



School of Medicine Scholarship Guidelines

Application-based “Merit” and “Merit + Need” Scholarships 2022-2023

For questions please contact Dr. Poythress (edwardp@bcm.edu) and/or financialaid@bcm.edu

- Any student MD or MD/PhD (excluding incoming MS1s) enrolled and participating in medical school and meeting criteria can apply to as many scholarships as eligible (need and merit). Scholarships are designated for tuition and fees only. Therefore, students on Leave of Absence (LOA) are not eligible (see exceptions below)
 - Students on MD/MBA Leave of Absence are still part time students and may apply for scholarships to cover medical school tuition and fees.
 - Students on Leave of Absence (LOA) may apply for the Pentecost and Westbrook/Sowders scholarships as these are for mission work. These funds can be applied to mission work done in the prior academic year or the current academic year
- Students applying for need-based scholarships must have filled out the FAFSA and BCM Financial Aid applications. The Scholarship Application will ask students to acknowledge they have completed both applications.
- All need-based applications will first be evaluated by the Office of Student Financial Aid to verify the student meets the criteria of financial need based on the Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines.
- Maximum amount of funding for one student: \$15,000 per academic year for all scholarships controlled by the SOM Scholarship Committee. Therefore, students who receive scholarships awarded from the SOM Admissions Scholarship Committee remain eligible for the maximum amount, \$15,000.
 - Students on loans and scholarships exceeding the “cost of attendance” for that student’s MS year, will have loan funds replaced by scholarship funds by the Office of Student Financial Aid).
- Students on Administrative LOA due to professionalism issues and/or who are placed on Probation or are being Dismissed for professionalism issues are not eligible for scholarships.
- Student applications will be reviewed based on the donor’s intended purpose of their fund. The donor’s preference is often very limited (i.e., “Citizen of the U.S.”). The SOM Scholarship Committee will review scholarships in a holistic manner to determine students most deserving of the award.

- All “Free Text” answers (essays) will be limited to 300 words or less
- For scholarships that are the most limited in criteria, the following free-text section will be available for students write a narrative to best represent their merit: **“Please use this area to describe how your contributions as a student to the school of medicine, community, or field of medicine would set you apart as a candidate for this scholarship.”**
- For scholarships with more specific criteria, such as “students with an above average record”, the committee will look at an applicant’s grades and class rank in addition to their brief essay on contributions. Another example is a scholarship that asks for a student who is a “recognized leader making meaningful contributions to their community”. For these criterion sections will be available for students to directly describe how they fulfill the criterion: **“Please use this area to describe why/how you are a recognized leader. The Selection Committee will use your narrative to help discern scholarship award recipients”. AND “Please use this area to describe how you are making meaningful contributions to your community. The Selection Committee will use your narrative to help discern scholarship award recipients.”**
- **Students awarded funds are required to send the scholarship donors a “Thank You” letter and may be asked (but are not required) to meet with the donor.**

For non-application “Merit Only” and “Merit + Need” Awards

These scholarships have vague criteria. For AY 22-23 we will identify recipients based on class rank (top 20% in the MS2-4 classes) and the Committee’s discernment in distributing funds in manner that captures many students.

- Any student MD or MD/PhD enrolled and participating in medical school and meeting criteria are eligible. Students on LOA are not eligible. For Academic Year (AY) 22-23’ only MS2-4 will be considered.
- Students eligible for need-based scholarships must have filled out the FAFSA and Baylor Financial Aid applications. Information on the webpage will remind students of this requirement.
- All need-based scholarships will first be evaluated by the Office of Student Financial Aid to verify which students in the top 20% of each class meet the criteria of financial need based on the Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines.
- Maximum amount of funding for one student: \$15,000 per academic year for all scholarships controlled by the SOM Scholarship Committee. Therefore, students who receive scholarships from the SOM Admissions Committee are eligible for the maximum amount, \$15,000. (Students on loans and scholarships exceeding the “cost of attendance” for that student’s MS year, will have loan funds replaced by scholarship funds by the Office of Financial Aid).
- Students on Administrative LOA due to professionalism issues and/or who are placed on Probation or are being Dismissed for professionalism issues are not eligible for scholarships.

- Student recipients will be based on class rank (top 20% in the MS2-4 classes using the Cumulative GPA) and the Committee's discernment in distributing funds in manner that captures many students.