



Dear CSRA High School Seniors, Parents, Principals, and Administrative/Guidance Counselors, and Educators:

Availability of American Nuclear Society (ANS) Savannah River Section (SR) Benjamin Scholarship Award(s) for the 2025-2026 Academic Year

The American Nuclear Society Savannah River Section (ANS-SR) is once again offering first-year college and any year of a technical college scholarships to qualifying current high school seniors and technical school students in the memory of its long-time member, Dr. Richard (Dick) Benjamin. As in previous years, the twelfth year of the Benjamin Memorial Scholarship will recognize selected students based on an evaluation of submitted applications for college study in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) for the upcoming 2025-2026 academic year.

This letter contains required information for students to apply for the Benjamin Scholarship. Please feel free to circulate the information to qualified student candidates and parents of student candidates who are interested in pursuing careers in STEM, particularly those wishing to major in one of the many fields associated with nuclear science, engineering and technology.

For the 2025-2026 academic year, the actual number and award levels will be determined by the number and quality of this year's group of applicants. Applicants for the Scholarship should be current high school seniors expecting to graduate in 2025 from a CSRA¹ school or technical college students with at least one year remaining in their college program. The intent of the Benjamin financial support is that it be applied to the first-year college costs of a four-year college or university towards a STEM major, or any year of a technical college program related to nuclear science and technology.

Dr. Benjamin was a nuclear physicist who contributed to the atmospheric sciences, accelerator programs, and fuel cycle and waste management technologies, and other technical areas for several decades over a distinguished career that began in 1968 at the Savannah River Laboratory (now the Savannah River National Laboratory). He mentored countless new professionals in the nuclear science and technology areas and was a strong proponent of ANS at the local (Aiken-Augusta) area, national, and international levels. The Scholarship is named in Dick's memory, and is awarded on an annual basis by ANS SR.

¹ The Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) is generally considered to cover the South Carolina counties of Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell, Edgefield and McCormick, and Georgia counties of Burke, Columbia, Hancock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Washington and Wilkes.

The following materials are required for each application to be considered (with evaluation criteria weighting shown in parentheses):

1. Cover letter including name, address, evening phone number, current school, home email address and name of college or technical school to which the Benjamin Memorial Scholarship would be applied. If the school is uncertain, then name the current top choice. Also, at the end of the cover letter, add a one-sentence non-school related fun fact about yourself (10%).
2. A one-page essay (300 words or less) on why a career in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and educational is the goal of the student; Highlight what you plan to pursue in college & potential career goals (40%). At the end of the essay, skip three lines and insert the statement, “I affirm that the above essay is my work alone and was not written in whole or in part using assistance from others or artificial intelligence (AI).” Sign your name and include the date on the line beneath this sentence.
3. High school transcripts (seven (7) semesters in the case of current high school seniors); plus first-semester transcripts for applicants who are first-year technical college students, along with their entire high school transcript; (20%).
4. Two (2) letters of recommendation from education institution or community organization individuals (e.g., teachers, coaches, service or religious organization leaders, etc.). Each recommendation is weighted 15%. (30%)
5. Name of college or technical college to which the Benjamin Memorial Scholarship would be applied. If the school is uncertain, the applicant should state their top two or three candidate schools.

Recommendation letters and school transcripts may be transmitted separately to either the ANS SR email or U.S. mail address.

Applications must be received no later than May 2, 2025, and can be transmitted by:

- (1) Email: ans.savannahriver.scholarship@gmail.com, and enter “12th ANS SR Benjamin Scholarship” in the subject line; include required attachments as one PDF or several PDFs if needed.
- (2) U.S. mail: 12th ANS SR Benjamin Scholarship, ANS Savannah River Section, P.O. Box 7001, Aiken, SC 29804.

The ANS SR Scholarship Selection Committee will inform winners by July 2025. Scholarship award payments will be made to the recipients prior to the traditional start of the 2025-2026 academic year. Each payment is intended for the student’s tuition, fees, education materials and other costs associated with their education including living expenses. ANS SR cannot oversee how the funding is used and relies on the integrity of the recipient to apply the funding appropriately.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email ANS SR at the email or U.S. mail address shown below.

Best regards,

Mukesh K. Gupta, PhD

Chair, ANS Savannah River Section Scholarship Committee

2025 Benjamin Memorial Scholarship Competition

Email: ans.savannahriver.scholarship@gmail.com

Mail: P.O. Box 7001, Aiken, SC 29804

About ANS

The American Nuclear Society (ANS) is a professional and technical society of over 10,000 engineers, scientists, education professionals, students, and others worldwide that work to promote the awareness and understanding of applications of nuclear science and technology to improve people's lives and preserve the planet. The ANS Savannah River Section is the local ANS community and is made up of Savannah River Site, Plant Vogtle, engineering organizations, educational and medical institution professionals, students, educators, retirees and other supporting individuals that live and work in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) that includes portions of western South Carolina and eastern Georgia. Over its 60 years of existence, the ANS Savannah River has maintained a strong commitment to providing Educational and Outreach opportunities to its members, educators, students, and the general public. It is deemed a charitable organization by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization.

Twelfth Annual Benjamin Memorial Scholarship Awards – Since 2014, ANS SR has given CSRA graduation high school senior and technical college students approximately \$50,000 in Benjamin Scholarships. This year, 2025, marks the Scholarship's 12th year. See the Attachment B flyer for the 2025 announcement.

Attachment A. Example of line following essay affirming the essay is written by the student without the assistance from others or through AI.

Essay (300 words or less) on why a career in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and educational is the goal of the student. The essay should include what the student plans to pursue in college & potential career goals.

I affirm that the above essay is my work alone and was not written in whole or in part using assistance from others or artificial intelligence (AI).

_____ Essay writer's signature _____ Date of signature: _____

Attachment B. Announcement of 12th Annual Benjamin Memorial Scholarship

Savannah River Section, P.O. Box 7001, Aiken, SC 29804

<https://local.ans.org/savriv/>

2025 American Nuclear Society Savannah River Section TWELFTH ANNUAL BENJAMIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



The Benjamin Scholarship is a competitive financial award given in memory of Dr. Richard W. Benjamin towards the first year of a four-year Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) College/University, or either year of a two-year Technical College degree program.

Scholarship Award amounts are based on number & quality of applications.

- Seeking students with STEM career goal, potentially interested in a Nuclear Science and Technology career.
- Current CSRA graduating high school seniors or first-year technical college students are eligible.
- Application window : January 17 – May 2, 2025
- **Required Application Materials and Evaluation Criteria (%):**
 1. Cover letter including name, address, evening phone number, current school, home email address and name of college or technical school to which the Benjamin Memorial Scholarship would be applied. If the school is uncertain, then name the current top choice. Also, at the end of the cover letter, add a one-sentence non-school related fun fact about yourself (10%).
 2. A one-page essay (300 words or less) on why a career in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and educational is the goal of the student; Highlight what you plan to pursue in college & potential career goals (40%)
 3. High school transcripts (seven (7) semesters in the case of current high school seniors); plus first-semester transcripts for applicants who are first-year technical college students, along with their entire high school transcript; (20%)
 4. Two (2) letters of recommendation from education institution or community organization individuals (e.g., teachers, coaches, service or religious organization leaders, etc.). Each recommendation is weighted 15%. (30%)
- Submit application materials by: 1) Email with attachments to: ans.savannahriver.scholarship@gmail.com, or 2) U.S. mail to:
Benjamin Scholarship, ANS-Savannah River Section, P.O. Box 7001, Aiken, SC 29804
- Scholarship Award(s) will be announced in July 2025.