28

Number one: you're going to review the FAQ pages for application tips and suggestions.

9:34

I highly encourage you to do that.

9:36

Read through it.

9:37

Don't just glance over it.

9:38

Read through it to make sure that you've done everything that you need to do or that you're going to do everything that you need to do.

9:45

Also, you will need to review and follow the *How to Apply* steps and, after you've done both of those, you're going to click on *NASA STEM Gateway* to begin your application.

9:56

If you have any NCAS questions, anything about missions or eligibility, you can email us at JSC-NCAS@mail.nasa.gov and we are happy to answer those questions.

10:14

Number two: Go to *NASA STEM Gateway*.

10:16

On the NCAS website, there is a link to *NASA STEM Gateway*. Click on that.

10:23

After you read the *How to Apply* steps and review the *FAQ* pages, then you'll go to the *NASA STEM Gateway*, and you're going to either *sign up* or log into NASA STEM Gateway.

10:36

If you are logging in, it's because you've already applied for something previously or you've already set up a STEM Gateway account.

10:44

Log in with the information that you registered with.

10:47

If you have never applied to STEM Gateway or been to STEM Gateway, you're going to need to sign up or register.

10:53

When you're signing up, make sure that you're using an email that you regularly check.

11:02

When you fill out your application, make sure that you're using an email that you regularly check.

11:09

The reason that I'm saying this is because students will often enter a Community College email address and they'll go on summer break or on holiday and they won't check their Community College email.

11:28

We try to communicate with the email address that you provided, the email address that you put in STEM Gateway, and then we can't get in touch with you.

11:35

Make sure it's a regularly checked email address.

11:39

You also have an opportunity to put an alternate email address.

11:42

I encourage you to do that.

11:44

Then you're going to [Explore Opportunities for College STEM Experiences](#) and look for [NCAS Mission 1: Discover](#). Then, you're going to apply for that opportunity.

11:56

If you have any questions that come up about Gateway specifically, for instance, you get locked out of Gateway or you lost your password, I encourage you to email STEM Gateway specifically.

12:10

Go straight to their email because we don't have any control over your passwords or anything like that within STEM Gateway.

12:17

Of course, you can email us and we're happy to answer any questions that you have, but if it's a STEM Gateway question, we're going to direct you to the STEM Gateway email address, which is hq-nasa-stem-gateway@mail.nasa.gov.

12:33

We're going to go on to Step three.

12:36

Here's where you're getting into the application.

12:38

You are going to need to enter your GPA.

12:41

That is a STEM Gateway requirement.

12:43

There are some other activities that have a requirement for GPA, but NCAS does not.

12:47

We're not even looking at your GPA.

12:49

Go ahead and enter your GPA and then rest easy knowing that we're not looking at it.

12:54

Next, enter your educational history.

12:57

Please enter your current college, your two-year college.

13:01

Say you're graduating from community college in December, and you're currently enrolled in that Community College right now, which makes you eligible for NCAS.

13:15

But, you're going to go to a four-year university in January.

13:20

So, because you're already accepted to the university.

13:23

You enter the university as your current school.

13:25

But remember, you must be enrolled in a Community College to be eligible for NCAS.

13:30

When people are reviewing your application and it says that you're attending a university, then they think that you're not eligible.

13:38

So, make sure that you put your current school as the Community College, the two-year college that you're in right now.

13:46

I think there's an option to put a future school or something like that, but just keep the Community College just to make sure that you aren't marked as ineligible because they see you are attending a four-year university.

14:00

If you have any questions about that, you can email us.

14:03

All right.

14:03

Then you're going to upload your transcripts.

14:05

If you only have one transcript at one school, then that is fine.

14:10

If you need to upload multiple transcripts in order to meet the STEM requirement of nine or more hours of STEM, then make sure that you upload each one your transcripts.

14:21

Then you're going to have to complete an essay question.

14:25

We are expecting 300 words or less.

14:30

You do not have to go into great detail.

14:33

I've seen a lot of students really stress over this and we don't want you to.

14:36

We just want to know why you're interested in NCAS; why you're interested in applying at NASA.

14:41

I failed to mention before that a transcript must be uploaded before you submit your application.

14:48

#4 – These are your application reminders and #1 under application reminders is the biggest thing that students miss when they are applying for NCAS.

15:01

Not ensuring you have all the transcript requirements can mean you are ineligible.

15:07

Again, take a screenshot, take a picture, write this down, whatever you need to do.

15:12

These are the four requirements for your transcript.

15:16

We must see all four and I don't know why,, but some schools do not put the student's name on transcripts.

15:24

I don't know why some schools do not have the college name on transcripts.

15:28

I don't know why, but you must make sure your transcript has all four.

15:32

So, your transcript must include (1) your name (the student's name) (2) the transcript must include your school's name.

