



Associated Medical Schools of New York
2024-25 Diversity in Medicine Scholarship
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

APPLICATION OPENS ON MAY 1, 2024

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE ON JUNE 14, 2024

ALL MATERIALS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 11:59PM ON JUNE 14, 2024

The Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY) is pleased to offer a scholarship for the 2024-2025 academic year to medical students who have successfully completed an AMSNY post-baccalaureate/master's program. Students who receive this scholarship will be required to serve in an underserved area in New York State (NYS) after completing their training.

The AMSNY Diversity in Medicine Scholarship is available for an eighth cycle, thanks to the generous support of the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation and the NYS Legislature and due to the strong advocacy of members of the NYS Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus (the Caucus). AMSNY oversees a number of pathway programs to medical school which seek to increase the diversity of the physician workforce in New York State, including seven post-baccalaureate/master's programs.

The scholarship will cover medical school tuition, fees and cost of attendance up to \$45,000 for the 2024-25 academic year for 38 students who commit to serve in an underserved community for a commensurate number of years. The goals of the scholarship are to decrease medical students' debt load and to increase the number of diverse physicians practicing in medically underserved areas in NYS for years to come.

SCHOLARSHIP TERMS

The Diversity in Medicine Scholarship provides a full year of funding to primarily be used for tuition and fees for medical school for selected students who have gone through one of the AMSNY post-baccalaureate/master's programs; however, the scholarship can cover expenses as defined by each respective medical school for the cost of attendance. Each institution defines its cost of attendance in accordance with federal statutes and regulations and it will vary by school, by student, and by year. 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 2024-25 academic year, AMSNY is offering to cover medical school tuition, fees and cost of attendance for up to \$45,000. 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 are generally considered non-taxable.



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

Currently, the Diversity in Medicine Scholarship Program only has funding for the 2024-25 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. 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-supported students – students who have gone through or are currently attending one of the seven AMSNY post-baccalaureate/master's programs:

AMSNY Post-Baccalaureate Program

Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, the University at Buffalo, SUNY

Basic Medical Sciences Program

New York Medical College

MAP to Success Program

Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University, SUNY

Master of Science in Physiology & Biophysics Program

Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University, SUNY

Bridges to Medicine Program

SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University

Medical Scholars Program

SUNY Upstate Medical University, College of Health Professions

Public Health Scholars Program

SUNY Upstate Medical University, Norton College of Medicine

- 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 2024-25 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 has 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 2024-25 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, they 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 their service, they 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 2024-25 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 from diverse backgrounds practicing in medically 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 State. In determining who will receive the scholarship, AMSNY will take into consideration the following factors:

- Post-baccalaureate/master's 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
- Applicant interview
- Other factors as necessary