Community College Internships (CCI) Application Assistance Workshop

Dr. Nastaran Ghazi

CCI Program Manager | Engineer



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Breakthroughs at the DOE National Laboratories

- **Advanced Supercomputing -**The National Labs operate some of the most significant high-performance computing resources available, including 32 of the 500 fastest supercomputers in the world. El Capitan is currently the world's fastest supercomputer and is owned by the U.S. DOE.
- **Put the Jolt in Volt-** Chevy's Volt would not be able to cruise on battery power were it not for the advanced cathode technology that emerged from a National Lab (specifically, Argonne National Lab).
- **Decoded DNA**-In 1990, the National Labs joined with the National Institutes of Health and other laboratories to kick off the Human Genome Project, an international collaboration to identify and map all of the genes of the human genome.
- **Brought the web to the U.S**.-National Lab scientists, seeking to share particle physics information, were first to install a web server in North America, kick-starting the development of the worldwide web as we know it.
- **Largest Digital Camera** – The SLAC National laboratory earned a Guinness World Record for developing the largest digital camera known as the LSST Camera.
- **World's First Video Game**- Before there was PlayStation or Nintendo, there was Tennis for Two, which may have been the first video game ever created, Brookhaven National Lab scientists built the pioneering system to entertain visitors to the Lab in 1958.
- **Nuclear Physics PhDs Research**-One-third of all nuclear physics PhDs awarded in the U.S. are based on research happening at Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Laboratory.
- **3D Printing Bigger and Better**-A large-scale additive manufacturing platform developed by a National Lab and an industry partner printed 3D components 10 times larger and 200 times faster than previous processes. So far, the system has produced a 3D-printed sports car, SUV, house, excavator and aviation components.
- **Discovered 22 elements** - To date the National Labs have discovered: technetium, promethium, astatine, neptunium, plutonium, americium, curium, berkelium, californium, einsteinium, fermium, mendelevium, nobelium, lawrencium, rutherfordium, dubnium, seaborgium, flerovium, moscovium, livermorium, tennessine and oganesson.

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Our Mission:

Deliver scientific discoveries and major scientific tools to transform our understanding of nature and advance the energy, economic, and national security of the United States[1]





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Steward **10** of the 17 DOE National Laboratories

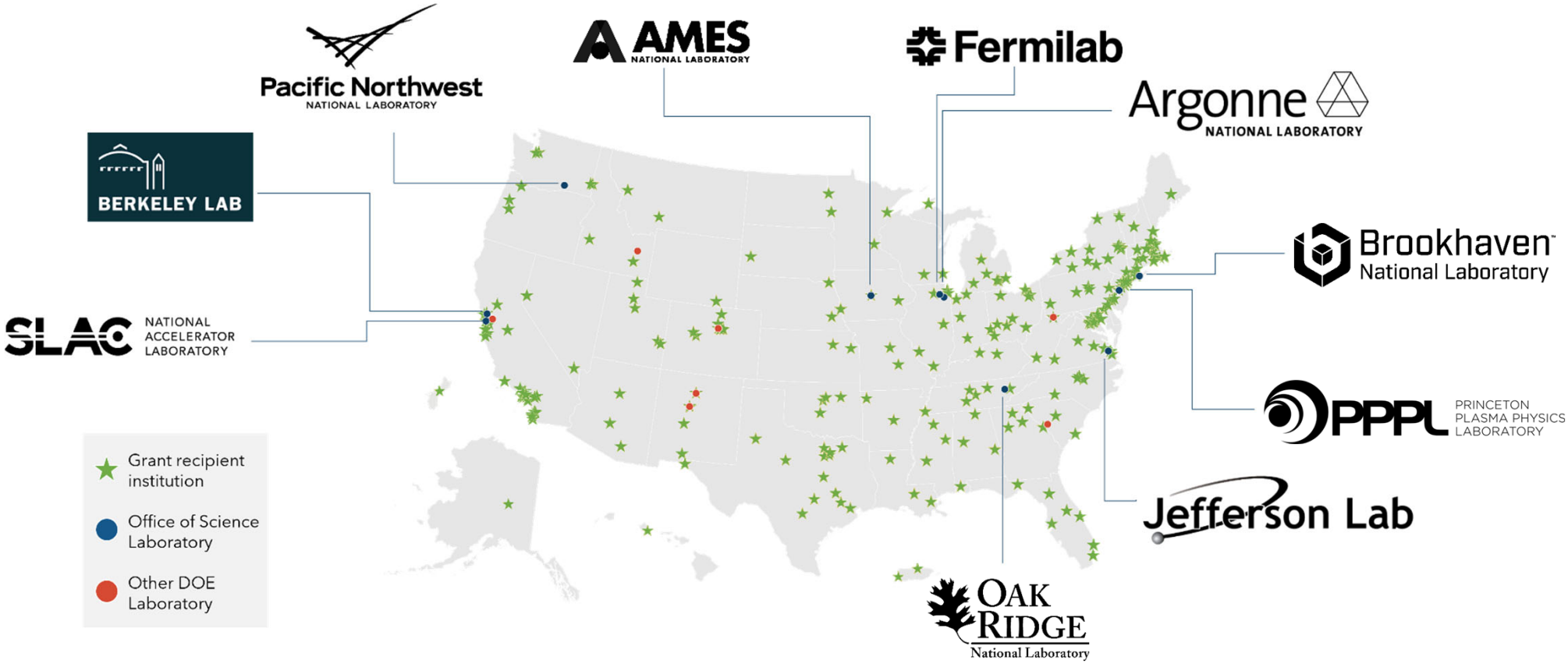


Nearly 40,000 users of **28** Office of Science scientific user facilities



$8.6B
(FY 25 President's Budget½

Where we are, who we support



Office of Science User Facilities

FY 2024
28 scientific user facilities
nearly **40,000** users













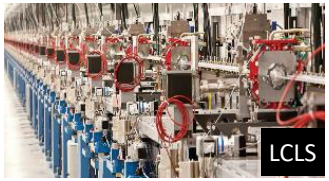




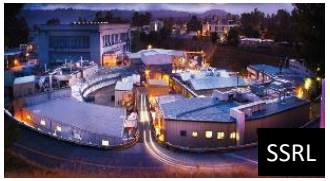


















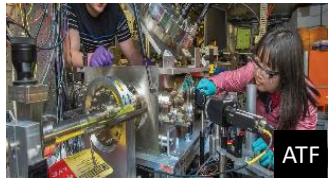






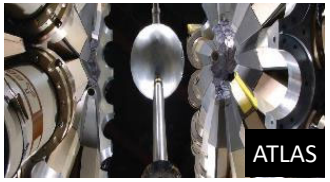
















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Discovery Science

Drives foundational research in physical sciences, computing, and chemistry, unveiling secrets of life, matter, the universe, and energy. We are the nation's largest federal sponsor of basic physical sciences research.

Providing Unique, World-Class Facilities

Accelerates discovery through world-class major scientific user facilities (e.g., particle colliders, X-ray light sources, supercomputers) used by thousands of researchers annually.

Building the Scientific Community

Cultivates the next generation of scientists, develops the scientific workforce, and fosters safe research environments, including collaborations with hundreds of universities and national laboratories.

- **Workforce Development is a pillar for DOE Science and Technology Mission**
- **DOE National Laboratories provide unique, world-class research and training environment for science and technology leaders for tomorrow**
- **Engaging students, educators, institutions, and communities for broadening participation in DOE, SC, and WDTS opportunities**

WDTS Mission: Sustaining a highly skilled STEM talent pool for a strong future DOE workforce



- Supporting best-in-class, hands-on training for STEM workforce
- Delivering ~1,200 undergraduate internships annually
- Elevating graduate training and research
- Supporting non-R1 faculty to collaborate at DOE Labs
- Inspiring K-12 students and supporting STEM teacher leaders nationwide

Community College Internships (CCI)

Program Highlights

- Prepare for technical careers and/or pursue 4-year degrees
- Hands-on, discovery learning, and professional development guided by mentors.
- Benefits: $650/week stipend, travel and lodging assistance
- Program Offered: Spring, Summer, Fall
- Summer 2025 Term Placements: ~130



Image Courtesy of Berkeley Lab

Learn more and apply at:

Eligibility Requirements

- **Citizenship**-Must be a United States Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident at the time of applying.
- **Age**-Must be **18 years or older** at the time the internship begins.
- **Enrollment**-Must be currently enrolled **part-time or full-time** at a community college or accredited two-year college and completed **at least one semester** at the time of applying.
- **High School Diploma or GED**- Must have earned a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED) equivalent at the time of applying.
- **Grade Point Average (GPA)**-Must have an undergraduate cumulative minimum GPA of 2.7 on a 4.0 scale for all completed courses taken as a matriculated student at the applicant's current (or recently-graduated) institution and at any undergraduate institutions attended as a matriculated postsecondary student during the 5 years preceding the start of the current enrollment.

