



## ***Tools for Success*** **Program Application**

### **About the Program**

The National Science Foundation (NSF), established in 1950, promotes and advances scientific progress in the United States. It is committed to developing the nation's supply of scientists, engineers, and science educators by enabling individuals to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Miami Dade College shares this commitment and is sponsoring *Tools for Success* Program for students interested in furthering their education and pursuing careers in STEM disciplines.

*Tools for Success* is a Miami Dade College and NSF program at Wolfson and Kendall Campuses offering academic and financial support to students majoring in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) fields. The goal of *Tools for Success* is to prepare students academically so that they will successfully complete their AA degrees, transfer to four-year institutions and succeed in their STEM careers.

Students participating in the program will benefit from a full range of intensive and customized student services such as tutoring, advisement, mentoring, transfer and career counseling, as well as specially designed enrichment activities such as podcasts, science forums, field trips, and other extra-curricular activities. Through this program, students will have the opportunity to discover and experience the excitement of science, technology, engineering and math and learn about career opportunities. Tuition for each semester's special 1-credit *Tools for Success* course, an annual service award of \$1,000 as well as an iPod will be provided to students enrolled in the program.

### **Eligibility**

In order to be considered for this program, students must:

- Have an interest majoring in and transferring into a four-year program in a STEM discipline
- Be in their first year of college  
Minimum of 9 credits per major semester ( fall and spring)
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or above.
- Be a United States citizen, permanent resident, national or alien admitted as a refugee at the time of application.
- Be exempt from or have completed all college preparatory courses at the time of application, except MAT 1033.
- Submit a completed application packet, including a written essay stating your career goals, prior to the application deadline (July 25, 2008).
- Participate in an interview with the selection committee.



**Program Requirements:**

If accepted into the program, all students must:

- declare and complete a STEM major
- plan to transfer to a four year program and major in a STEM discipline
- enroll and successfully complete four 1-credit *Tools for Success* courses (1 each term, see page 3 of application packet for a description of the courses)
- serve as a mentor for first year students during their second year in the program
- participate in up to 4 hours a week of additional enrichment activities including meeting with their mentor, the Project Director, and faculty, attending field trips and Science Forums, and other related activities

**Application Deadline for Fall Term, 2008 is July 25, 2008**

**~~For more information, or if you have questions, please contact:~~**

Cynthia Conteh

Project Director

*Tools for Success*

Miami Dade College / Wolfson Campus

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Kendall Campus Phone: 305-237-2147

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## ***Tools for Success* Special 1-credit course descriptions**

As a participant in *Tools for Success*, you will take four one-credit courses (one each term) designed to provide the skills, study habits, knowledge base and discipline necessary to succeed as science, technology, engineering and mathematics majors. In addition, the final two courses in the sequence will provide one-on-one advisement and support as you research and apply to upper-division institutions as well as for grants and scholarships. All four courses will provide hands-on learning environments in which you will receive support from fellow students as well as from your professor.

### **Courses:**

#### **IDS 1107 Tools for Stem Success**

This course will teach you how to develop learning, writing, presentation, and technological skills necessary to succeed in the college STEM environment. You will establish effective time management, note-taking, and research skills and will enhance your collaborative learning skills. In addition, you will learn new “powerstudy” (concept-mapping) techniques. This course will be activity-oriented, and you will be provided regular opportunities to demonstrate your skills in a supportive, learning community environment.

#### **PSC 1191 Physical Science Lab Fundamentals**

In this course, you will learn how to develop observation, measurement, analysis and presentation skills using hands-on collaborative physics and chemistry activities. These skills will enhance future performance in science, technology, engineering and mathematics courses and careers. You will use current technology as well as critical thinking.

#### **IDS 2370 Leadership in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics**

In this course you will research your career interests and interview professionals in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. You will identify, compare, and evaluate upper-division degree programs and prepare applications for admission to these programs. You will also write successful application essays and develop interview skills for transfer.

#### **IDS 2371 Skills for Transfer Success**

In this course, you will prepare for matriculation to the upper division. You will learn to research, write, coordinate and present grants and scholarships as you finalize your applications. You will document your efforts in an electronic portfolio.



***Tools for Success***  
**Program Application**

**Applicant Information**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Miami Dade College Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apartment Number \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ High School GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ Current College GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_

**Checklist**

- Completed application form
- Essay describing your interest in science and career goals (1-2 pages in length)
- High school transcript or MDC Degree Audit
- Letter of recommendation using attached form (science, technology, engineering, or mathematics professor preferred) in a sealed envelope. Please provide his/her information below:

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_

How long has the reference been acquainted with the student? \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadlines for submission:**

- Fall semester (2008): July 25, 2008

**Send completed application packets to:**

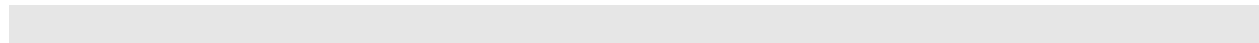
**Cynthia Conteh**

Project Director *Tools for Success*

Miami Dade College, Wolfson Campus

300 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue- Room 1540

Miami, FL 33132-2297





**Letter of Faculty / Administrator Recommendation**

Applicant's Last Name	Applicant's First Name	MDC Student Number
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Dear Faculty Member/Administrator: please complete the following form and return to the student in a sealed envelope for inclusion in their application package due July 25, 2008. Your candid assessment of this student will play a significant role in their selection.

Faculty / Administrator \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_ Campus \_\_\_\_\_ Office phone \_\_\_\_\_

How well do you know the applicant?  very well     well     fairly well     slightly

How long have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

In what capacity?     College instructor     High School instructor  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe the circumstances under which you have come to know the applicant.

Please evaluate the applicant in each of the following areas by checking the appropriate boxes. 1=Outstanding, 2=Above average, 3=Satisfactory, 4=Below average, 5=Cannot evaluate

Characteristic	1	2	3	4	5	Comments
Motivation						
Self direction						
Self confidence						
Maturity						
Empathy						
Judgment						
Dependability						
Personal integrity/responsibility						
Respect for others						
Ability to work in groups						
Contributions to the overall classroom learning environment						
Communication skills						
Resourcefulness						
Reliability						
Perseverance						
Eagerness to learn						
Intellectual curiosity						

