

STEM Scholars @ Sowers

“There is a sense of community throughout the building. Everybody is having a good time bonding on both a friendship and academic level.”

-Former Resident Peer Mentor Lap Nguyen



“Half of the people on my floor are in my biology class. Before an exam we are all in the lounge studying together. It’s great.”

-Former STEM Resident

STEM Scholar Staff

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What is STEM?

STEM stands for **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics** and refers to majors, disciplines, and careers in these areas.

STEM includes the health professions, which require strong backgrounds in science.

Why STEM?

STEM related careers are in high demand! Both the US Government and the State of Maryland have indicated that colleges and universities are not graduating enough **STEM** students to meet current demand. Unemployment in **STEM** is far below the national average.

Unemployment in STEM

Chemistry	4.3% ↓	Biology	5.4% ↑
Computer Science	4.3% ↓	Medicine	1.2% ↓
Mathematics	7.2%	Dentistry	~0% ↓
Physics	5.8%	Veterinary	~0% ↓
Electrical Engineering	3.9% ↓	Pharmacy	4.1% ↓
Mechanical Engineering	6.4%	Wildlife/Zoology	12.5% ↑
Chemical Engineering	2.9% ↓	Geoscience	6.1%
US National Average Unemployment Rate		8.3% ↓	

What are STEM Scholars?

STEM Scholars are freshman **STEM** majors who live in Sowers Hall, which is reserved for the **STEM Scholars** program. As a **STEM Scholar** you will have access to additional resources and opportunities for academic success that other freshmen will not have.

Why choose STEM Scholars?

Students interested in **STEM** fields of study face many challenges. **STEM** majors are among the most challenging at FSU. Living in a **STEM** community will help you build a solid foundation in **STEM** areas so that they are prepared to both live and work in the 21st Century.

Benefits of living in Sowers

- Positive and collaborative community of **STEM Scholars** devoted to academic success
- Many **STEM Scholars** will be in the same classes as you!
- Access to a Resident Peer Mentor and Resident Assistants who are upper-class STEM majors
- Exclusive **STEM Scholars** programming
- Close proximity to **STEM** buildings Compton, Gunter, and Lowndes
- Eligibility for textbook scholarships

Do I need to be a STEM major?

YES!

You need to be intending to major in a **STEM** discipline to live in Sowers and be a **STEM Scholar**.

The success of the **STEM Scholars** program relies on active and engaged participants. The full benefits of the program are only possible if you are truly passionate about the **STEM** aspects of the career you are pursuing.

What are the STEM majors?

- Biology
 - Including Ethnobotany, Interpretive Biology & Natural History, and Wildlife & Fisheries
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
 - Including Computer Information Systems, Information Technology, and Secure Computing & Information Assurance
- Engineering
 - Including the FSU-UMCP collaborative program in Mechanical Engineering and the FSU-UMPC Dual Degree in Engineering
- Geography
 - Including Earth Science, Environmental Analysis & Planning, and Urban & Regional Planning
- Mathematics
- Physics

Can I be a STEM Scholar if I am pre-health professions?

Yes!

At FSU, the pre-health professions programs are not academic majors. Since these careers require strong backgrounds in science, pre-health professions students often choose **STEM** majors. As long as you intend to major in a **STEM** discipline, you can be a **STEM Scholar!**

Do I have to live in Sowers to be a STEM Scholar?

Yes!

The benefits of the **STEM Scholars** program are only available to the residential community in Sowers. Students living in other residence halls, in Edgewood Commons, or off-campus will not have access to the specialized programming or resident peer mentor.

Do I have to be a **STEM Scholar** to live in Sowers ?

Yes!

The **STEM Scholars** program is a supportive and collaborative community dedicated to academic success in STEM. Residents of Sowers will be expected to be active, engaged, and positive contributors to the **STEM Scholars** community.

Can I choose my roommate?

Yes!

If you and another **STEM Scholar** want to be roommates, you can request a specific roommate in Welcome Mat. Otherwise, roommates are matched based on your profiles on Welcome Mat and Please Don't Snore.

You cannot room with someone who is not a **STEM Scholar** if you wish to participate in the program.

Do I have to be in a specific learning community?

No!

The **STEM Scholars** program is a residential program only. You are welcome to choose whichever learning community best fits your interests and needs. Since **STEM Scholars** are focused on academic success, you are encouraged to choose the learning community appropriate for your intended major.

What is expected of STEM Scholars?

- Be active and engaged in **STEM** activities in Sowers and across campus
- Be supportive to other **STEM Scholars** and a positive contributor to the community
- Be open-minded, courageous, and persistent in pursuit of your academic success in **STEM**
- Have fun!

Is STEM a substance-free community?

Yes!

The **STEM Scholars** program is allied to the **bWell** program in neighboring Allen Hall. **STEM** and **bWell** are focused on providing supportive and positive residential communities. Residents of Allen and Sowers set their own substance-free and behavior policies above those set by Residence Life and FSU.

How do I become a STEM Scholar?

1. Show interest by
 - Selecting **STEM** on Welcome Mat.
 - Attending this session.
2. Fill out an application so we can verify your eligibility.
3. Connect with **STEM Scholar** staff during Preview for a brief interview.
4. Update your housing preferences in Welcome Mat **before you go home.**

For More Information

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