  Note 1 :College courses completed during high school are not required to be reported.

  Note 2 : Applicants with a GPA of 2.7 to 2.95 must submit a waiver statement during the application to be considered.
- **Coursework**-Must have completed at least **6 credit hours** in science, mathematics, engineering, or technology course areas, and completed at **least 12 credits** hours towards a degree
- **Participation and Application Limit**-Applicants are limited to participation in CCI program to no more than **two internships**. Applicants can apply to the CCI program a **maximum of three times**.

Before you apply, verify you meet the "all" eligibility requirements.

Eligibility requirements: https://science.osti.gov/wdts/cci/Eligibility

Key Dates – CCI Internship summer 2026

Event	Date
On-line Application Opens	October 23, 2025
Applications including recommendations due	**January 7 , 2026 5:00 PM EST**
Offer Notification Period Begins on or around	February 5, 2026
All DOE Offers and Notifications Complete	On or around April 15, 2026

⚠**The Application System closes at 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time. Materials will not be accepted after the system has closed.**

Application Requirements



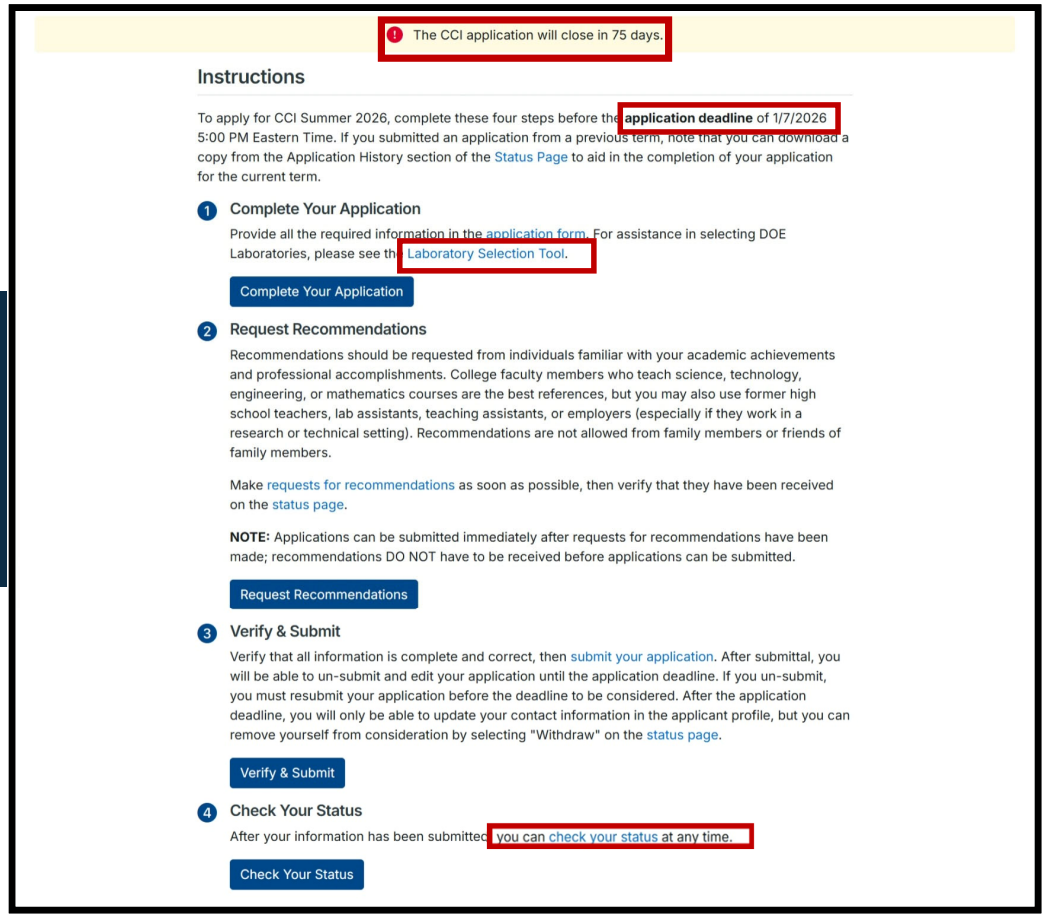
- **Submit online:** All applications must be completed online through the online application system.

  You will need to create an account to access the online application system.
- **Complete before the Deadline:** Only complete applications submitted by the deadline will be considered for evaluation and placement. As a reminder, letters of recommendations are a component of a completed application.
- **Technical Requirements:** The application system is compatible with smartphones. Completion of applications and letters of recommendation requires use of a computer and web browser.

Completed applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. EDT on January 7, 2026, through the online application system.

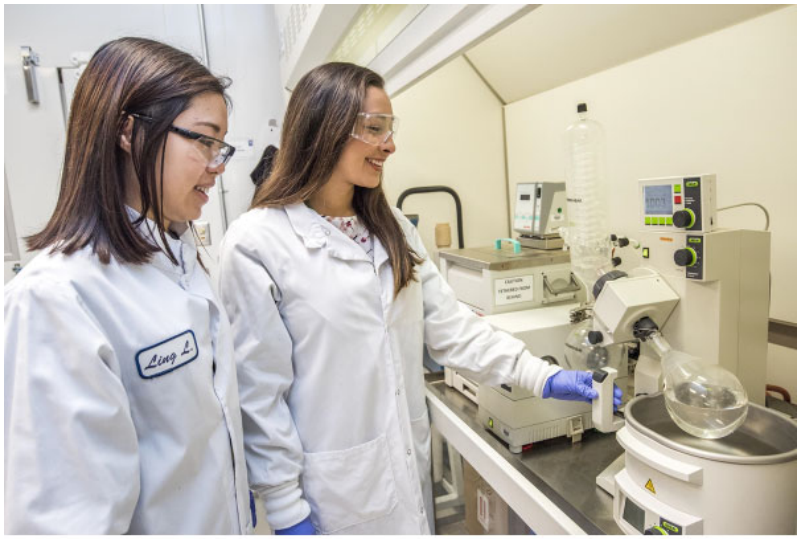
Navigating the Application

REMINDER: All application materials must be submitted through the Application Portal: https://apps.orau.gov/cci/Account/Login



Components of the CCI Application Menu

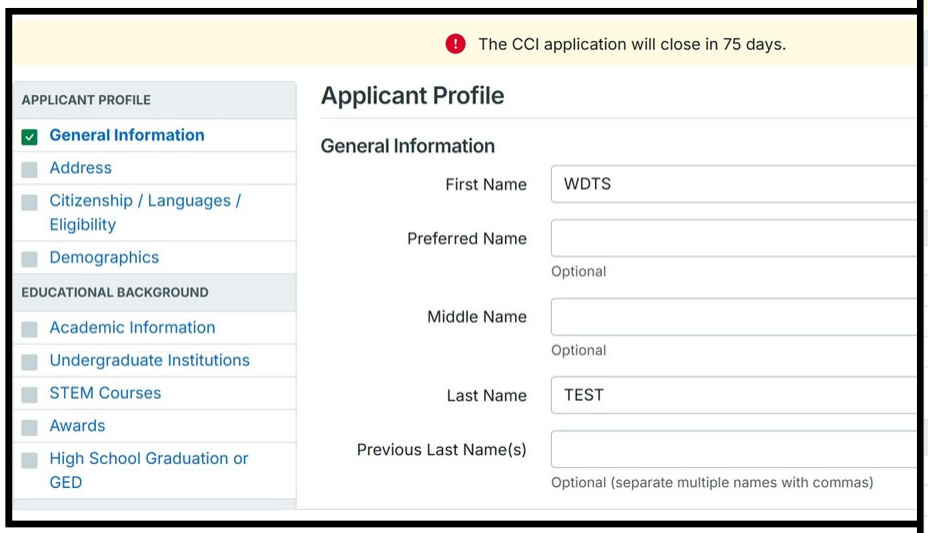
- Applicant Profile
- Educational Background
- Work Experience and Skills
- Program Information
- Essays

