



2026 HIGH SCHOOL HEALTHCARE SCHOLARSHIP

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

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 all youth in our community feel supported and encouraged to join us in the healthcare industry. Our volunteer-based scholarship committee is made up of college students, retired healthcare professionals, parents, teachers, and counselors. Together they meticulously pour over applications to select our recipients. The Scholarship program is made possible through the gracious donations of our patients, visitors and staff at Meriter's Dr. Joe's Cafe, as well as donations that come in through the [Meriter Foundation](#). Thank you to everyone for making this program possible!

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Must be a graduating senior pursuing a healthcare career with direct patient care.
- Must plan to attend a fully accredited institution in the 2026 – 2027 academic school year.
- Must currently:
 - attend a Dane County high school **or**
 - be home-schooled in Dane County **or**
 - be related to a UnityPoint Health - Meriter employee, physician, or volunteer, if you attend a high school outside Dane County.

Please note the UnityPoint Health - Meriter Scholarship Committee does not award preferential consideration to applications received from Meriter affiliates.

- Must be able to attend the 2026 Scholarship Recognition Event on April 29, 2026, from 4:30-7:00 pm at McConnell Hall (1010 Mound Street, Madison, WI; across from UPH - Meriter Hospital).
- Must meet deadlines and respond to all email correspondences in a timely fashion.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED

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

1. An **academic transcript** that includes coursework and grades for Freshman through fall semester Senior year as well as your course list for spring semester Senior year.
 - a. You will be asked to list your spring semester classes in the application, even if they are listed in your transcript.
 - b. If you attended multiple schools, please submit multiple transcripts.
2. A **resume**.
 - a. You MUST use the **Sample Resume Template** that we provide. [LINK](#)
 - a. Make a copy of the Google Doc, if you would like and make the appropriate edits.
 - b. Here are the **Guidelines for Resume** as to what to include in the specific topic areas. [LINK](#).
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, coach, youth leader, boss, etc.

- b. ***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.
 - c. Please ask them to include their title on the letter and/or clearly state their connection to you.
 - d. This letter may be different than one you are submitting to colleges as we are asking for specific information.
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 to adjusting to moving to a new school or even 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, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, EXTRACURRICULARS, EMPLOYMENT

How are you actively involved within your community, such as through volunteering, employment &/or extracurricular activities? What have you personally gained or learned from those experiences?

5. **Senior Photo** or current photo for presentation at the reception and 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 February 2, 2026.

The deadline to apply is NOON on February 27, 2026, or as soon as we receive 50 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 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.

Decisions are final and at the sole discretion of the Scholarship Committee.



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QUESTIONS

Applicants are encouraged to reach out directly to their high school **Guidance Counselor** with any questions or contact UnityPoint Health - Meriter's Volunteer Services Department at 608-417-6257 or

MSN_volunteer@unitypoint.org.

Parental inquiries will not be entertained.