



## School of Medicine Scholarship Guidelines

**Application-based Merit and Merit + Need Scholarships 2025-2026**  
For questions, please contact Dr. Poythress ([edwardp@bcm.edu](mailto:edwardp@bcm.edu)) and/or [financialaid@bcm.edu](mailto:financialaid@bcm.edu)

- Any student MD or MD/PhD (excluding incoming MS1s) enrolled and participating in medical school for the 2025-2026 academic year and meeting criteria can apply to as many scholarships as eligible (merit and merit + need and merit + specific interest criteria). Scholarships are designated for BCM School of Medicine 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 3/31/25. The Scholarship Application will ask students to acknowledge they have completed the FAFSA application.
- All need-based applications will first be evaluated by the Office of Student Financial Aid based on FAFSA data in order to verify the student meets the criteria of financial need.
- 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**. All combined Institutional scholarships may not exceed tuition and fees. Therefore, if you have received an Admissions Scholarship and are awarded a SOM Scholarship(s), the combined amount cannot exceed tuition and fees.
  - Scholarships and loans combined may not exceed the Cost of Attendance.
  - Scholarships are made on a yearly basis and disbursed (50%) per semester.
- 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 the 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 seven (7) Merit-Based Scholarships with Specific Interest Criteria: “interest in cardiovascular disease”, “interest in Family Medicine or Internal Medicine or Women’s Health or Neurology” or “Interest in improving academic exchange between the U.S. and China”**
  - **Please speak to the specific criteria of the scholarship in one or both meaningful contribution entries. These essays will be reviewed separately.**
- Students awarded funds may be required to send the scholarship donors a “Thank You” letter and may be asked (but are not required) to meet with the donor.