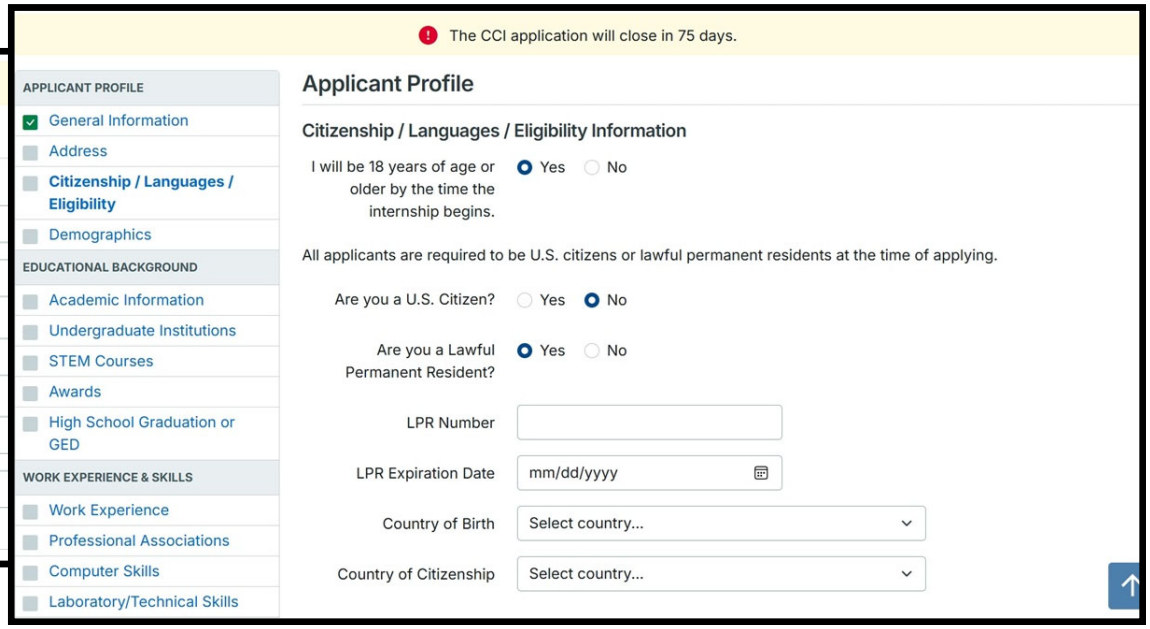


Credit: **Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory**

Applicant Profile

Applicant Profile





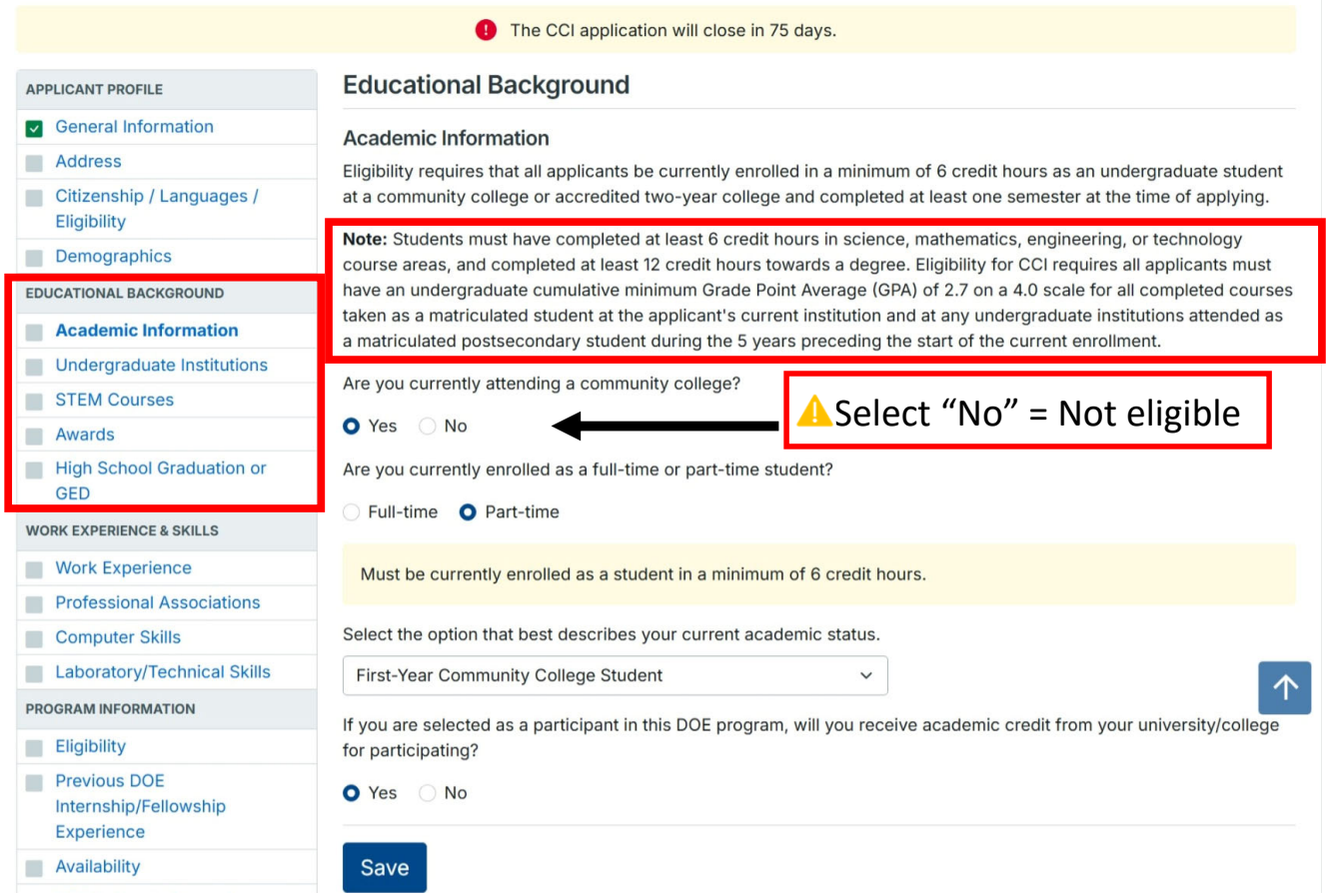
- Name must match that on transcript and letters of recommendation!
- Will you be 18 years or older by the start of the internship?
- Are you a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident?

Response “No” → **Not Eligible**

Response “No” → **Not Eligible**

Educational Background

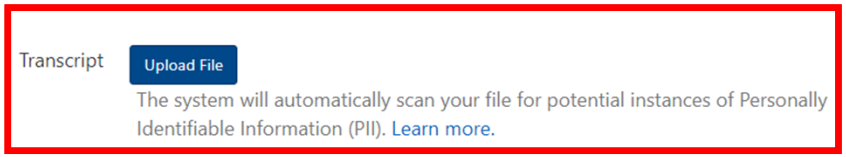
Educational Background



Educational Background: Submitting Transcripts

Requirements for Transcript:

- ❑ Eligibility requires submission of the transcript from an applicant's **current institution**. This must be the **most recent transcript** available at the time of application.
- ❑ Recent is defined as the transcript printed or accessed no earlier than the opening date of the application or **October 23rd , 2026**.
- ❑ Upload a transcript in Pdf format in the application system for each postsecondary institution enrolled within the last 5 years of most recent enrollment.

