

Doane University Noyce Project SERVE Award Letter

Congratulations! You have been selected as a Noyce Scholar in Project SERVE, a rigorous teacher preparation program producing certified STEM teachers with the skills to teach effectively in high-need (urban and rural) schools and persist within their profession. Noyce Scholars receive scholarships or stipends through funding by the National Science Foundation. Program requirements and scholarship information are outlined below.

Stipend/Scholarship Information

Undergraduate Scholars: Undergraduate student scholarships will be applied to their Student Account at the time when all Doane institutional aid is applied. Credit refunds will not be disbursed until after federal financial aid has been applied to the student's account (approximately 10 days after census day).

Fast Track Scholars: Stipends for Fast Track students will be applied to tuition the first day of the term. Fast Track students will receive an education payment related to the cost of attendance after tuition is paid. Fast Track students will not receive stipends beyond four semesters. Educational stipend payments are generally considered non-taxable to the extent they are used for qualified educational expenses (books, tuition, supplies, etc.) under IRC section 117. Use of stipend payments for living expenses are generally considered taxable events. Doane is not required to report this stipend information to the IRS in the form of a 1099 since the stipend payments do not constitute an employee-employer relationship with Doane. It is the responsibility of the student to consult with their tax professional as to whether all or part of the stipend is taxable.

General Program Requirements

- Achieve passing scores on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (Reading, Writing and Mathematics), a requirement for admission to Doane University's School of Education
- Full participation and successful completion of all Project SERVE programmatic activities
- Provide evidence of zero infractions (misdemeanor or felony, as required by the Nebraska Department of Education)
- Understand that my participation in the program is not an assurance of employment and that the collaborating districts are not obligated to interview or hire me for a teaching position

Undergraduate Scholar Program Requirements

- Continuous successful enrollment in teacher education and STEM courses, meeting the benchmarks of entrance into teacher education and student teaching
- Complete a STEM degree and teacher certification within five years (extenuating circumstances, academic or personal, that require more time will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis)
- Graduate with an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher

Fast Track (Graduate Scholar) Program Requirements

- Complete the teacher certification program within two years (extenuating circumstances, academic or personal, that require more time will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis)
- Enroll full-time during the stipend year
- Graduate with an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher

Program Requirements Post-Graduation for Award Forgiveness

- Full participation in and successful completion of post-graduation Project SERVE activities
- Provide evidence of zero infractions (misdemeanor or felony as required by the Nebraska Department of Education)
- Commit to completing two years of service in a high-need school* as a mathematics or science teacher for each year of scholarship or stipend received.

*A high-need school means a local educational agency (for example, a school district) that serves a secondary school located in an area which is characterized by at least one of the following: (a) a high percentage of individuals from families with incomes below the poverty line; (b) a high percentage of secondary school teachers not teaching in the content area in which they were trained to teach; or (c) a high teacher turnover rate.

- An individual awarded a scholarship (undergraduate) must serve as a STEM teacher in a high-need local educational agency for two years for each full-year of a scholarship received (which equates to four years for Doane Noyce undergraduate scholars), to be fulfilled within eight years after graduation.
 - An individual awarded a stipend (graduate) must serve as a STEM teacher in a high-need local educational agency for two years, to be fulfilled within four years after completing the program.
 - The teaching assignment for undergraduate and graduate awardees must be 60% or more in a STEM area.
- Provide the institution with annual certification of employment and up-to-date contact information, and participate in all activities (e.g. surveys) conducted as part of institution project-level and NSF program-level evaluation (i.e. demographic data or other relevant program statistics).
 - I understand that my participation in the program is not an assurance of continued employment and that collaborating districts are not obligated to maintain continuous employment in a high-need setting.

Scholarship/Stipend Repayment Information

The scholarship/stipend may revert to a loan, meaning that the recipient will be required to repay all or a portion of the scholarship/stipend, if one or more of the following occurs:

- The recipient fails to maintain an acceptable level of academic standing in the program in which the individual is enrolled.
- The recipient is dismissed from the program or institution for disciplinary reasons.
- The recipient withdraws from the program before graduation or the completion of post-graduation requirements.
- The recipient declares that the individual does not intend to fulfill the teaching service commitment.
- The recipient fails to fulfill the teaching service commitment within the allotted time frame. Annual employment certification will be sent to the Project SERVE Coordinator each year before August 1st after graduation, until the program requirements are met.
- If a Scholar is unable to complete any of the teaching requirements in the allotted time frame due to extraordinary circumstances, repayment may be deferred or cancelled at the discretion of the Project SERVE committee. All requests for such consideration will be reviewed, and repayment requirements determined on a case-by-case basis.

If program withdrawal occurs before the completion of one year of the teaching service commitment, the total amount of scholarship or stipend received by the individual must be repaid. If program withdrawal occurs after the completion of one year of the teaching service commitment, the amount to be repaid will be determined as follows:

- For a scholarship recipient, a proportion of the total scholarship awards received by the individual, prorated appropriately to reflect partial service completed; or
- For a stipend recipient, one-half of the total amount of stipend received by the individual.

Any such repayment will be made to Doane University on behalf of the Federal Government (the Treasury of the United States), consistent with the provisions of part B or D of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. In the event the Noyce award converts to a loan, the recipient must repay the amount owed (including interest) as follows:

- The interest rate is a fixed annual rate of 3.5% on the amount owed.
- Interest begins accruing 1 month after default (employment certification to be sent annually before August 1st. This document will be used to communicate program compliance and withdrawal.).
- The borrower has up to 6 years (72 months) to repay the loan in quarterly installments (every 3 months).
- Late charges of \$25 will be applied 15 days after the due date.
- All payments and pre-payments will be applied in the following order: late charges and collection charges, outstanding interest, outstanding principal.
- The borrower agrees to pay costs and expenses necessary for collection of any unpaid amount (to the extent permitted by law), including reasonable attorneys' fees or outside collection agency fees.



Award Letter Acknowledgement and Signature

My signature on this award letter indicates that I have read and understand the terms of this agreement. I understand that prior to receiving any scholarship or stipend funds, a Project Director, the Project Coordinator, or a Financial Aid counselor will carefully review this agreement with each Noyce Scholar and explain the conditions of the award and their teaching commitment. By signing this form, I am allowing the Doane University Financial Aid Office to share FAFSA and other financial award information with the Project SERVE committee. In addition, by signing this form, I agree to complete the teaching obligation of working in a high-need school* two years for each year of scholarship or stipend received. If I fail to complete the program requirements, I agree to repay the required portion of the scholarship or stipend provided by the Noyce Project SERVE program, as stipulated by this agreement.

Print First and Last Name

Date

Signature

Social Security Number: _____ Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

Permanent Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email address: _____

