# 2025/26 Polar STEAMEducator Application

*Please use this document to prepare answers if desired, but you must submit answers through Polar STEAM’s online portal. The link is on our website at* [*https://polarsteam.info/application/*](https://polarsteam.info/application/)

# What is Polar STEAM for Educators?

Polar STEAM, which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math, is not just a national program, but a journey for all of us to get closer to what is so physically distant, to understand the Polar regions and its people, and to commit to share what we learn with the world so others too can let their curiosity thrive.

We aim to inspire transdisciplinary education about the polar regions, integrating arts-, humanities- and science-based methods to promote critical thinking, engagement, and accessible and inclusive opportunities for learners. The program works with the following educator groups to engage learners in exploring and understanding critical environments and human endeavors at the Poles:

* Faculty from community colleges and Minority Serving Institutions that are primarily undergraduate institutions
* Grade 6-12 educators
* Informal educators who can incorporate polar science education into their work

We are committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in the Polar Sciences. Within the structure of our program and recruitment efforts we are looking for applicants that demonstrate ways in which they align with this commitment. Specifically, we are looking at diversity in three ways:

* Participants representative of diverse communities
* Participants who reach diverse groups and audiences with their work
* Participants who are energized by developing culturally-responsive and inclusive practices into curriculum, scholarly or creative work while showing up for diversity in their practice.

**Educator applications are currently being accepted for the following programs:**

* Arctic field research, boreal summer 2025
* Antarctic field research, austral summer 2025/26
* Virtual collaborations, Arctic and Antarctic, 2025

Educators are strongly encouraged to attend the informational webinar on June 6, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. Pacific Time (or view the recording) in order to prepare the strongest possible application.

**Before applying, please read the** [**FAQs on the Polar STEAM website**](https://polarsteam.info/faq/)**.**

**(Note: orange font represents a conditional question)**

# Page 1: Eligibility Criteria and General Information

* First Name
* Last Name
* Email
* Phone Number
* City
* State
* Zip Code
* I am a US Citizen or Permanent Resident (Yes/No, if not, you are not eligible for this program)
* I am 21 years of age or older (Yes/ No – if not, you are not eligible for this program)
* I have read the FAQs (Yes/No)
* I attended or watched the information webinar (Yes/No)
* How did you hear about this opportunity? Check all that apply:
	+ From friend or colleague
	+ Social media
	+ Polar STEAM website
	+ Professional society/educator group
	+ Internet search
	+ News outlet (e.g., radio, newspaper, online publication)
	+ National Science Foundation (indicate source in other below)
	+ Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Page 2: Employment

* Polar STEAM accepts application from educators working in the following settings. Please identify your primary instructional role
	+ Community College and/or minority serving institution that is primarily undergraduate serving
	+ 6-12 educator
	+ Informal educator who can incorporate polar science education into their work

\*If select “Community College/MSI”

Does your college or university qualify as a minority serving institution (Yes/No)

\*If “yes”: Select the appropriate MSI category or categories for your college or university

 Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (ANNAPISIs)

Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions (ANNHs)

Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs)

Hispanic Serving institutions (HSIs)

Native American-Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTIs)

Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs)

Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs)

* Employer Name (school, university or organization)
* Job Title
* Professional/School/Work Website
* Select the discipline that best represents your main teaching subject area:
	+ Administration, Art, Electives, Engineering, Informal Education, Science, Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Special Education, Technology, Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* List the courses or programs you teach:
* Average number of teaching hours per week (not including planning or preparation time)
* How many years have you been an educator?
	+ 0-3, 4-10, 11-17, 18-24, 25+
* How many funded multi-day professional development programs similar in nature to Polar STEAM have you participated in? These can be virtual or in-person. (\*No prior experience is needed.)
	+ 0, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7+
	+ \*If so, list your funded multi-day professional development programs. List program name, sponsor or institution, format (in person or virtual), and year.
	+ \*If selected “Community College/MSI”
		- Do you have funded research? Yes or No
		- If yes: List award #, title and your role in the research

Page 3: About You

1. Introduce yourself to us both personally and professionally. Please use 3-5 brief statements of 1-2 sentences each. (750 character limit)
2. Briefly describe why you want to be a Polar STEAM Fellow; what do you hope to gain from the experience? (1500 character limit)
3. Rate your experience creating collaborative interdisciplinary educational resources (e.g., programs, projects, curricula, virtual content, etc.) Note to applicant: We are looking for all levels of experience!

No experience

1-2 collaborative resources

3-5 collaborative resources

6+ collaborative resources

1. Please describe how you work collaboratively within and across professional disciplines. Provide examples if you’ve had previous interdisciplinary collaborations. What skills or expertise have you used previously or will you use for future collaborations to aid in their success? (1500 character limit)
2. Describe how you’ve furthered diversity and inclusion in your classroom, learning space and/or community. Provide one or two specific examples in your answer. (1500 character limit)
3. I have prior experience with STEAM education (note: we are looking for a range of levels and experience)

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

1. I have prior experience creating STEAM resources/curriculum (note: we are looking for a range of levels and experience)

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

1. Describe the importance of Polar STEAM education for your learners and the broader community you reach. How do you plan to make an impact with learners through your participation in the Polar STEAM Program? (1500 character limit)