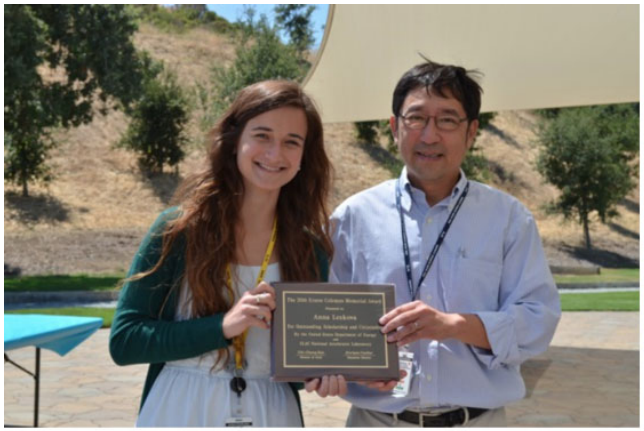


Guidelines for uploading transcript:

- **Redact personal identifiable information (PII) such as full date of birth and social security number.**
- Ensure the transcript includes the applicant's name, institution name, and course names and grades and cumulative GPA.
- Unofficial transcripts are acceptable for submission to the application system if they contain applicant's name, institution name, and course names and grades, and cumulative GPA. Otherwise, the applicant must upload an official transcript.
- Watch this video to assist with transcript uploads.

Education Background: Awards

- Include all awards you received during your academic career. Examples of awards may include:
  - Dean's List
  - Membership in Honor's Society
  - Merit Scholarships
  - Honors Program
  - Winner of contests, challenges, and tournaments



Lab Director Chi-Chang Kao presents the Ernest Coleman Award to SULI intern Anna Leskova.
SLAC
Accessed 1/9/2019 at https://www6.slac.stanford.edu/news/2016-08-26-undergraduate-interns-learn-summer-research.aspx

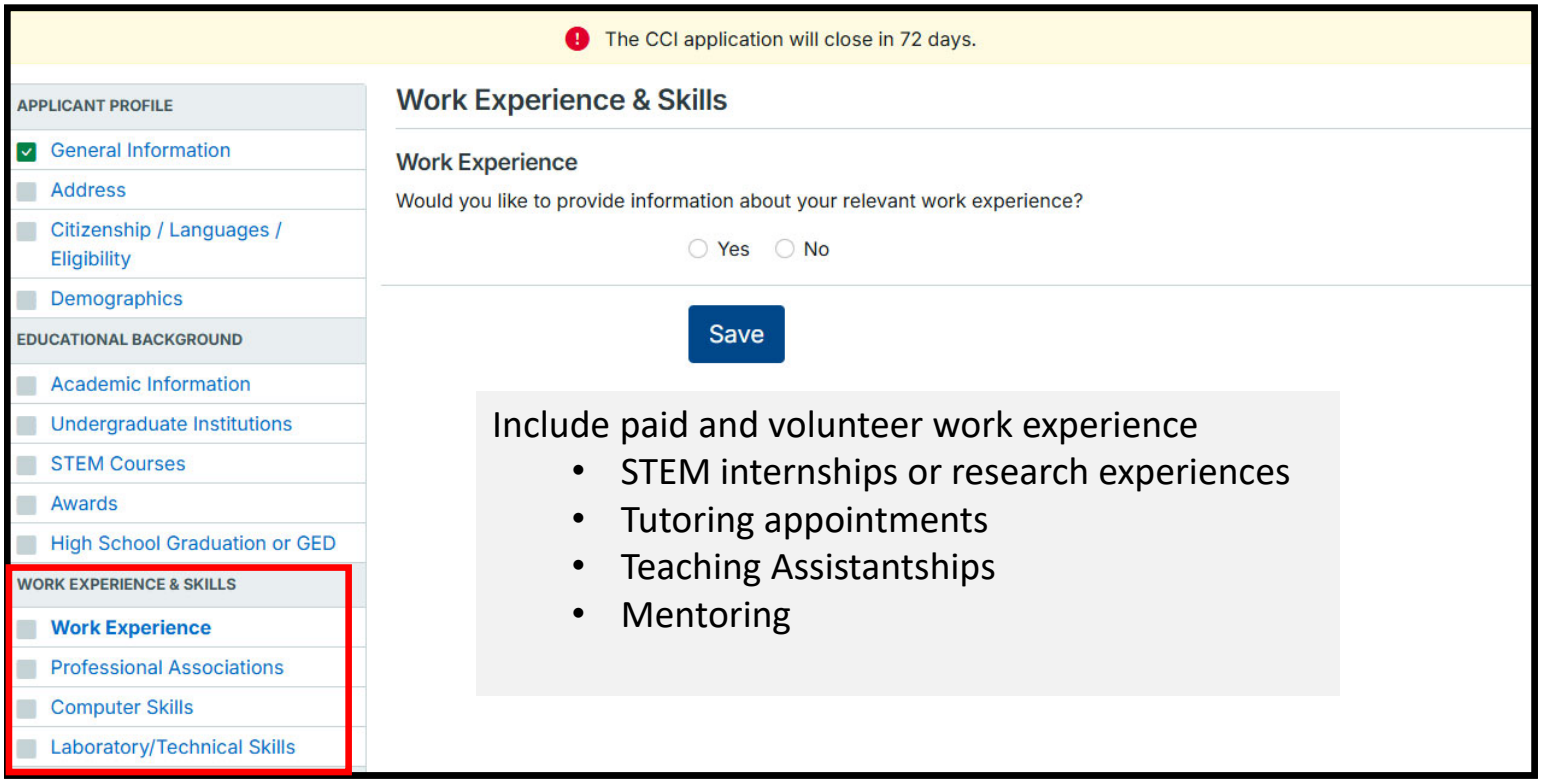
Work Experience



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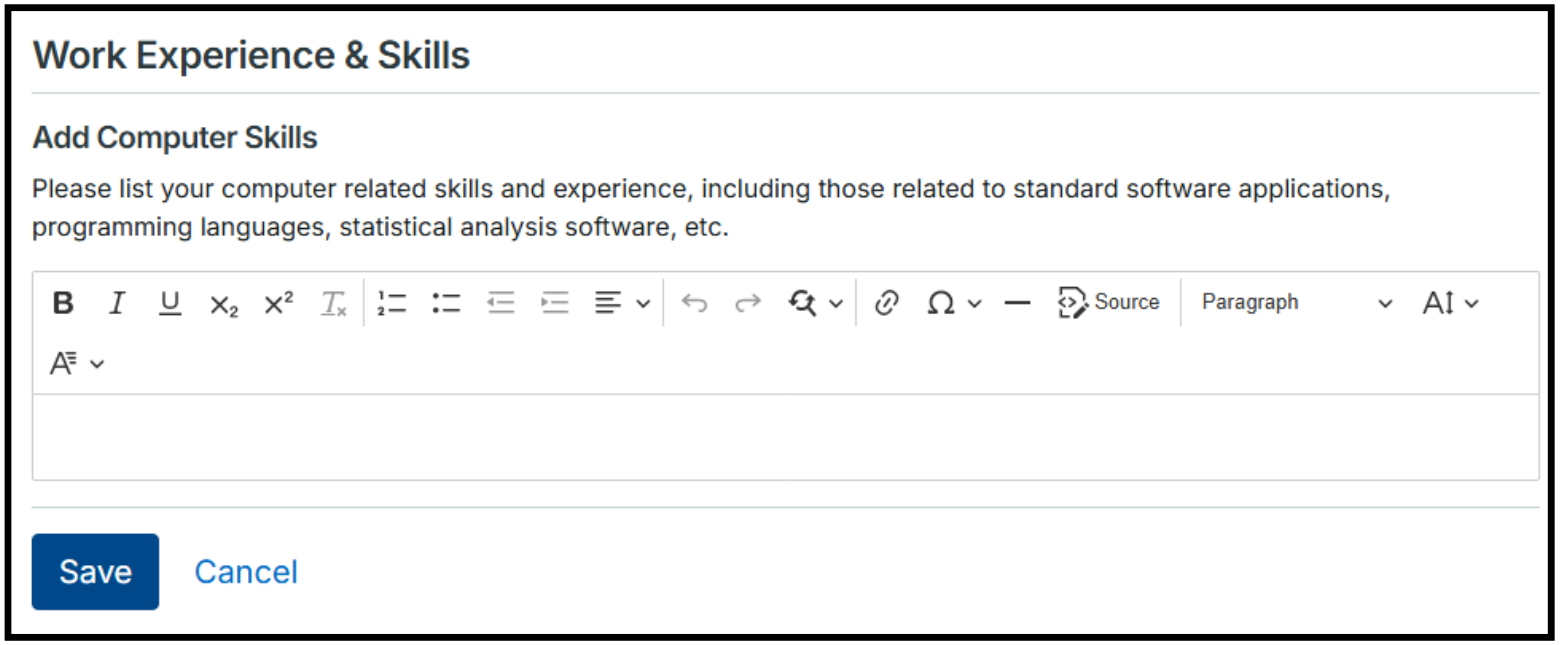
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Work Experience and Skills: Work Experience