15:39

(3) The transcript must include your STEM hours.

15:41

We need to be able to look and see are if you are currently enrolled in STEM courses.

15:46

We need to see if you took STEM courses last semester.

15:49

We need to be able to see each one of the semesters that you're counting towards your nine or more STEM hours.

15:55

Make sure that you upload as much as you need to, as many pages as you need to meet the nine or more STEM hours.

16:03

Also, make sure the transcript has your name and your school's name and (4) your current schedule.

16:09

This is how we determine that you are currently attending a Community College.

16:13

We need to see your Fall 2024 schedule.

16:17

This is really important.

16:19

Students miss this all the time.

16:20

So, there are four requirements.

16:22

I'm going to go over them again.

16:23

1: We need to see your name, the student's name.

16:26

2: We need to see your school's name.

16:27

So, go and look all over the transcript to see if it's there.

16:31

3: We need to see the nine or more hours of STEM either currently enrolled in and or previously taken.

16:38

4: We need to see your current schedule — Fall 2024.

16:41

We need all four of those.

16:43

If for some reason your transcript does not include all four requirements, you can get a proof of enrollment from your college business office or admission office.

16:55

Sometimes you can log into your student account and find information there or a proof of enrollment letter; do whatever you need to do, and contact whoever you need to contact to make sure that all four requirements are met.

17:07

In the case that your transcript does not have all four of those requirements, then you would have to upload your transcript and your proof of current enrollment and whatever else you need to do to meet those four requirements.

17:21

Give us more rather than giving us less to make sure that you meet those eligibility requirements.

17:30

Then review your application before submitting!

17:33

I put an exclamation point because you need to make sure you review your application before submitting.

17:37

You cannot go back into your application once you hit submit.

17:41

You will have to start over. You'll have to withdraw your previous application and start another one all over again.

17:47

If you realize that "Oh, no, I hit submit, but my transcript did not have all four of those requirements..."

17:54

You'll have to withdraw the application and start a whole new one.

17:57

We do not want you to have to do that.

17:59

We want to make this as easy as we can.

18:01

We've organized the requirements on the screen to try to help you understand that these are the requirements of your transcript.

18:11

These are the requirements of your application.

18:13

Again, enter your regularly checked email.

18:20

Make sure that all these requirements are met.

18:22

I'm going to pause for a minute for you to take a screenshot or picture if you can, whatever you need to do to make sure that you can go back and review this information.

18:32

If you have any questions as you are going through the application, you can email us at JSC-NCAS@mail.nasa.gov.

18:44

Now that we have discussed eligibility requirements and how to apply for NCAS, we're going to talk about the details of the missions of NCAS.

18:52

Mission 1: Discover is online.

18:55

It is a five-week self-paced online course where students learn about NASA missions, research, and goals.

19:02

During Mission 1, scholars will interact with likeminded students, attend subject matter expert lectures, and there are some really cool speakers.

19:11

I definitely recommend you go to all of the lectures and then also engage in online modules focusing on the five NASA mission directorates.

19:21

You need to complete assignments to develop an infographic describing NASA missions and their connection to you.

19:28

You're going to need to devote approximately 30 hours over five weeks.

19:32

So, we are recommending that you pace yourself with six hours per week.

19:37

Again, it's self-paced, so if you need to log on at 2:00 in the morning because that is what works with your schedule, you can do that.

19:44

You're also going to need to earn at least a 70% average to qualify for Mission 2: Explore.

19:50

Remember, I told you earlier that I would discuss the dates for Mission 1 because you need to be 18 by the time Mission 1 starts.

20:00

Mission 1: Discover will begin Mid-January through February, we're still determining all of those dates, but you can check the NCAS website for the final dates.

20:12

Mission 2: Explore is also online.

20:16

Students who successfully complete Mission 1: Discover may receive an invitation to Mission 2: Explore.

20:23

During Mission 2: Explore, scholars will participate in a NASA team simulation for six consecutive business days.

20:32

You're going to work together as a team with other students and then you're going to network with a diverse STEM workforce, including NASA subject matter experts.

20:41

Again, cool speakers.

20:43

Don't miss out on any of the speakers.

20:46

You're going to collaborate with likeminded students in a team environment and learn how to navigate NASA internships.

20:53

That's very important because you're going to get an insider view of NASA internships.

20:59

If you are interested in NASA internships, and I bet you will be by the time you've gone through Mission 2: Explore, then you definitely want to apply to NCAS.

21:10

You're also going to strengthen your understanding of STEM by enabling powerful connections to NASA's mission and work. Mission 2: Explore occurs mid-March to mid-April.

21:21

Again, the dates are to be determined and you can check the NCAS website for final dates.

21:28

Now, I'm going to share the benefits of NCAS with you.

