To apply to the Mathematics & Science for Minority Students program – better known as (MS)$^2$, candidates must complete the (MS)$^2$ online application.

The (MS)$^2$ application consists of multiple sections, some that should be completed by the applicant, while others must be completed by a family member (parent or guardian). The applicant may begin a section, logout, and then return at a later date to complete the application. Information requested includes:

- Applicant Information
- Household Information
- Affiliations
- School Information
- Recommendations
- Current Grades/Transcript
- Applicant Essays
- Parent Essays
- Financial Statement (Income Verification)

Applicants must submit four recommendations – Math, Science, Guidance Counselor (or a school official), and Supplemental. Applicants will provide the name and email address of each of their four recommenders within the online application. Our system then will generate an automatic email that will be sent to each recommender with a link to an online recommendation form. Applicants will be able to see when their recommendations have been submitted through the Applicant Profile in their online account (by going to “Check Application Status” on our website.)

(MS)$^2$ is a scholarship program. In order for an application to be considered complete, applicants must provide verification of household income for each of their parent(s)/guardian(s). Applicants must upload (e.g., scanned PDF, jpg photo, etc.) a signed copy of their parent(s)/guardian(s) tax return or other documentation in order to submit the online application.

Below are detailed instructions and screen shots of the online application. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the (MS)$^2$ office at ms2@andover.edu or (978) 749-4402. We are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm (EST).
1) **Log on to the (MS)² website:** [www.andover.edu/ms2](http://www.andover.edu/ms2).
2) Click “APPLY FOR (MS)2.”
3) **Click on “APPLY NOW.”**

All prospective (MS)$^2$ scholars must establish an account before starting their (MS)$^2$ application. Accounts are created by completing the (MS)$^2$ Inquiry Form, which is accessed through the “APPLY NOW” button.

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**Apply today to (MS)$^2$!**

(\textit{MS)}^2 accepts applications from African American, Hispanic/Latinx, and Native American students who are currently in the 9th grade in the following city public school districts: Atlanta; Baltimore; Boston; Chicago; Cleveland; Fort Worth, Texas; Lawrence, Mass.; Louisville, Ky.; Memphis, Tenn.; and New York City, as well as Washington, D.C. Native American students may apply from any geographic area of the United States. All candidates must have a demonstrated financial need.

The (MS)$^2$ program will begin accepting applications for summer 2021 on October 15. Please check back then to begin your online application.

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**STEP 1: CREATE ACCOUNT**

All prospective (MS)$^2$ scholars must establish an account before starting their (MS)$^2$ application. Click the “Apply Now” button to create an account.
4) **Complete Inquiry Form.**

Once (MS)$^2$ the inquiry form is submitted, a confirmation email will be sent to the "contact email" provided. It will contain the account **Username** and **Password**. The applicant will use these credentials to log in to the application to answer essays, request teacher recommendations, submit financial documents, etc.
5) Log in to Application.

We encourage applicants to bookmark the “Online Application Login” page so that they may easily return to the application – to continue working on their essays, submit the completed application, and check the status of requested recommendations.
6) Check Application Status.

Each time an applicant logs in to their account, they will be brought to the “Applicant Profile.”

- If an applicant is just beginning an application, click "Apply Now."
- Returning applicants will be able to continue an application they have started by clicking on “Online Application in Progress-MS2” in the “Applications” box.
- Applicants will see the status of recommendations or other required documents in "Status Update" box.
7) How to Apply

When you begin your application you will see instructions on how to navigate within the application.
8) Applicant Information

In this section, the applicant will provide basic biographical information (e.g., name, grade, email, cell phone).

9) Primary/Secondary Residence Information

Applicants provide information on each of their parent(s)/guardians(s) (e.g., name, address, email, cell phone).

10) Affiliations

Applicants indicate whether they have any family who have attended (MS)$^2$ or Phillips Academy, Andover.
11) School Information

Applicants provide the name, city and state of their school as well as the name and contact information for their guidance counselor/administrator.

12) Recommendations

Applicants must submit four recommendations – Math, Science, Guidance Counselor (or a school official), and Supplemental. Applicants will provide the name and email address of each of their four recommenders in the online application. Our system then will generate an automatic email that will be sent to each recommender with a link to an online recommendation form. Applicants are responsible for ensuring their teachers submit their recommendation forms by the December 31 deadline. Applicants can see the status of each recommendation form (e.g., date submitted) on their Applicant Profile.

