



# Guide to Preparing Your Application

*Congratulations!* We are SO excited you are applying for the **Aspirations in Computing Award!**

You can always ask us any questions you have about the application process or the application questions themselves. We are happy to help!

- email us: [aichelp@ncwit.org](mailto:aichelp@ncwit.org)
- call us: (970) 670-7545
- use the "Support" button on the right side of all the web pages

Support

## Things to know and information to have handy when completing your application:

### Your Profile

- To apply, you will need to first create a user profile on aspirations.org
  - You will need to list your home address, phone number, and zip code
  - You will also need to create a memorable password for your account
- The user profile will allow you to
  - log in and edit your application (including saving and coming back later)
  - check the status of the application and your required parent approval and endorsement

### Your **Social Security Number** or Tax I.D

- You will need to provide this information if you are declared a winner

### Whether you have immediate family members who are on **Staff** or a Board member of NCWIT - which disqualifies you :(

- Staff and board members are on [our web site](#)

Working **e-mail address** that you *check* on a regular basis!

### Name and **email address of your parent/guardian**

- Must be different from the email that you list for yourself, and should be one that is checked regularly
- You should inform your parent or guardian that you are applying for this award
- They will receive an email with instructions to view and endorse your application

### Your **school's name, complete address and telephone number**

### First and last **name, and email address of a person who can "endorse"** your application.

- Can be a Teacher, Counselor, Principal or other school official or a robotics Coach or similar non-school adult - **that knows you and your work and accomplishments in computing**
- The person you list should be made **aware** that you are using them as a reference
- It is also usually best to first **ask** their permission to use them as a reference.
- They will receive an email with instructions to view and endorse your application.

## Preparing Your Application

The application is divided into 10 sections. You will need to complete all 10 sections before you can submit your application for the award.

### 1. Personal Information

- This section asks for your name and address

### 2. Additional Information

- This section asks for your GPA

### 3. Access to Computing/Technology

- This section asks about your access to technology and computing at home and school

### 4. Experience with Technology

- This section is divided into 4 short answer questions (250 words or less) about your experience with technology
- Read through all questions before beginning
- The questions are
  - Please describe what sparked your interest in computing and technology AND WHY (for example: course(s) you have taken, family member influence; after-school program; etc.).
  - Please describe your typical experiences with technology and how you use it to further your knowledge of computing. This is your time to shine – tell us what you have been doing and be sure to give us specific details on your skills.
  - Please describe ways in which you have SHOWN LEADERSHIP in your school and/or your community in relation to promoting and sharing your knowledge of computing and technology.
  - *Optional:* If you have examples demonstrating your efforts and experience that you would like to share with us - such as a personal website, portfolio of Tech work, or video demonstration - please provide link(s) to the content. (URLs only; no uploads permitted)

### 5. Activities

- This section asks you to rate your level of involvement (none, some participation, or a lot of participation) in a list of Curricular, Co-curricular and Extracurricular activities
  - The list includes items such as computing/technology classes, clubs, or other extra-curricular programs or activities such as Girl Scouts, 4H, Big Brothers Big Sisters, etc.

### 6. Future Plans

- This section asks about your plans or ideas for after high school.
- It is divided into two essay questions:
  - Please describe HOW you would like computing and technology TO BE A PART OF your career goals.
  - Please describe a problem that you would like TO SOLVE using technology and explain HOW you would solve it (this could be a social problem, a technical problem, a local problem, a world problem, etc.).
- This section also asks what you are considering for your college degree choice

### 7. Interactive Multimedia

*NOTE: These questions are required but are for research purposes only and are not scored*

- This section asks you to rate your level of experience (no experience, some experience, or a lot of experience) with interactive multimedia products such as web design, game design, multimedia design, mobile app development, etc.

### 8. Programming

*NOTE: These questions are required but are for research purposes only and are not scored*

- This section asks you to rate your level of experience (no experience, some experience, or a lot of experience) with programming platforms such as robotics, coding, graphics, database design, etc.

### 9. Hardware / Networking / System Operations

*NOTE: These questions are required but are for research purposes only and are not scored*

- This section asks you to rate your level of experience (no experience, some experience, or a lot of experience) with hardware/networking/system operations activities such as computer maintenance, software installation, server support, network support, cyber security, etc.

### 10. Terms Privacy & Policy

- This section asks you to review and acknowledge the terms & conditions for the NCWIT Aspirations award.

## Additional Tips for Preparing Your Application

- Don't struggle; ask for help.
  - Reach out to a teacher, friend, parent, or us here at NCWIT for any questions or guidance on the application process
- Use specific examples to illustrate your experience/points you are writing about
- Proofread your work
  - Take a minute to check your work before submitting your application
  - You have the option to save your work and complete your application later if you are not ready or need more time to subm... (before the deadline)
- Ask someone else to proofread your work
  - Successful writers always ask for proofreading help. Ask someone to proofread your essay question answers to check for spelling, grammar, or other typos that will distract reviewers from "hearing" you.

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