



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 and merit +specific interest criteria). 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 less than half 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 application before 5pm on 3/31/24. The Scholarship Application will ask students to acknowledge they have completed the FASFA application.
- 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.
 - Student scholarships will be applied to tuition and fees **only**. Institutional scholarships may not exceed tuition and fees.
 - Scholarships and loans combined may not exceed Cost of Attendance.
- 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.
- The SOM Scholarship Committee will review applications in a holistic manner to determine students most deserving of the scholarship and ensuring that, if applicable, the donor's intended fund purpose is met.
 - "Free Text" answers (essays) must be limited to 350 words or less
 - For all Merit Based and Merit + Need Based Scholarships, **a single common essay question will be used. Please use the same essay for every scholarship you apply towards in these two categories.** *"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."*
 - **Categories: Work (Paid or Unpaid), Research, Volunteering/Service/Advocacy, Education/Training, Leadership, Military Service, Other Extracurricular Activity, Professional Organization, Teaching/Mentoring.**

- **There are four (4) Merit-Based Scholarships with Specific Interest Criteria: “interest in cardiovascular disease” or “interest in Family Medicine or Internal Medicine”.**
 - **Please speak to the specific criteria of the scholarship in one or both meaningful contribution entries. These essays will be reviewed separately.**
- Scholarships requiring the selection of students in the top 20% or 25% of their classes, or “better than average grades” 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.

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