

The Nicholas J. Deleonardis Undergraduate Award of The American Sign Language Project

Application deadline: July 1st, 2025

The goal of the Nicholas J. Deleonardis Undergraduate Award is to encourage full-time undergraduate college students to engage in projects centered on non-invasive technologies that will improve communication between Deaf and hearing people.

Amount of Award

\$1000

Award program guidelines

To be eligible, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be currently enrolled as an undergraduate student in a baccalaureate program at an accredited four-year college or a university in the United States. Work of a recent (within six months) graduate of an accredited four-year college or university in the United States will also be considered.
- Have completed a project (either research or creation of a product) involving non-invasive technology that will improve communication between Deaf and hearing people.
- The project must be the original work of the applicant.
- The project must have been completed by the applicant as part of their coursework at the accredited four-year college or university from which they will graduate or have recently graduated.
- Have permanent U.S. residency
- Have earned a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (or the equivalent)
- Complete the entire application packet

Application materials must include

- A 500-1000 word written summary describing the project.
- Project presentation materials (slides, written materials, links to web pages created by the student) The applicant will not have to make a formal, in-person presentation of the work, but the materials should be suitable for a presentation.
- A letter of recommendation (500-1000 words) from a faculty member who is familiar with the applicant's academic record, skills and abilities
- A personal statement, no more than 500 words, that explains how the applicant became interested in non-invasive technology for better Deaf/hearing communication.
- Completed application form
- Official college transcript
- Proof of permanent residency, if not a U.S. citizen

Nicholas J. Deleonardis Undergraduate Research Award Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated for the following:

- Quality of submitted project materials, including
 - Commitment to facilitating better Deaf / hearing communication
 - Creativity
 - Understanding of challenges of research area, e.g. Deaf culture
 - Knowledge of current options available to the Deaf
 - Paper organization
 - Quality of writing (clarity, grammar, syntax, spelling)
- Personal Statement
- Letter of Recommendation from supervising faculty member
- Other qualifications as stated above – Undergraduate status, completed application, GPA, Permanent residency of U.S.

A review committee established by The American Sign Language Project will choose the award recipient based on the submitted materials.

Application Period, Process and Deadline

Application materials must be received no earlier than 60 days before the posted deadline and must be received by The American Sign Language Project no later than the posted deadline.

Application materials will not be returned. Do not send originals of important documents. The American Sign Language Project is not responsible for lost, delayed or misdelivered applications.

Research Award Winner

The winner of The Nicholas J. Deleonardis Undergraduate Research Award of The American Sign Language Project will be notified approximately six to ten weeks after the posted deadline. The winner will receive a check or similar remittance of the award amount after confirmation of the winner's address.

The American Sign Language Project reserves the right to announce that no winner has been chosen if none of the applications meet its selection criteria.

The winner of the **Nicholas J. Deleonardis Undergraduate Research Award** agrees to allow The American Sign Language Project to use his or her name and photo, image or likeness on the corporation's website and in public announcements and press releases about the award.

Statement of Non-discrimination

The American Sign Language Project does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, disability, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, religious beliefs, or gender.

Closely Associated Parties are not eligible for the award

Relatives of current or former members of The American Sign Language Project are not eligible for the **Nicholas J. Deleonardis Undergraduate Research Award**. Relatives of major contributors to The American Sign Language Project are not eligible for the **Nicholas J. Deleonardis Undergraduate Research Award**.

Application Delivery Method and Address

Send applications to scholarship@aslproject.com

Application Checklist

- Completed application form
- Official college transcript
- A signed letter of recommendation
- Proof of permanent residency, if not a U.S. citizen
- Research paper
- Personal statement

The Nicholas J. Deleonardis Undergraduate Award Application

Read the eligibility guidelines. Review the application checklist before mailing.

Please type or print clearly. All Fields must be completed

Name _____
First Middle Last

Address _____
Street City State Zip Code

Telephone (_____) _____

E-Mail address _____

Are you an American citizen? ____ Yes ____ No

Are you a Permanent Resident of the U.S.? ____ Yes ____ No

Year in college (circle) Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Recent Graduate

Expected year of graduation _____ GPA _____ out of _____

College major _____ minor (if applicable) _____

Required Materials to be Prepared and Submitted by the Applicant

- A 500-1000 word written summary describing the project.
- Project presentation materials (slides, written materials, links to web pages created by the student) The applicant will not have to make a formal, in-person presentation of the work, but the materials should be suitable for a presentation.
- A personal statement, no more than 500 words, that explains how the applicant became interested in non-invasive technology for better Deaf/hearing communication.

Required Materials to be Prepared and Submitted by a Faculty Member

- A letter of recommendation (500-1000 words) from a faculty member who is familiar with the applicant's academic record, skills, and abilities

Please provide the name and address of the person writing the letter of recommendation on your behalf in the area below:

Name of Recommending
Faculty Member _____
Title _____
School _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____
Telephone _____ Circle: voice TTY
E-Mail address _____

Phone number must be included.

To the best of my knowledge, all information that I have provided in my application is accurate and true and may be verified through any means necessary. I authorize The American Sign Language Project to confirm any details in this application by contacting the appropriate persons.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Applicant must send the completed package of required materials prepared by applicant to scholarship@aslproject.com

Recommending faculty member must send the completed letter of recommendation to scholarship@aslproject.com