

SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

Pre-Doctoral Dental Student Scholarships

Purpose, Description, and Objectives: The dental student scholarships help predoctoral dental students defray a part of their education expenses. The purpose is to help support the education of the dental workforce to promote the public's oral health.

Dollar Amount and Number of Scholarships Available: Two (2) scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 yearly **or** One (1) scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 yearly

Eligibility Criteria (Target Audience):

- Applicants must be an entering third year student at the time of application and currently attending or enrolled at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, as well as have membership in the American Student Dental Association (ASDA)
- Applicants must be enrolled as a full-time student, a minimum of 12 credit hours;
- Applicants must demonstrate a minimum financial need of \$2,500;
- Applicants must have a minimum accumulative grade point average of 2.75 based on a 4.0 scale;
- Applicants must be United States citizens.
- Applicants must demonstrate participation in an activity related to an access to care or community service project other than that required by their curriculum.

Application Submission and Review Processes:

- The appropriate dental school officials must select students to apply for MSDA Foundation scholarships who meet the minimum criteria, and will provide six (6) "finalists" for the MSDA Foundation scholarship subcommittee for final review.
- The applicant will use the application forms provided with these Guidelines, as well as submit a 300 word essay on why organized dentistry is important, and what the applicant plans on doing in, or for, organized dentistry.
- Applicants must have a minimum accumulative grade point average of 2.75 based on a 4.0 scale.
- Two reference forms from two dental school faculty who are members of the American Dental Association (i.e., professor or academic advisor) and one access to care activity representative in support of the application must be submitted as part of the application form.
- The MSDA Foundation scholarship fund subcommittee will interview up to 6 finalists for the scholarship(s) and make the final determination of the recipients
- Incomplete or late applications will not receive response or consideration.
- If confirmation of receipt of the submitted application is required, arrange to receive confirmation from the shipping vendor or U.S. Post Office.
- Students who are awarded scholarships and their school officials will receive follow-up communication from the MSDA Foundation.

Scholarship Timetable:

Scholarship Announcement sent to Dental School dean or administrative assistant:

Annually in June

Applications due to MSDA C & E Foundation subcommittee: TBD

Notification of scholarship awards: Annually late August

Scholarship Policies:

- As a matter of policy the MSDA C & E Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, political affiliation, national or ethnic origin or disability.
- The Scholarship programs are competitive and submitting an application does not convey the right to receive a scholarship.

Evaluation of Applications: Scholarship applications are evaluated based on a 40 point scale as follows, with 40 points being the highest possible score and 0 being the lowest score:

Essay: maximum of 10 points

Financial Needs assessment: maximum of 10 points

Reference Forms: maximum of 10 points

Biographical Sketch including access to care project experience: maximum of 10 points

Scholarship decisions and award amounts are in the sole discretion of the MSDA C & E Foundation Board of Directors.

Reporting Requirements: Reports are not required because this is a one-time only \$2,500 - \$5,000 scholarship award. Recipients sign a Scholarship Agreement Form.

Additional Information:

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the MSDA C & E Foundation at (410) 964-2880 or Eric Biagioli at Eric@msda.com. The MSDA C & E Foundation regularly updates its website www.msda.com. **Please check the website for the most current program information.**