



Diversity in Medicine Scholarship 2020-2021 Application Cycle

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

APPLICATION OPENS ON MAY 1, 2020

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE ON JUNE 15, 2020

**ALL MATERIALS MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY BY 11:59PM ON JUNE 15, 2020 OR
POSTMARKED BY JUNE 15, 2020.**

The Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY) is pleased to offer a medical school scholarship for the 2020-2021 academic year to those students who have gone through a New York State (NYS) Department of Health (DOH) AMSNY Post-Baccalaureate Program. Students who receive this scholarship will be required to serve in an underserved area in New York after completing their training.

The AMSNY Diversity in Medicine Scholarship is available for a fourth cycle due to the strong advocacy of members of the New York State Assembly's Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus (The Caucus). AMSNY oversees a number of pipeline programs to medical school which seek to increase the diversity of the physician workforce in New York State, including four post-baccalaureate programs. The Caucus has recognized the need to assist those current and prospective medical students who are underrepresented in medicine (URIM) and facing a mounting debt load which will impact their career choices long after medical school. The AMSNY Diversity in Medicine Scholarship will cover medical school tuition and fees to students who will commit to serve in an underserved community for a commensurate number of years. The goal is to increase the number of URIM physicians practicing in these areas for years to come.

NYS has designated funding for ten AMSNY Diversity in Medicine Scholarship awards covering tuition and fees at up to \$42,000 for the 2020-2021 academic year.

SCHOLARSHIP TERMS

The Diversity in Medicine Scholarship provides a full year of funding to cover tuition and fees for medical school to selected students who have gone through one of the AMSNY post-baccalaureate programs. In exchange for one or two years of this scholarship, the recipient must agree to serve in a designated underserved area of New York State for two years once residency training has been completed. For three years of scholarship, the service commitment is three years, and for four years of scholarship, the commitment is four years. If the recipient decides to forgo the service obligation, they will be required to pay back the funds for tuition with associated penalties.

HOW MUCH IS THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD AND WHAT COSTS DOES THE AWARD COVER?

For the 2020-2021 academic year, AMSNY is offering to cover medical school tuition and fees for up to \$42,000. This award may not cover all tuition or expenses for a student attending a private medical school. Students are expected to cover those costs independently. Scholarship awards will be paid directly to the school's financial office and should avoid any tax implications for the awardee. This scholarship does not include any kind of stipend, living expenses, or costs beyond tuition.

CAN I RECEIVE THIS SCHOLARSHIP FOR ALL FOUR YEARS OF MEDICAL SCHOOL?

Currently, the Diversity in Medicine Scholarship Program only has funding for the 2020-2021 academic year and AMSNY can only award scholarships for this school year. AMSNY is actively looking for funding in future years with the hope that students who are awarded scholarships will be able to receive funding for all four years of medical school. However, as it stands right now, this funding is only available for this academic year and there is no guarantee of future funding.

WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA?

To be eligible for the AMSNY Diversity in Medicine Scholarship, applicants must be:

- Current or former AMSNY post-bac students – students who have gone through or are currently attending one of the four AMSNY post-baccalaureate programs at:

Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, the University at Buffalo, SUNY
New York Medical College
Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University, SUNY
SUNY Upstate Medical University

- Domiciled in New York State per the regulations applied to SUNY in-state tuition determinations (available at <https://www.suny.edu/smartrack/residency/>)
- Enrolled in a medical school in New York State for the 2020-2021 academic year.

IS THERE A REQUIREMENT THAT APPLICANTS PURSUE A CAREER IN PRIMARY CARE?

No, the Diversity in Medicine Scholarship does not require that the recipients train in any specific specialty and are welcome to complete a residency and subsequent training in any field of their choosing. New York State recently changed its shortage area designations, so awardees who choose a field outside of primary care will need to do an alternate certification to ensure they are practicing in a shortage area in their specialty. Please consider the current primary care designated underserved areas for an idea of where the service commitment can be fulfilled (<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/219brca11.pdf>). AMSNY can provide guidance on specialty shortage areas. Also, please note that these are current designations and may change by the time an awardee is ready to start fulfilling the service commitment.

WILL I BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN A POSTGRADUATE TRAINING PROGRAM?

Awardees are required to complete postgraduate training in an accredited residency training program and must begin performance of their service obligation no later than six months after completion of their postgraduate training program. However, awardees may request to defer (i.e. postpone) their period of obligated service to complete advanced training (ex. chief residency or fellowship) if approved by AMSNY.

HOW LONG IS MY SERVICE OBLIGATION?

In return for the award for the 2020-2021 academic year, each awardee must agree to provide full-time health care services for two (2) years in a New York State approved underserved area. Awardees receiving the scholarship for a second year will still be required to provide full-time health care services for two (2) years in a New York State approved underserved area; the second year of the award does not require an additional service commitment. Awardees receiving the scholarship for a third year will be required to serve three (3) years in a New York State approved underserved area. Awardees receiving the scholarship for a fourth year will be required to serve four (4) years in a New York State approved underserved area.

WHAT ARE THE LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS?

Awardees must be fully licensed in New York State prior to commencing service. Credit towards fulfillment of the service obligation will not be given in the absence of a current, full, permanent, unencumbered, or unrestricted health professional license.

HOW WILL I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE COMPLETED MY SERVICE REQUIREMENT?

Once the awardees have completed their postgraduate training and are fully licensed, he or she must obtain full-time clinical employment at a qualified facility in a New York State designated shortage area within six months. The awardee must provide AMSNY documentation of full time employment at such a facility at the time of employment and each calendar year thereafter until the obligation is discharged.

Full-time clinical practice is defined as being a full time equivalent where 80% of the hours are spent in clinical practice.

WHAT IF I DECIDE NOT TO OR AM UNABLE TO COMPLETE THE SERVICE REQUIREMENT?

Service obligation is a very serious commitment on the part of the student in exchange for this scholarship award. Should a student decide not to complete his/her/their service, he/she/it will be deemed in breach of contract. AMSNY strongly recommends that any student considering this scholarship be aware that there are strict penalties associated with breach of contract. If, for some reason, you decide not to or are unable to complete the service requirement, you will be legally obligated to pay back the amount you received in tuition scholarship plus damages equal to three times the amount of the scholarship plus interest. This amount must be paid back within one year of the awardee's breach of the contract.

CAN I RECEIVE OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID AWARDS TO HELP ME PAY FOR MEDICAL SCHOOL?

Awardees may not receive another full tuition award for the 2020-2021 academic year in which they are receiving the Diversity in Medicine Scholarship, such as the National Health Service Corps Scholarship. However, awardees may receive scholarships and financial aid assistance to cover costs above and beyond what the Diversity in Medicine scholarship covers (e.g. books, health insurance, living expenses, etc.). Students may also seek opportunities for loan repayment assistance once they have finished their service obligation under the Diversity in Medicine Scholarship.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

The goal of the Diversity in Medicine Scholarship is to increase the number of individuals who are underrepresented in medicine practicing in underserved areas. To that end, AMSNY will prioritize those applicants who will most benefit from a scholarship of this type and who are most likely to complete their service obligation and remain in practice in an underserved area in New York. In determining who will receive the scholarship, AMSNY will take into consideration the following factors:

- Academic year – **AMSNY is prioritizing applicants entering their third and fourth years of medical school for the 2020-2021 awards**
- Post-baccalaureate and medical school transcripts
- Letters of recommendation
- Application essay responses
- Community or volunteer service
- Prior work in underserved areas such as community health centers, rural hospitals, or mission work
- Financial background
- Applicant interview
- Other factors as necessary