

Minority Scholarship Award for Student Physical Therapists and Student Physical Therapist Assistants



Nomination Instructions

DESCRIPTION OF AWARD: This is an annual award offered to minority physical therapist students by the Minority Scholarship Fund, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization supported by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA).

PURPOSE: To acknowledge and reward demonstrated participation in minority affairs activities and services, the potential for superior achievements in the profession of physical therapy, appropriate display of professionalism as a future physical therapist, and academic excellence.

REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION:

1. The applicant must be a US citizen or legal permanent resident and a member of one of the following racial/ethnic minority groups: African-American or Black, Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Hispanic/Latino.
2. In the year this award is to be given, the student must be enrolled in the final academic year of an accredited or developing professional physical therapist education program. The student must complete all degree requirements (clinical and didactic) and/or be eligible to graduate **September 1, 2023 -December 31, 2024.**
3. The student must show evidence of contributions in the areas of minority affairs and services and high scholastic achievement.
4. The student must possess potential for superior achievements in the profession of physical therapy, as well as professional excellence as a physical therapist.

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APPLICATION PROCESS:

The following documents must be uploaded electronically via APTA's designated awards platform:

1. A completed application.

2. A personal essay no longer than 600 words outlining your professional goals and minority service (beyond what is required by your academic program). Your essay must include a response to the following 3 questions:
 - Why are your contributions to minority and underserved populations important?
 - How have your activities and contributions impacted the communities you serve?
 - How have your experiences and contributions impacted you personally?

3. Three completed reference forms:
 - Reference Form 1: completed by the physical therapy program resource
 - Reference Form 2: completed by a physical therapist clinician
 - Reference Form 3: completed by a minority/communities activities referral

4. One unofficial transcript in PDF format detailing all physical therapy coursework completed to date must accompany the original application materials. If the applicant's transcript is not based on a grading scale of 1-4, a written explanation of that scale's equivalence to a 1-4 grading scale must be provided.

CRITERIA USED TO SELECT THE RECIPIENT:

1. Demonstrated evidence of contributions in the area of minority affairs and services with an emphasis on contributions made while enrolled in the physical therapy education program.

2. Potential to contribute to the profession of physical therapy by addressing: honors and awards, past/present physical therapy related activities, demonstrated leadership (i.e., offices held), clarity of written communication and ability to articulate realistic goals and plans, clinical performance, critical thinking abilities, and community service.

3. Scholastic achievement.

If you have any questions concerning the application process, please contact the Honors and Awards office honorsandawards@apta.org.