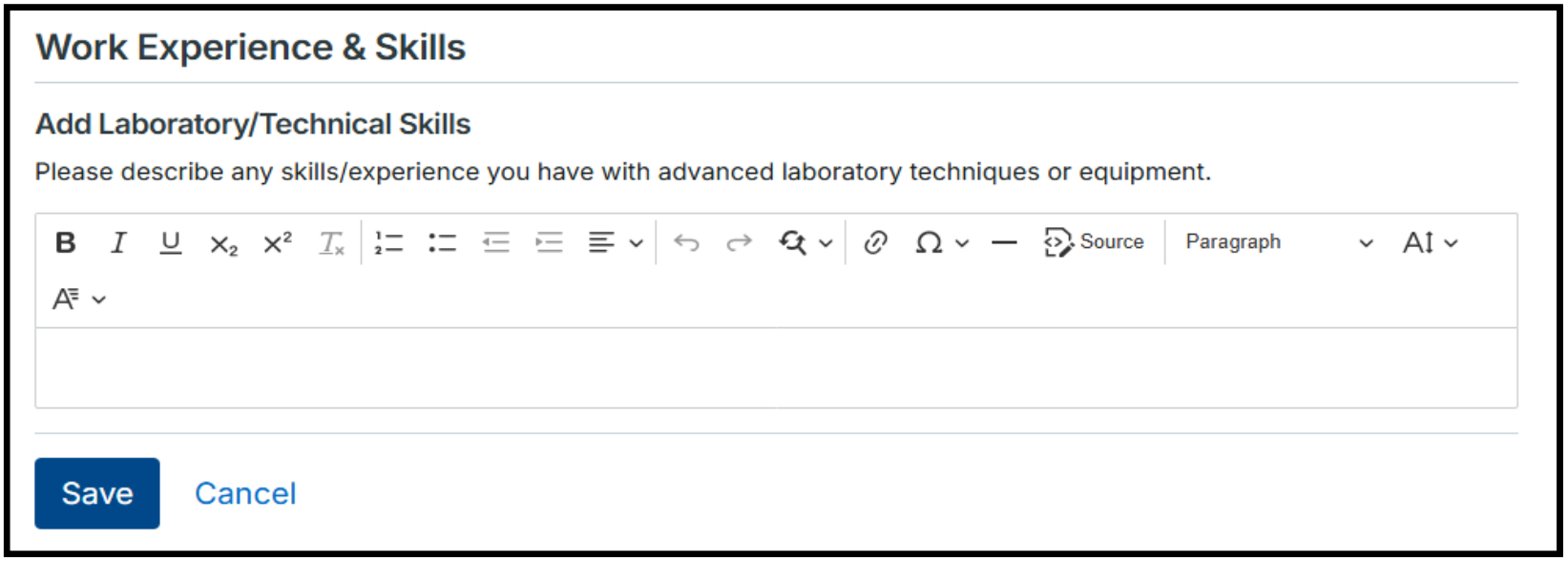
Work Experience and Skills: Computer Skills

List all **computer skills including programming languages, standard software** applications, statistical analysis software, and certifications.



Work Experience and Skills: Laboratory and Technical Skills

- Describe your research and technical skills in detail
- The skills may be obtained through employment or coursework[1]



Program Information



From left: **PPPL** physicist Ahmed Diallo, SULI student Jalal Butt, and PPPL physicist Egemen Kolemen. Photo by Raphael Rosen.

From https://www.pppl.gov/news/press-releases/2018/08/undergraduate-students-extoll-benefits-national-laboratory-research
Accessed 1/9/2019

Summer 2026 Term: Participating Host DOE Laboratories

- ✓Ames Laboratory
- ✓Argonne National Laboratory
- ✓Brookhaven National Laboratory
- ✓Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
- ✓General Atomics/DIII-D Facility
- ✓Idaho National Laboratory
- ✓Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- ✓Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
- ✓Los Alamos National Laboratory
- ✓ National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- ✓ Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- ✓ Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
- ✓ Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory
- ✓ Sandia National Laboratory – CA
- ✓ Sandia National Laboratory – NM
- ✓ Savannah River national Laboratory
- ✓ SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory
- ✓ Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility

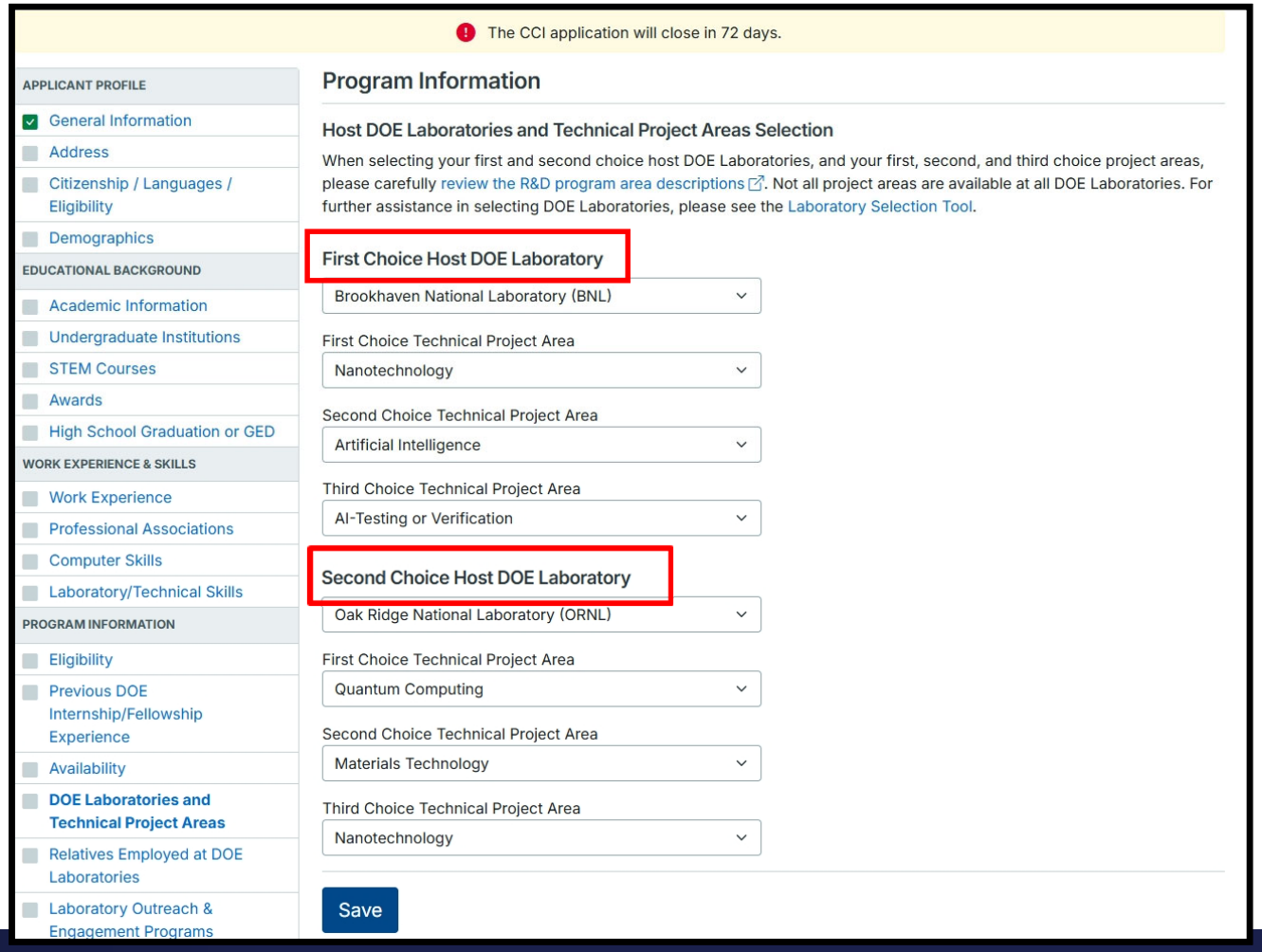
Selecting a Host DOE Lab: https://science.osti.gov/wdts/cci/How-to-Apply/Selecting-a-Host-DOE-Laboratory

