

## Merit Scholarships

The merit scholarships comprise three awards administered under a common application process. The purpose of these scholarships is to acknowledge and aid students who demonstrate high-level scholastic achievement and financial need. Multiple scholarships are awarded per year, pending available funds; all scholarships provide the same level of support. The merit scholarships are as follows:

- **UPMC Endowed Scholarship** -The UPMC Endowed Scholarship was established in 2006 from generous support provided by the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.
- **Alumni Endowed Scholarship** -The Alumni Endowed Scholarship derives from the generous donations of alumni of the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.
- **Anne Pascasio Scholarship** -The Anne Pascasio Endowment fund was established in 1982 in honor of Anne Pascasio, the Founding Dean of the School of Health-Related Professions, today known as the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

### *Eligibility:*

- All SHRS students that are enrolled **full time in a degree seeking program as either an undergraduate or graduate at the time of application.**
  - If you are a **current SHRS Undergraduate** and you have been accepted into a SHRS graduate degree starting in the spring term ***you are eligible to apply.***
  - If you are **NOT a current SHRS Undergraduate** but will be starting a SHRS Graduate degree in the spring term, ***you are NOT eligible to apply.***
- Must be a student **in good standing** at the time of the application.
- High-level scholastic achievement with a **minimum overall cumulative GPA of 3.500 in all coursework completed.**
- **Must be graduating in 2025 or later.** (Award is applied to Spring tuition bill)

**FAQ:** What cumulative GPA is used and if you are below a 3.500 right now can you apply?

- ❖ We will pull your **overall** cumulative GPA that is reported on your transcript in January after all fall term grades are submitted. This **overall** cumulative GPA includes **all courses taken** for your undergraduate or graduate degree.
- ❖ If you are below a 3.500 overall cumulative GPA currently, but feel you will bring up your overall cumulative GPA at the end of the fall term to a 3.500, please apply! All GPA's will be verified in January, before the applications are submitted to the executive committee for consideration.

**Note:** if this is your first term with SHRS or if you were a post-baccalaureate (non-degree seeking) and you are now enrolled as a degree seeking SHRS student, your overall cumulative GPA will be based on this term.

### **What students are NOT eligible?**

- Post-Bacc students are NOT eligible. You must be in a full-time *degree seeking* program at SHRS.
- International Students that are *fully funded or have a GSR/GSA/TA/TF* appointment through SHRS, are NOT eligible. **What is a GSR/GSA/TA/TF appointment:** GSR= Graduate Student Researcher, GSA= Graduate Student Assistant, TA = Teaching Assistant, TF = Teaching Fellow.

- If you have received the Merit Scholarship as an Undergrad or a Grad you cannot receive it again as an Undergrad or Grad. Applicants can only receive the scholarship *once* as an undergrad and *once* as a graduate student.
- Students that are *graduating in December of this term*, are NOT eligible, as the award is applied to your Spring bill.

***Criteria for Selection:***

- **Demonstrate financial need.** Financial need will be determined by the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid (OAFSA) based on the filing of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
  - Note: International students that are ineligible to file the FAFSA should still complete the scholarship application.
- **Essay composition** -Your essay should be approximately 250 words maximum (essays over 250 words will not be considered) describing a specific event, interaction, or educational experience that you had as an SHRS Student and discuss how it has impacted your preparation as a future health professional. For example, it could be an experience from a class as an assignment or something that occurred in the local or global community that significantly influences you.

***Selection of Awardees:***

Awardees will be selected by the SHRS Executive Committee. The amount of the awards will depend on available funds and the student's financial needs.

Students will be notified in writing if they are or are not selected to receive an award in mid-January.