What does CS-LEAP stand for?

CS-LEAP stands for the **Computer Science LEadership And Practice** scholarship program.

Where does the CS-LEAP funding come from?

The CS-LEAP scholarship program is supported by a $573,000 grant from the National Science Foundation[1]. NSF funding for this project covers a period of four years.

What is the purpose of this scholarship program?

The CS-LEAP program provides substantial financial support to students who transfer into the CS major at SUNY Potsdam seeking a Bachelor's degree in CS.

Who is our target audience?

We designed the CS-LEAP program primarily for students who transfer from a SUNY or CUNY community college with an Associate of Science degree in CS. We have articulation agreements with most SUNY CCs that have AS degree programs in CS. If you transfer with an AS degree in CS from one of these community colleges into the SUNY Potsdam CS degree program, you can finish your degree requirements in two years of additional study. If you have taken CS coursework at another institution but do not have an AS degree in CS, you may still be considered for a CS-LEAP scholarship.

How much scholarship support can you expect?

The amount of CS-LEAP scholarship support available to you per year will be limited to the total cost of attendance at SUNY Potsdam minus your estimated family contribution as determined by your FAFSA. The

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[1] www.nsf.gov

average award is expected to be $8,500/year, up to a maximum of $10,000/year. Scholarship support will normally cover a maximum of two years of your study at SUNY Potsdam.

For the 2011/2012 academic year, the total cost of attendance at SUNY Potsdam is estimated to be $19,020. This comprehensive cost includes tuition, fees, room, board, books, transportation, and personal expenses.

Are you eligible?

You are eligible for consideration as a CS-LEAP scholarship recipient if:

- you are a citizen or national of the United States as defined in Section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, an alien admitted as a refugee under Section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, or an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence;

- you are able to demonstrate financial need (see above);

- you have completed an Associate of Science degree in CS from a SUNY or CUNY community college or you are a transfer student who has attained Junior standing (57 or more semester credits) with substantial lower-level coursework in computer science and mathematics typical of a student in an AS degree program in CS; and

- you have a minimum GPA of 3.0 in computer science coursework and a minimum of 2.5 GPA overall in transfer credits.

We will consider your application for scholarship support if you do not meet one or both of the last two eligibility requirements but you can provide evidence (such as through your application letter and letters of support) that you are likely to succeed in the CS program at SUNY Potsdam.

What will you do once you have been accepted as a CS-LEAP Scholar?

First you will meet with our college transfer advisor sometime during the summer to review your transfer credits and to go over your remaining requirements for the Bachelor's degree and CS major.

Your first scheduled on-campus activity as a CS-LEAP scholar will be to attend the Transitions Conference on the Saturday before Fall Semester classes begin. At this Conference, you will have the opportunity to learn more about SUNY Potsdam college life and the support structures available to you through Student Affairs. At the conclusion of the Transitions Conference on that Saturday, you will attend a "Leap Forward" afternoon event with other CS-LEAP scholars, peer mentors, and CS faculty. At the Leap Forward event, you will learn about CS degree requirements, how to log on and use the CS computer systems, and how to access other campus computing resources. You will have the opportunity to refresh and build your knowledge of the programming languages that we typically use in our courses. The Leap Forward event will include a Q&A session with a panel of upper-level CS majors, after which you will be introduced to your peer mentor.

What are your continuing responsibilities as a CS-LEAP scholar?

As a CS-LEAP scholar, you are expected to

- maintain acceptable academic standing,

- carry a full-time course load,

- make satisfactory progress toward meeting Bachelor's degree and CS major requirements, and

- maintain a GPA of 2.5 or above in all courses required for the CS major.

You will also be required to attend weekly CS-LEAP Leadership Seminars, typically scheduled for Friday afternoons. These seminars will offer you opportunities to become more effective at public speaking and in professional networking. To understand your own personality traits and inter-personal characteristics, you will complete a leadership inventory, take leadership and personality style assessments, engage in team-building activities, work with your peer mentor, and participate in a "business etiquette" dinner. The Leadership Seminar will sponsor monthly presentations by computer professionals; you will be expected to participate in the selection of these presenters and to arrange for their travel and lodging.

Contact information

For further information, contact

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How do you apply?

Use the following checklist to guide your application process:

- ☐ Visit our CS Department website[2] to familiarize yourself with SUNY Potsdam's academic program in Computer Science.

- ☐ Discuss your plans with your community college major and transfer advisors.

- ☐ Apply for admission to SUNY Potsdam.

- ☐ If you do not have up-to-date FAFSA documentation, start your application now by following the SUNY Potsdam Financial Aid Checklist[3]. If you have FAFSA documentation on file at your community college, update your FAFSA application with current information and add SUNY Potsdam's school code (002850) so we have access to this information. Contact the financial aid office at SUNY Potsdam[4] or your community college if you need help. Your FAFSA documentation must be available for our review prior to your receiving a scholarship award.

- ☐ Prepare a letter of application for the CS-LEAP scholarship program. This letter should provide us with

    - a summary of your academic background,
    - a description of your motivation to seek a Bachelor's degree in CS at SUNY Potsdam, and
    - your career goals following graduation.

    Send your letter of application by email to `fossumtv@potsdam.edu`.

- ☐ Line up two letters of support. These letters should clearly address

    - your academic performance and promise as a candidate for a Bachelor's Degree in CS, and
    - your personal characteristics including motivation, time management ability, and communication skills.

    One of these letters will normally be from your major advisor. Arrange to have your letters of support sent by email to `fossumtv@potsdam.edu`.

Scholarship decision

We can accept your CS-LEAP scholarship application at any time. We will make a scholarship award decision as soon as we have received your CS-LEAP letter of application, your two letters of support, your up-to-date FAFSA information, and a confirmation of your admission to SUNY Potsdam.

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[2]`http://cs.potsdam.edu`
[3]`http://www.potsdam.edu/admissions/financial/apply/new_students.cfm`
[4]`mailto:finaid@potsdam.edu`