

P.O. Box 7001, Aiken, SC 29804
<http://local.ans.org/savriv/>
January 12, 2026

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 2026-2027 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 thirteenth year of the Benjamin Memorial Scholarship will recognize selected students based on an evaluation of submitted applications for college study in specific science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines for the 2026-2027 academic year.

This notice 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, and especially those wishing to pursue a career in one of the fields associated with nuclear science, engineering and technology.

For the 2026-2027 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 2026 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 any year of a technical college program related to nuclear science and technology or the first-year college costs of a four-year college or university with demonstrated intent to major in or pursue a degree in one of the following (or closely related) STEM disciplines:

- Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering
- Applied and Engineering Physics
- Chemical Engineering
- Chemistry
- Civil Engineering
- Computer and Computational Sciences, including Artificial Intelligence and Statistics
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering Technology (including 2-year and 4-year programs)
- Geosciences
- Material Science and Engineering
- Mathematics
- Mechanical Engineering

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.

- Ocean Engineering, Naval Architecture
- Nuclear Engineering and Physics
- Operations Research
- Physics including related areas of Radiological and Medical Physics.

The intent of the Benjamin Scholarship evaluation process is to evaluate applications more highly with these STEM discipline goals over those in other areas, especially those students wishing to eventually pursue a career in nuclear science and technology. Other scholarships should be sought for students looking at other STEM areas.

Application materials required for applying for the Benjamin Memorial Scholarship are given in Attachment A. The application window begins January 12, 2026, and applications should be received no later than May 4, 2026. The ANS SR Scholarship Selection Committee will inform winners by June 2026. Scholarship award payments will be made to the recipients prior to the traditional start of the 2026-2027 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 reach out by email or the U.S. mail address shown below.

Best regards,

Mukesh K. Gupta, PhD
Chair, ANS Savannah River Section Scholarship Committee
2026 Benjamin Memorial Scholarship Competition
Email: ans.savannahriver.scholarship@gmail.com
Mail: P.O. Box 7001, Aiken, SC 29804

Attachments

- a. Required Application Materials
- b. 2026 Benjamin Memorial Scholarship Application Cover Sheet
- c. Example of line following essay affirming the essay is written by the student without the assistance from others or through AI
- d. Announcement of 13th Annual Benjamin Memorial Scholarship Flyer
- e. Specific STEM Areas Applicable for 13th Annual Benjamin Scholarship

Attachment A.
Required Application Materials

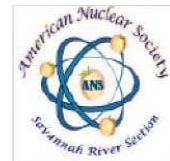
The following materials are required for each application to be considered (with evaluation criteria weighting shown in parentheses):

1. Application cover sheet (see attachment B) including name, address, evening phone number, current school, home email address, STEM major option(s), and name of university/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. Also, at the end of the cover letter, add a one-sentence non-school related fun fact about yourself (maximum of 10%).
2. An essay (300 words or less) on why a career in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics is the goal of the student; Highlight what you plan to pursue in college & potential career goals (maximum of 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; (maximum of 20%).
4. Two (2) letters of recommendation from education institution or community organization individuals (e.g., teachers, coaches, service or religious organization leaders, etc.). The applicant is strongly encouraged to submit at least one letter of recommendation from a physics, chemistry, math, computer science, other physical science, or a related subject area teacher. A recommendation from an advisor for a science/technology related club/activity (i.e., robotics, computer science, astronomy, photography, etc.) would also meet the intent of this suggestion. Each recommendation is weighted a maximum of 15% (30% total).

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

Application materials can be submitted by:

- (1) Email: ans.savannahriver.scholarship@gmail.com, and enter “13th ANS SR Benjamin Scholarship” in the subject line; include required attachments as one PDF or several PDFs if needed.
- (2) U.S. mail: 13th ANS SR Benjamin Scholarship, ANS Savannah River Section, P.O. Box 7001, Aiken, SC 29804.



Attachment B.

2026 Benjamin Memorial Scholarship Application Cover Sheet

Name:	
Current High School (City, State)	
Home Mailing Address:	
Phone: Home/Cell Number (Number where we can best reach you)	
Email address:	
College/University/Technical College of Interest: (If not certain, list the top choices)	
Planned Degree or Certificate (Check your planned STEM field(s) of interest)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Applied and Engineering Physics
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chemical Engineering
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chemistry
<input type="checkbox"/>	Civil Engineering
<input type="checkbox"/>	Computer and Computational Sciences, including Artificial Intelligence and Statistics
<input type="checkbox"/>	Electrical Engineering
<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering Technology (including 2-year and 4-year programs)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Geosciences
<input type="checkbox"/>	Material Science and Engineering
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mathematics
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ocean Engineering, Naval Architecture, Oceanography
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nuclear Engineering and Physics
<input type="checkbox"/>	Operations Research
<input type="checkbox"/>	Physics, including but not limited to Radiological and Medical Physics
<input type="checkbox"/>	List others if none of the above:
Add a one-sentence, non-academic fun-fact about yourself.	

Insert additional page if there is other information that you wish to add as part of your application.

Add the following to complete your application:

1. An essay (300 words or less) on why a career in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics is the goal of the student; Highlight what you plan to pursue in college & potential career goals.
2. 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.
3. Two (2) letters of recommendation from educational institution or community organization individuals (e.g., teachers, coaches, service or religious organization leaders, etc.).

Attachment C.

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 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:

About Dr. Richard Benjamin

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.

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.

Thirteenth Annual Benjamin Memorial Scholarship Awards – Since 2014, ANS SR has given CSRA graduation high school senior and technical college students over \$85,000 in Benjamin Scholarship awards. This year marks the Scholarship's 13th year. See the Attachment D flyer for the 2026 announcement.

Attachment D. Announcement of 13th Annual Benjamin Memorial Scholarship Flyer

Savannah River Section, P.O. Box 7001, Aiken, SC 29804
<http://local.ans.org/savriv/>



2026 American Nuclear Society Savannah River Section
THIRTEENTH 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 major and career goals in specific STEM disciplines (see flip side of this poster for examples), especially those 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 12 – May 4, 2026**

➤ **Required Application Materials and Evaluation Criteria (%)**:

1. Cover form 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 June 2026.**

Attachment E. Specific STEM Areas Applicable for 13th Annual Benjamin Scholarship**2026 American Nuclear Society Savannah River Section
THIRTEENTH ANNUAL BENJAMIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP****Eligible STEM Degree or Certificate to which 2026
Benjamin Scholarship is to be applied.**

Applied and Engineering Physics
Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Chemistry
Civil Engineering
Computer and Computational Sciences, including Artificial Intelligence and Statistics
Electrical Engineering
Geosciences
Engineering Technology (2-year and 4-year programs)
Material Science and Engineering
Mathematics
Mechanical Engineering; Naval Architecture, Ocean Engineering & Oceanography
Nuclear Engineering and Physics
Operations Research
Physics, including but not limited to areas of Radiological and Medical Physics
Other STEM areas may not be evaluated as highly. This is left to the discretion of the Scholarship evaluation team.



See
Benjamin
Scholarship
letter for
more
details.

ans.savannahriver.scholarship@gmail.com.

Benjamin Scholarship, ANS-Savannah River Section, P.O. Box 7001, Aiken, SC 29804