Technical Project Area

Accelerator Engineering and Technology	Engineering Technology - Industrial
Artificial Intelligence	Engineering Technology - Materials
Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Data Intensive	Engineering Technology - Mechanical
AI-Engineering Research to Enable AI Systems	Engineering Technology - Mining
AI-Foundation Model Development/Enhancement	Engineering Technology - Nuclear
AI-High Performance Computing	Engineering Technology - Operations/Systems
AI-Testing or Verification	Engineering Technology - Optical
Biotechnology (nonmedical)	Engineering Technology - Petroleum
Chemical Analysis and Instrumentation	Engineering Technology - Power
Chemical Technology	Environmental Management
Computer Technology	Environmental Technology
Cyber Security	Information Technology
Data Science	Instrumentation Technology
Energy Technology - Bio	Machine Learning
Energy Technology - Buildings	Materials Technology
Energy Technology - Fossil	Nanotechnology
Energy Technology - Nuclear	Nuclear Technology
Energy Technology - Solar	Plasma and Fusion Science
Energy Technology - Transportation	Quantum Communication
Energy Technology - Vehicles	Quantum Computing
Energy Technology - Wind	Quantum Engineering
Engineering Technology - Aeronautical	Quantum Information Science- Other
Engineering Technology - Biological (nonmedical)	Quantum Materials
Engineering Technology - Chemical	Quantum Sensing
Engineering Technology - Civil	Quantum Simulation
Engineering Technology - Computer	
Engineering Technology - Electrical	
Engineering Technology - Environmental	

Program Information: DOE Laboratories and Technical Project Areas

- Applicants must select a first-choice and second-choice laboratory to be considered for placement. These laboratories will conduct a merit review for consideration of a placement. You're encouraged to confirm your selections as they cannot be changed after the application deadline.
- Applicants are encouraged to review laboratory websites and contact DOE researchers to learn about their research.
- Visit the **Laboratory Selection Tool** to learn the success rates of eligible applicants by lab.
- **Double check your lab selections before submitting your application! WDTS is unable to switch your laboratory preferences.**



