



2026 VOLUNTEER HEALTHCARE SCHOLARSHIP

UnityPoint Health - Meriter's Volunteer Services administers a scholarship program to help further academic aspirations of volunteers pursuing healthcare careers that involve direct patient care (e.g., physician, nurse, medical assistant, CNA, pharmacist, ultrasound technician, social worker, physical therapist, etc.).

UnityPoint Health - Meriter recognizes the need for a robust, talented, and diverse healthcare workforce that reflects and connects to the community in which we serve. The mission of the Healthcare Scholarship Program is to support and encourage students and volunteers pursuing higher education in healthcare. In doing so, we also want to make sure our volunteers feel supported and encouraged to join us in the healthcare industry. Our volunteer-based scholarship committee is made up of students, retired healthcare professionals, parents, teachers, and counselors. Together they meticulously pour over applications to select our recipients. The Volunteer Scholarship program is made possible through the gracious donations that come in through the [Meriter Foundation](#). Thank you to everyone for making this program possible!

VOLUNTEER SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Must be a current volunteer at UnityPoint Health – Meriter and completed volunteer hours in 2025.
- Must have volunteered for a minimum of 60 hours or more.
- Must be in good standing as a volunteer, demonstrated responsive communication with supervisors and Volunteer Services and does not have an attendance record of No call/No show.
- Must be pursuing higher education in a healthcare related field (Examples: CNA class, medical school, nursing school, medical assistant, or another similar program).
- Must meet deadlines and respond to all email correspondences in a timely fashion.

Note: Applicants may reapply each year of their program for this scholarship to help support their academic pursuits.

If your schedule allows, we would like recipients to attend either or both of the following:

- Attend the 2026 Scholarship Recognition Event on April 29, 2026, from 5:35-7:00 pm at McConnell Hall (1010 Mound Street, Madison, WI; across from UPH - Meriter Hospital).
- Be a presenter at our Healthcare Fair for High School Scholarship Recipients on April 29, 2026, from 4:30-5:35 pm at McConnell Hall (1010 Mound Street, Madison, WI; across from UPH - Meriter Hospital) to share your experiences as both a volunteer and as a student pursuing higher education in the healthcare field.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED

To submit your application, you will need the following documents:

1. An **academic transcript** that includes all relevant coursework and grades.
 - a. If you are currently enrolled in a healthcare educational program, please be sure to submit transcripts from this program.
 - b. If you attended multiple schools or programs, please submit multiple transcripts.
2. A **resume** that includes extra-curricular activities, special honors, awards and recognitions, and community involvement such as work/volunteer experiences.
 - a. Please also highlight publications, internships, research, fellowships and shadowing you have been involved in.

3. One **letter of recommendation**: academic or nonacademic considered.
 - a. This should not be from a friend or family member, but instead from a teacher/instructor, supervisor, mentor, etc.
 - b. In an attempt to remain unbiased, Volunteer Services will not provide Letters of Recommendation for this scholarship, however you can ask your department supervisor for a letter if you choose, and they are able.
 - c. ***This letter is to comment on your character, accomplishments, and how you have navigated struggles, and challenges life has presented you with.*** Please make sure you share this information with the person who is writing your letter of recommendation, so they have a guide.
 - d. Please ask them to include their title on the letter and/or clearly state their connection to you.
 - e. This letter may be different than one you are submitting to colleges or for jobs as we are asking for specific information. If you have a current general letter that covers the topics we are asking for, you may surely submit it.
4. **Personal statement** addressing the topics below.
 - a. Please address each prompt in no more than 250 words.
 - b. Please title each section in your essay.

1. DECISION AND COMMITMENT TO A DIRECT HEALTHCARE PROVIDER POSITION

Life experiences can shape and sometimes determine our path. What life experiences helped lead you to this career path? Tell us about your decision as well as your personal connection and/or passion to pursue a career in the healthcare field. Please specifically state your career goal and be clear on what led you to this goal.

2. RESILIENCY: NAVIGATING LIFE'S CHALLENGES AND CONNECTION TO FUTURE IN HEALTHCARE

Everyone has challenges in their lives, those challenges range from navigating adolescence to personal/family health issues to the financial challenge of paying for college or adjusting to moving to a new country. How we navigate these challenges speaks to our resiliency. Explain some of the challenges you have had, how you have navigated them, and make a connection between those experiences and your healthcare future.

3. EXPERIENCES, UNIQUE ASPECTS, BACKGROUND

We are all diverse and unique and have something to offer. What you bring to the table and your experiences in life add to the diversity of healthcare workers which in turn, meets our goal which is to be able to reflect and connect with those we serve. What makes you unique and diverse? What unique aspects of your background and experiences will you bring to healthcare? Please look back at any of the diversity categories you checked in the application and explain them in terms of your life experiences and connections.

4. VOLUNTEERING

Describe your current UPH - Meriter volunteer position and what you have personally gained or learned from this experience. What impact have you already had on patient experience?

5. **Headshot Photo** or current photo for presentation at the reception and for marketing purposes. Note this will not be included in your application materials and will only be used if you are chosen as a recipient.

DEADLINE

Application opens January 2, 2026.

The deadline to apply is noon on January 30, 2026, or as soon as we receive 25 applications.

Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

All documents MUST be submitted with the application, they will not be accepted separately.

Please complete your application as soon as possible to have the best chance of being considered.

Application materials must be submitted together within the application online at:

<https://www.unitypoint.org/giving/unitypoint-health---meriter-foundation/priority-initiatives/health-care-scholarships>

Decisions will be announced via email no later than April 17, 2026.

QUESTIONS

Applicants may contact UnityPoint Health - Meriter's Volunteer Services department at 608-417-6257 or MSN_volunteer@unitypoint.org with any questions.

Parental inquiries will not be entertained.