THE SEARLE SCHOLARS PROGRAM ACCEPTS APPLICATIONS ONLY THROUGH AN ONLINE APPLICATION SYSTEM. THE 2025 COMPETITION SCHEDULE AND PROCESS FOR APPLYING ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Nomination for the 2025 competition will be open to participating institutions on June 1, 2024. The application will be available online to selected individuals once nomination has been placed and the submission deadline will be September 30, 2024. Submissions are restricted to selected candidates from participating institutions only. Individuals who have not been nominated by a participating institution cannot apply. Individuals from participating institutions who are interested in submitting an application should consult with the contact at their institution who handles limited submission awards for information about how the nomination process works within their institution. Access to the online application will only be shared with nominated applicants.

CRITERIA

The Searle Scholars Scientific Advisory Board is primarily interested in the potential of applicants to make innovative and high-impact contributions to research over an extended period of time.

Applicants for the 2025 competition (awards which will be activated on July 1, 2025) are expected to be pursuing independent research careers in biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, immunology, neuroscience, pharmacology, and related areas in chemistry, medicine, and the biological sciences.
Applicants should have begun their appointment as an independent investigator at the assistant professor level on or after May 1, 2023. The appointment must be their first tenure-track position (or its nearest equivalent).

Institutions which do not have tenure-track appointments should consult with the Scientific Director of the Program regarding eligibility of selected applicants PRIOR to nominating such individuals.

The Searle Scholars Program does not ordinarily support purely clinical research but has supported research programs that include both clinical and basic components. Potential applicants who are unsure if their research is appropriate for our Program are encouraged to examine the research interests of present and former Searle Scholars on this website.

Applicants who were nominated for awards in the previous competition year but were not awarded may still meet the eligibility criteria for the current competition. Institutions should consult with the Scientific Director of the Program regarding renomination of such individuals.

INQUIRIES

Questions about scientific aspects of an application or about eligibility should be addressed to the Scientific Director, other questions should be directed to Kinship Foundation staff.

Contact Information

SELECTION

Applications will be screened by a Scientific Advisory Board composed of experts in the fields of interest to the Program. All applicants will be notified of competition results by the end of April of the award year.
Institutions that are not currently invited to participate in our Program may send a one to two-page letter of appeal requesting inclusion in our competition. This letter should be signed by an appropriate institutional official and addressed to the following:

Scientific Advisory Board
Searle Scholars Program
P.O. Box 1707
Madison, Wisconsin 53701

These requests are considered once a year, and must arrive in our office or be emailed to searlescholars@kinshipfoundation.org by February 1 for consideration in the next competition. Information that should be included in the letter:

- Contact information, including an email address for response to the appeal
- An overview of the institution, especially its biomedical and chemistry research departments
- Any significant plans for expansion of research faculty, addition of new facilities or other enhancements for the research community

In reviewing an appeal, information available on departmental websites will also be explored.