21:32

This is my favorite information to discuss with you because as I've said before, I have seen students absolutely transform after their participation in NCAS.

21:45

I still hear from students who have gone on to do just incredible things, but most importantly, they start to see themselves differently.

21:54

I really want that for you as well.

21:57

So, if you're interested in exploring the different possibilities that are out there for you and seeing your future in a different light, then I definitely recommend that you apply for NCAS.

22:11

In addition to everything that I just said, students who successfully complete both Mission 1: Discover and Mission 2: Explore will become NCAS alumni.

22:21

That means you can put your experience, and that you are now an NCAS alum, on your applications for jobs and on your application to universities.

22:32

You can put it on applications for internships.

22:36

That's a big deal.

22:38

You'll also be eligible to apply for an NCAS funded NASA internship.

22:43

This is another key benefit of NCAS because I just heard the other day that more than 15,000 students applied for NASA internships last year.

22:58

That's a huge pool of applicants.

23:00

The NCAS funded NASA internships are only open to NCAS alums.

23:07

That takes the applicant pool from very, very large to much, much smaller and that is a huge benefit of NCAS.

23:16

Also, you will receive information keeping you up to date of NCAS happenings and upcoming NASA activities and opportunities.

23:23

So, again, it just kind of gives you an insider view of NASA.

23:27

Also, you're going to get to network with fellow NCAS alumni, and there are NCAS alumni all over the nation. You're going to get to meet with them and work with them.

23:38

That's another benefit.

23:43

Mission 3 of NCAS is called Mission 3: Innovate, and it is a hybrid activity.

23:49

Students who successfully complete Mission 1: Discover and Mission 2: Explore may receive an invitation to Mission 3: Innovate.

23:57

Invited scholars will participate in a two-week online course and one week at a NASA field center.

24:03

That's the hybrid part of Mission 3: Innovate.

24:06

There's a two-week online course; that's the online part. Then there is one week in person at a NASA field center.

24:13

By the end of the Engineering Design Challenge, students will create an engineering design solution to perform a task, work with mentors and subject matter experts, continue resume building activities, apply STEM concepts to future engineering design challenges, and build new relationships through networking.

24:33

Networking is a big part of NCAS. You're going to learn more about that as you go through the different missions.

24:40

Mission 3: Innovate will occur June to July.

24:44

The dates are to be determined.

24:46

We're still working out those details, but you can check the NCAS website for the final dates.

24:53

If you would like to attend a live information session to ask questions, or to listen to other student's questions, then we definitely encourage you do that.

25:06

The info sessions will be Tuesday, October 1st; Thursday, October 22nd; Wednesday, November 6th; and Thursday, November 21st.

25:17

You can see the times are divided into the different time zones. Please join us for an info session.

25:24

There's a QR code on the screen that you can go ahead and open and save.

25:30

Join us for any of those dates.

25:33

Again, you can take a picture of this and we're going to cover the same information at each one of the information sessions that I'm covering right now.

25:41

But, if you'd like to join us and be there to ask questions, please do.

25:45

Also, we will have office hours every Wednesday from September 18th through November 20th.

25:51

The time is 4:00 p.m. Central; adjust to your time zone.

25:56

There will be a final application Q&A office hour on November 25th.

26:03

Hopefully you've submitted your application prior to November 25th since November 25th is the deadline.

26:12

If you get to November 25th, you haven't submitted, and you have a last-minute question, you can join me in the application Q&A and I'm happy to help you.

26:22

The Q&A office hour is at 11:00 a.m. on November 25th.

26:27

That's 11:00 a.m. central time.

26:29

Adjust for your time zone and if you have any questions, you can email us at JSC-NCAS@mail.nasa.gov.

26:37

We're always, always happy to help you.

26:40

You will also find the link to the information session and the office hours on the website.

26:46

You can go visit the website again, look at the FAQ page, and read the *How to Apply* steps.

26:54

The NCAS website is where you will find this recording, the link to the office hours, and the information sessions with the dates and times will be there as well.

27:06

That concludes the prerecorded NCAS information session.

27:11

I have enjoyed sharing this information with you and I know that I've shared a lot of information.

27:17

If you have any questions following watching this, please email us at JSC-NCAS@mail.nasa.gov and we are happy to answer your questions.

27:30

I told you earlier that I would share a QR code with you for the NCAS website.

27:35

Here it is.

27:36

You can open the NCAS website right now, if you haven't already, and bookmark it so that you can go back and review the [FAQ](#) document and the [How to Apply](#) steps.

27:47

All of the dates and times, and the link for the info session, will be on the website.

27:54

This prerecorded information will be on the website and the link and the dates and times for the office hours will also be on the website.

28:04

Go review all of those and let us know if you have any questions. We cannot wait to review your applications!