School of Medicine Scholarship Guidelines

Application-based “Merit” and “Merit + Need” Scholarships 2023-2024
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 (merit and merit + need). 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 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 tuition and fees 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 broad (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.

- “Free Text” answers (essays) will be limited to 350 words or less
- A single common essay question will be used for all scholarships:

“Please use this area to describe your two most meaningful contributions (see categories below) to the community, the field of medicine, or the school of medicine in the past 3 years, and how these would set you apart as a candidate for this scholarship.”

- For scholarships with specific criteria such as “proven leader” or “interest in cardiovascular disease” please speak to the specific criteria of the scholarship in one or both meaningful contribution entries.

- Categories: Military Service, Leadership, Research, Teaching/Mentoring, Volunteer/Service/Advocacy, Work (paid or unpaid)

- Scholarships requiring the selection of students in the top 20% or 25% of their classes will be non-application based. The Committee will review the internal rank reports for eligible students per class and distribute funds based on the Committee's discernment in a manner that captures many students.

- 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.