If a recommendation request is being sent to a teacher, the applicant should currently be enrolled in this teacher's class. For those applicants who are on a Block Schedule and not currently enrolled in a course for which there is a required recommendation, you may still apply. Please contact us at ms2@andover.edu for guidance on whom to request a recommendation.

If an applicant does not have a guidance counselor, a request may be sent to the Head of School, principal, vice principal, or another member of the school's administration who can provide an official account of the applicant's academic performance. A copy of the applicant's school transcript must be submitted at the same time the school official submits the guidance counselor recommendation form.

Supplemental recommendation requests may be sent to a coach, faith leader, employer, scout leader, current/former teacher, or adult who has worked closely with the applicant.
Guide to Online Application

Recommendation Form

Applicants should request a recommendation from those who are most familiar with the applicant's character and academic achievements.

- If the request is sent to a teacher, the applicant should specify the teacher's email.
- If the applicant does not have a guidance counselor, a request may be sent to the advisor.
- The school's administration can provide an official account of the student's academic performance.
- Supplemental recommendations may be sent to a coach, an employer, a school leader, a former teacher, or other adults who have worked closely with the applicant.

Please fill in the first and last names, as well as the email address, of the person from whom you are requesting a recommendation on behalf of the applicant.

Add Additional Applicant

If you are not sure which section to complete, ask the applicant's guidance counselor.

If the applicant's guidance counselor or advisor is available, set up a time to discuss the applicant's progress.

If the applicant's guidance counselor or advisor is not available, ask the applicant to complete the form on their own or ask a parent/guardian to help.

If the applicant is not available or does not have a guidance counselor or advisor, please fill in the information below.

Applicant's Name

Teacher's First Name

Teacher's Last Name

Email

Guidance Counselor

Add an Additional Applicant
13) Current Grades/Transcript

Applicants must submit a transcript of their 9th grade classes and grades. This document does not need to be an official "paper" school transcript. You may submit a PDF or photo of your most recent report card and/or progress report.

14) Applicant Essays

Applicants must respond to the Essay and each of the four short answer questions. The Essay should be 300-500 words or fewer. Short Answer Questions each should be 150 words or fewer.

**Essay Question. Tell Us Your Story.**
In 300-500 words, introduce yourself, your family and community and your role within them, describe your interests, activities, what you value or brings you joy.

**Short Answer Questions**
1. How did you learn about (MS)² and what motivated you to apply? What excites you about being a (MS)² scholar?
2. The mission of (MS)² is to advance diversity in the STEM fields by cultivating the mathematical and scientific abilities of underrepresented high school students of color. What topic or idea do you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time? Why does it captivate you? What areas are you interested in exploring in college and beyond?
3. A cornerstone of the (MS)² program is the annual, student-led Cultural Sharing performance. This cherished event celebrates the cultures, heritage, and identities of our scholars. What would you like to share about your cultural heritage with the Phillips Academy community and why? What would you like to learn about the other cultures represented in the program?
4. We recognize that three summers is both an opportunity and a sacrifice for you. What do you hope to gain by participating in (MS)²? In what ways do you think you can contribute to our learning community?
5. (OPTIONAL) If there is anything else you would like us to know about you as we review your application?
15) Parent/Guardian Essays

Parents/guardians are asked to write short answers to the following questions:

1. Please describe the applicant's family (e.g., who is in the family unit). List the members who reside in the applicant's primary household and their relationship to the applicant.
2. How do you believe your student will react to living away from home? Has the applicant been away from home for an extended period of time? How do you as the parent/guardian feel about not having your student home for five weeks for three consecutive summers?
3. Please comment on the applicant's initiative, determination, self-reliance, sense of humor, social skills, etc.
4. What concerns, if any, do you have about the applicant attending the (MS)2 program?
5. Is there anything else you would like us to know about your applicant?
16) Financial Information

In order for an application to be considered complete, applicants must provide verification of household income for each of their parent(s)/guardian(s). Applicants must upload (e.g., scanned PDF, jpg photo, etc.) a signed copy of their parent(s)/guardian(s) tax return or other documentation in order to submit the online application. In addition, parents/guardians are asked (but not required) to provide the following demographic information:

- First generation 4-year college student
- English-only language household
- Single-family household
- Free or Reduced-Lunch eligible
17) Submit Application

(MS)$^2$ is a scholarship program. There is no fee to apply, and all accepted scholars attend free of charge. Transportation expenses (included airfare) are included in the scholarship for all three summers.

By clicking on the "Submit Application" button, I certify that all information is accurate to the best of my knowledge.