



St. Cloud State University Excellence In Leadership Award Reference Instructions

Since 1988, the St. Cloud State University Excellence in Leadership Award has recognized students for outstanding contributions to the university and community while attending SCSU. Current students who meet the below requirements, as well as Fall 2024 graduates, are eligible to apply. *Previous winners of the Excellence in Leadership award are not eligible to apply.*

Undergraduate Student Eligibility	Graduate Student Eligibility
<p>To be eligible for this award, you must meet the following criteria at the time of application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a 2.5 cumulative GPA or higher at the undergraduate level; • Have earned 90 semester graduate credits (minimum of 36 credits earned at SCSU) at time of application. 	<p>To be eligible for this award, you must meet the following criteria at the time of application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a 3.5 cumulative GPA or higher at the graduate level; • Have earned 18 semester graduate credits (minimum of 18 graduate credits earned at SCSU) at time of application.

Students will be evaluated on the following:

- A description of their most impactful experiences with involvement in organizations, service and volunteer opportunities, development activities, and other leadership activities in the SCSU/greater community during their time as a student.
- Demonstrated focus on academics, meeting the minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 for undergraduate students and 3.5 for graduate students.
- A reflective statement discussing how they have developed as a leader, their impact on others in their organizations, and how they will use their leadership skills in the future.
- A reference statement from a faculty, staff, or community member supervisor stating the below requirements.

How to Complete a Reference

Your reference essay is a chance to share how you have seen the applicant impact people, organizations and communities through their leadership efforts here at St. Cloud State University.

- **Please submit your reference via the Microsoft Office form linked in this email. Reference essays are due by February 12, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.**
- **Your reference essay should be 500-750 words and must address two or more of the Our Husky Compact Outcomes listed below.**
- Activities mentioned in your reference must take place while the applicant was a student at SCSU.
- The reference essay should include details regarding the student's leadership strengths, accomplishments, and contributions to the University and greater community in relation to at least two **Our Husky Compact Outcomes**. If referring to contributions that are required as part of their employment, please explain their effort beyond the expected duties of the position.
- **The student will lose points if you fail to address Our Husky Compact dimensions in your essay! A standard reference letter would NOT be appropriate for this process.**

Our Husky Compact is a bond shared by St. Cloud State and its students. It is a commitment we make to our students and students make to their education that will prepare them to be global citizens of the 21st Century. As graduates of St. Cloud State, you will be prepared for a life of intellectual, professional and personal fulfillment with the skills to discover and apply new solutions to challenges and opportunities through risk-taking, innovation and imagination.

- 1. Think Creatively and Critically:** The ability to think creatively and critically is core to overcoming challenges
- 2. Seek and Apply Knowledge:** Encouraging independence, informed decision making, open-mindedness and motivation
- 3. Communicate Effectively:** Relationship building, conflict resolution, proficiency in teamwork - all require effective communication
- 4. Integrate Existing and Evolving Technologies:** Technology is used every-day to improve efficiency, better balance work/life and access information
- 5. Engage as a Member of a Diverse and Multicultural World:** We are members of a global society impacted by a global economy
- 6. Act with Personal Integrity and Civic Responsibility:** Nurturing ethical and productive difference-makers

Read more about [Our Husky Compact](#)

Questions?

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