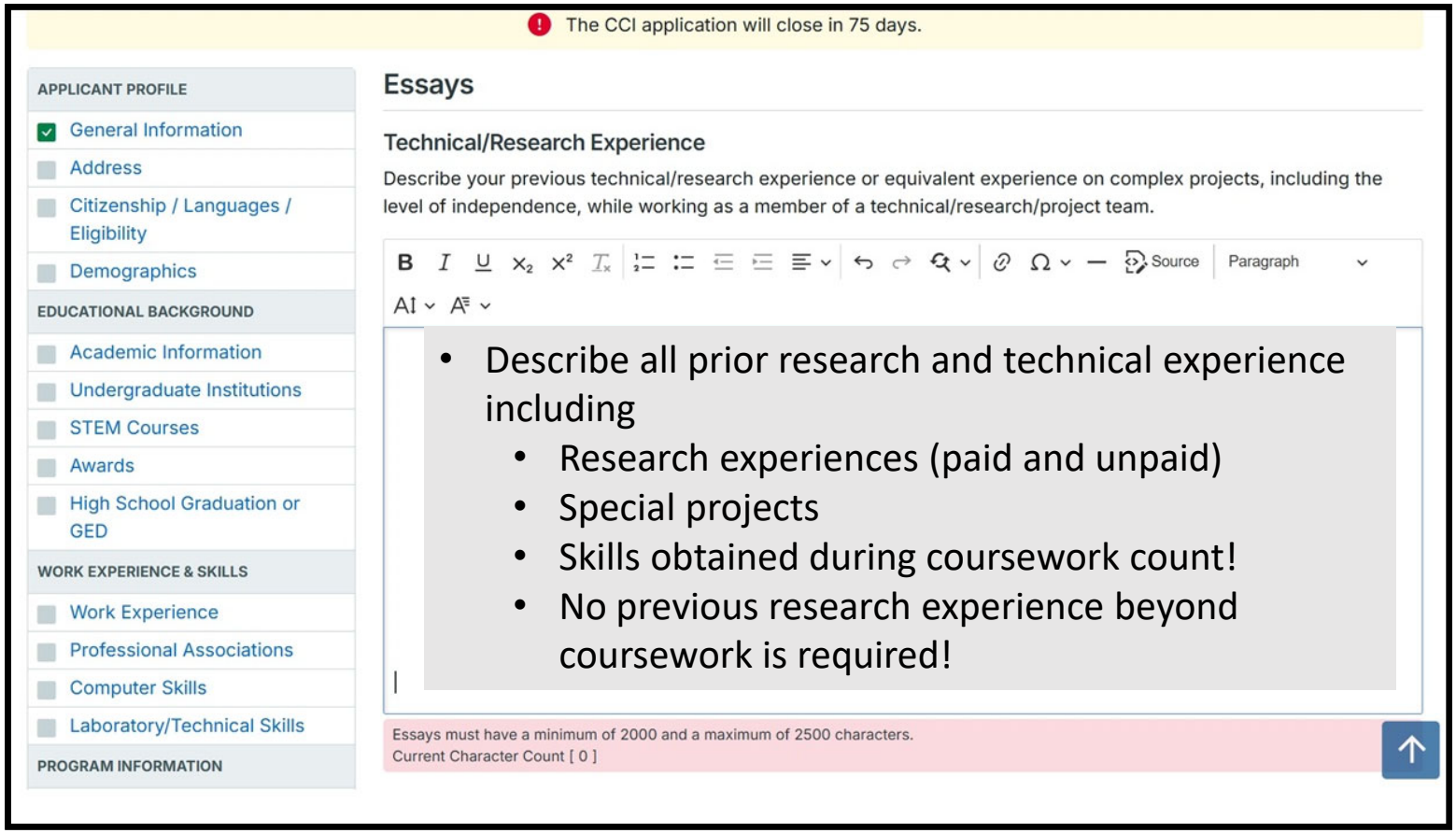
Essays



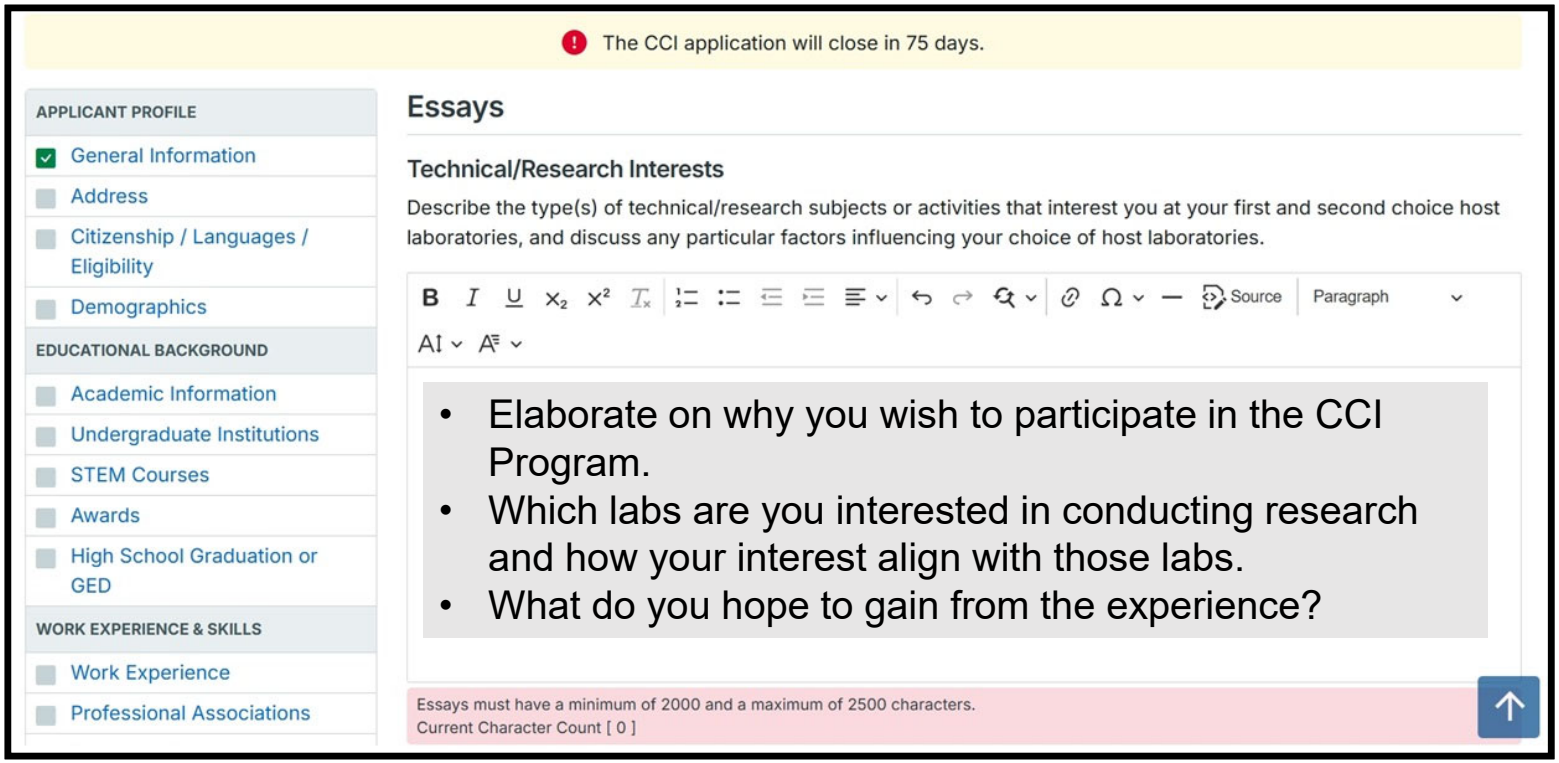
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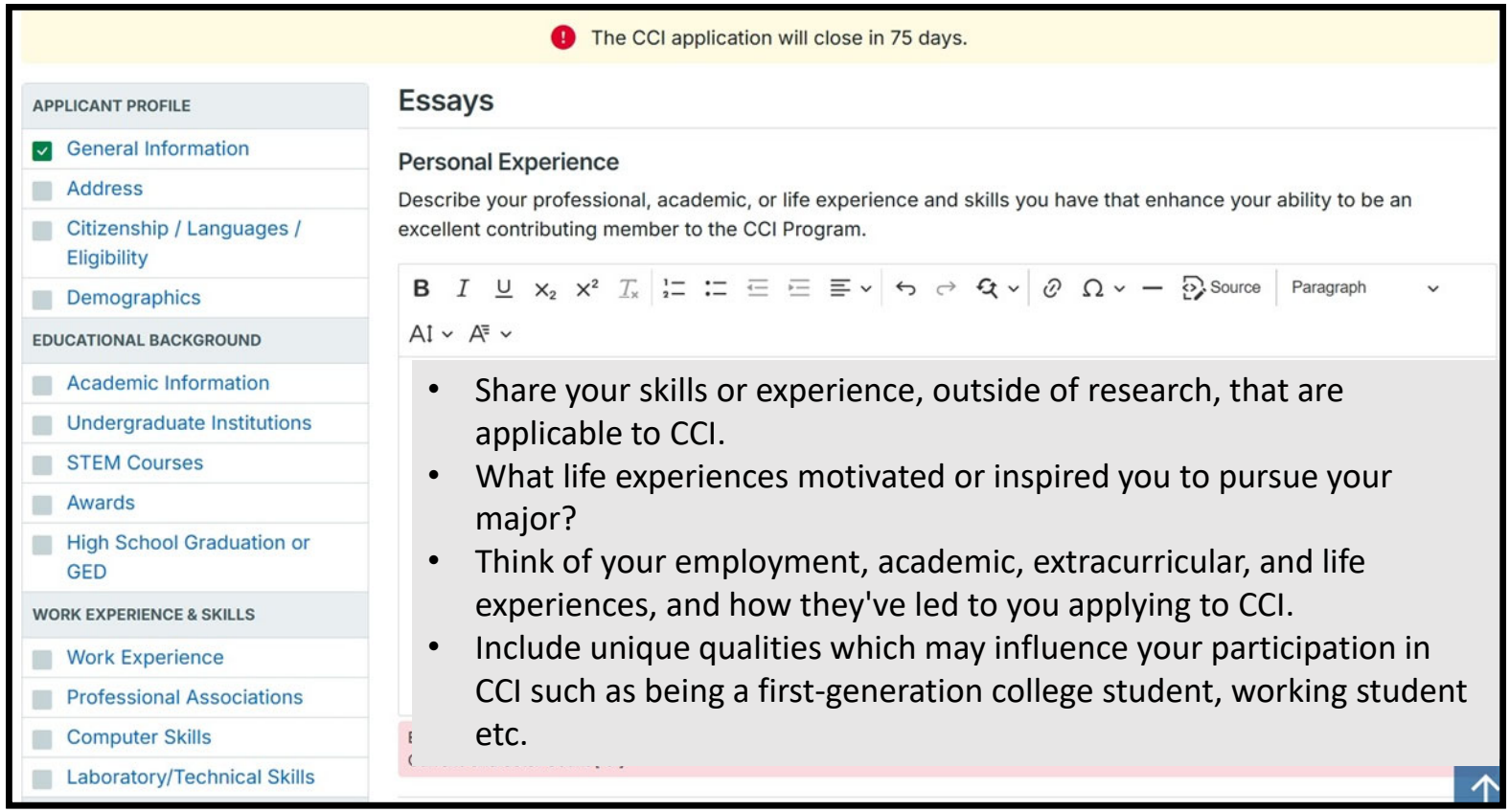
Essays: Technical and Research Experience



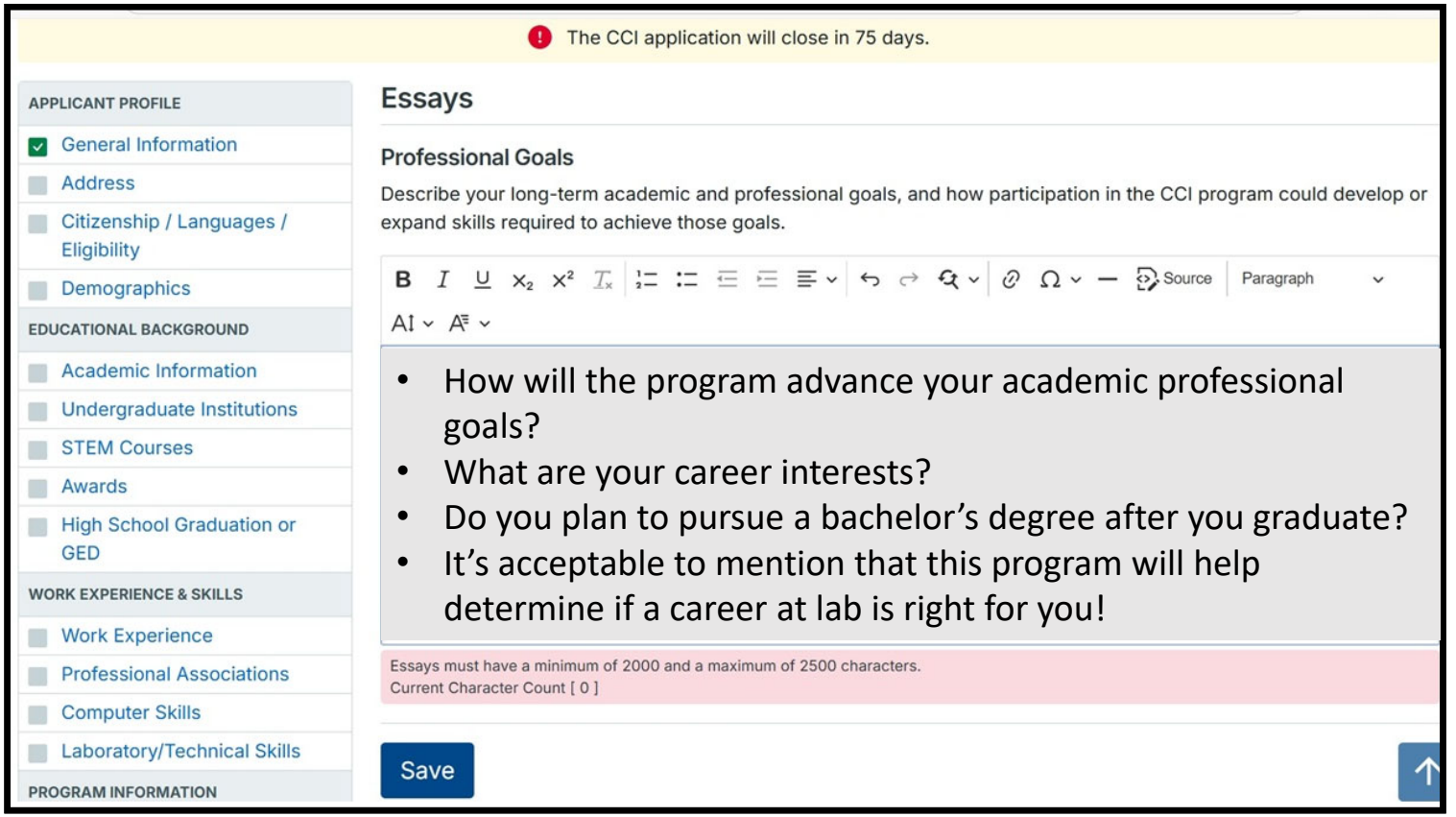
Essays: Technical and Research Experience Interests