Page 4: About Your Learners

1. STEAM education will be new to the learners I reach

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

1. Polar education will be new to the learners I reach

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

1. How many individual learners do you reach each year with your educational practice?

Less than 50

50 to 150

151 to 300

301 to 500

More than 500

1. About what percent of your organization’s learners qualify for free and reduced lunch or are Pell Grant eligible?

Less than 10%

10% to 25%

26% to 50%

51% to 75%

More than 75%

Unknown or not applicable

1. About what percent of your organization’s learners represent racial or ethnic minorities?

Less than 10%

10% to 25%

26% to 50%

51% to 75%

More than 75%

Unknown or not applicable

1. Select your primary group of learners. (Select 1 choice)

Middle School (6-8)

High School (9-12)

College/University

Home School

Community Based Organizations (e.g., Girl/Boy Scouts, Boys & Girls Clubs, local service organizations, YMCA)

Museums, Science/Nature/Environmental Centers, Aquariums

Libraries

Other (please specify below):

1. Check any other groups of learners you regularly work with?

Middle School (6-8)

High School (9-12)

College/University

Home School

Community Based Organizations (e.g., Girl/Boy Scouts, Boys & Girls Clubs, local service organizations, YMCA)

Museums, Science/Nature Centers, Aquariums

Libraries

Other (please specify below):

Page 5: Location Questions

Please read and consider the following before you make your selections below.

* *We place educators in virtual and field-based collaborations.*
* *Educators are named Fellows and are part of a yearlong cohort of researchers, educators, and artists that meet virtually.*
* *Field based expeditions are typically 1-6 weeks in length.*
* *The Arctic field season typically runs from May through September.*
* *The Antarctic field season typically runs from October to February.*
* *Both locations can include land and/or ship-based opportunities.*
* *The majority of field deployments are in the Arctic.*
* *At this time deployments to Antarctic field stations are limited. Potential deployments to Antarctica may be limited to ship-based expeditions. Most Antarctica collaborations will be virtual.*
* *Some virtual collaborations might include a university or lab-based site visit or conference travel.*
* Location of interest

Antarctic only

Arctic only

Both

\*If selected “both”: Please elaborate on your location-based interest and preference.

* I am interested in the following type(s) of collaboration

Field-based only

Virtual only

Both

\*If selected “Both”: Please elaborate on your interest in and preference for field-based verses virtual collaborations.

\*If selected “Both” or “Field”:

If you are selected for a ship-based expedition, is that of interest to you?

* + Yes
	+ I’m not sure
	+ No

\*If selected “Both” or “Field”:

Field Conditions

*Field work in Polar regions can often occur in remote areas with extreme temperatures. Most expeditions involve living and working in tight quarters with a team, contributing to group meal prep and group field chores. We want to make sure you feel comfortable in your working and living environment.*

*Review the list of field conditions below. Then rate your experience, comfort, and interest in the following field living conditions:*

* *Dorm= Shared dorm accommodations, showers and running water, likely to have internet connection.*
* *Car camping= camping at field station or campground with primitive latrine or composting toilet, limited or no access to showers and internet.*

* *Backcountry camping= camping in more remote settings with no facilities or internet.*

* *Ship= Shared bunk room on ship at sea, shared showers, running water.*

* Field Living: Rate your experience, comfort and interest in the field living conditions listed above (selection from experienced and comfortable, inexperienced but comfortable with the prospect or not comfortable and/or interested
* Length: Rank your preference for the length of expedition? (1st choice, 2nd, 3rd, not interested)
	+ 1-2 weeks
	+ 2-4 weeks
	+ 4-6 weeks
* Hiking/Temperature: Indicate your comfort level with the following hiking descriptions and temperatures: (very comfortable, somewhat comfortable, not interested or comfortable
	+ About 1 mile/day
	+ 1-3 miles/day.
	+ 4-6 miles/day
	+ 3-6 miles of rigorous hiking
	+ Off trail and through uneven terrain.
	+ Arctic summer temperatures (40-70 ºF)
	+ Moderately cold temperatures (10-40 ºF)
	+ Extreme cold temperatures (-50-10 ºF)
* If you are unavailable for periods of time of a week or more between May 2024-February 2025, please list dates below.

Page 5: Demographics/References/Resume

* What is your gender? (Note: demographic and identity information will be used to understand the reach and inclusivity of Polar STEAM recruitment)

Prefer not to answer

Agender

Female

Genderqueer

Male

Non-binary including gender fluid and gender nonconforming

Transgender

Questioning or not sure

I prefer to self-identify: \_\_\_\_

* Which of the following racial or ethnic groups do you identify with? (Select all that apply)

Prefer not to answer

African American or Black

Asian or Asian American

American Indian or Alaska Native

Caucasian or White

Hispanic, Latino/a/x or Chicano/a/x

Middle Eastern or Arab

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

I identify as: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Are there any accommodations we can make to support you in this program? Please describe.

**Supervisor**

Supervisor’s Name

Supervisor’s Title

Supervisor’s Phone

Supervisor’s Email

**References**: *If you’d like your current supervisor to be a reference, please list them as one of your references below. Each reference should be able to speak to your professional practice. We may reach out to references via email with specific questions later in the application review process. This email will come from* *polarsteam@oregonstate.edu**.*

**Reference #1**

Reference Name

Reference Phone

Reference Email

Relationship to applicant

**Reference #2**

Reference Name

Reference Phone

Reference Email

Relationship to applicant

**Reference #3**

Reference Name

Reference Phone

Reference Email

Relationship to applicant

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| --- |
| Upload: Resume Please upload your resume of no more than 4 pages. We strongly recommend that you edit your resume to include the most critical information for this opportunity. (limit 4 pages). |