Essays: Personal and Professional Goals



Essays: Professional Interests



Letters of Recommendation



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Letters of Recommendation

- A completed CCI application requires recommendations from **two** individuals familiar with the applicant's education, training, experience, aptitude, or promise relevant to the CCI Program.

Note: Family, friends, and friends of family are not allowed to serve as authors of recommendations.

- An applicant will be asked to provide contact information for individuals indicated in the online application system. **Applicants are encouraged to make the requests for recommendations as soon as possible.**
- Letter of reference must be submitted through the application portal by the application deadline or 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on January 7th , 2026.

Resources To Assist With Application Components

- Application checklist
- Submitting transcripts
- Tips for preparing essays
- Requesting letters of reference
- FAQ's-https://science.osti.gov/wdts/cci/Frequently-Asked-Questions

Selection and Notification

- **Eligibility and Compliance Check-**All applications must pass eligibility and compliance check.
- **Merit Review-** Assessment by first and second choice labs selected by the applicant.

  Applications will be assessed based upon :
  - Performance in completed academic coursework,
  - Strength of recommendations letters;
  - Expressed scientific or technical interests; and
  - Applicant's background, experience, accomplishments,
  - Alignment of interests with the host laboratories.
- **Notifications**-Offers made by a host Laboratory Education Director via e-mail. Applicant has 10 calendar days to respond to offer. **Only ONE offer will be extended to an applicant.**

All appointments are contingent upon proof of citizenship/permanent residency and the outcome of a formal background check.

Participant Obligations

- Commit to 10-weeks (40 hrs./week) in the program.
- Maintain health insurance during the appointment.
- Complete deliverables by deadline
  - Pre-survey
  - Post-survey
  - Research paper (6-8 pages)
  - Poster or oral presentation
- Maintain professional behavior1

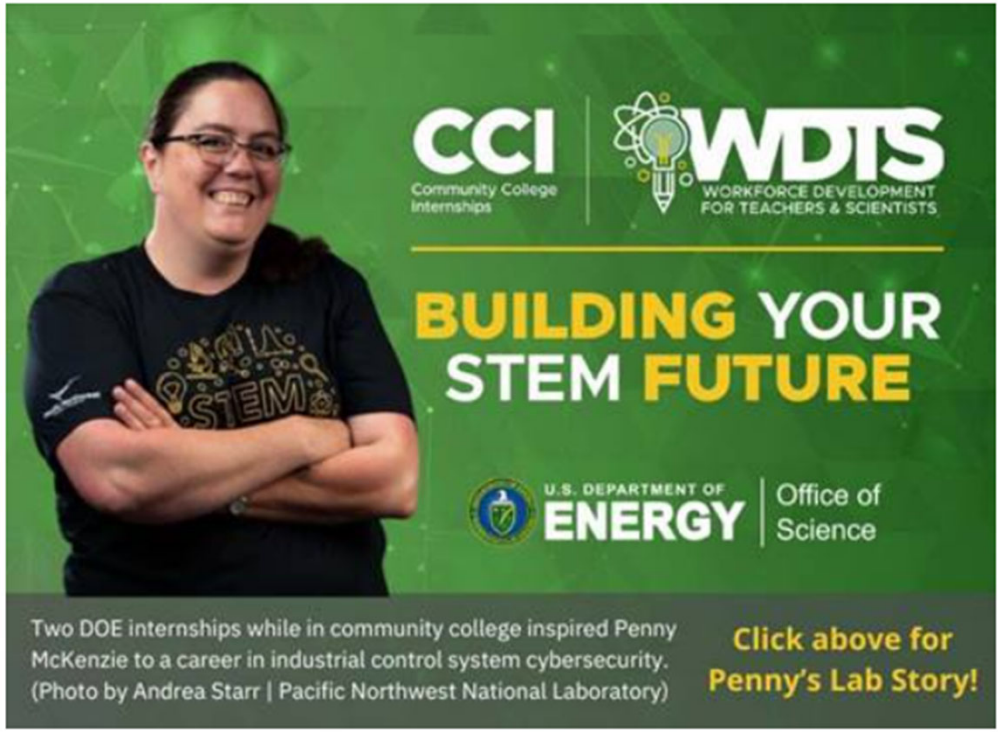


More details: https://science.osti.gov/wdts/cci/Participant-Obligations

Benefits to Participating in CCI

- ✓Contribute to exciting, real world, innovative, ongoing projects in the DOE national laboratories.
- ✓Build professional networks with scientist and engineers.
- ✓Opportunity to establish a mentor.
- ✓Enrichment opportunities through professional development and technical seminars.
- ✓Enhance science communication skills.
- ✓Decide if a career in research is right for you.
- ✓Land a permanent position.

CCI Alumni Spotlight: Meet Penny McKenzie



Interested in reading more Lab Stories? Visit https://science.osti.gov/wdts/WDTS-Lab-Stories-and-Participant-Spotlights.

Join us for Alumni Panel Workshop!

Scheduled Dates:

December 2nd at 2:00 p.m. EST

Who Can Attend?

- Applicants

Registration is required to attend:

What to Expect :

- Learn about the **internship experience** at host laboratory!
- Hear **real stories from CCI alumni** about their internship experience at the national labs
- Get answers to your questions from the voices of past interns.
- Receive valuable information about the program, guide you through the application process and program expectations.

Join Us for scheduled Virtual Office Hours!

Scheduled Dates:

December 3rd at 1:00 p.m. EST

December 10th at 1:00 p.m. EST

December 17th at 1:00 p.m. EST

Who Can Attend?

- Applicants
- Letter of Recommendation Writers

Registration is required to attend:

What to expect:

- Get answer to questions regarding the **CCI application process**, including submission procedures.
- Receive guidance on general program and eligibility questions directly
- Learn a brief overview of Community Collage Internship Program.

Don’t forget!!

- **Application deadlines and requirements are firm, including receipt of recommendations (no exceptions!)**
- The application deadline is **January 7th, 2026,** at 5:00 p.m. EDT.
- Plan early! Submit your application ahead of the deadline.
- Contact your reference letter writers as soon as possible. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure recommendations are submitted by the deadline.
- Do your research! Visit the DOE National Laboratories and host sites webpages to make a more informed decision about your lab preferences.
- Technical support for the online system is available during regular business hours.
- Only complete, compliant, and eligible applications are reviewed by self-selected first and second-choice labs.
- **Only one offer** will be extended to an applicant during an application period..
- Send us a message if you have questions. Contact sc.cci@science.doe.gov.



Connect with us…..

- After this session, e-mail us sc.cci@science.doe.gov if you have questions.
- Office of Science – Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists on LinkedIn.



WDTS



Thank you!

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