

University of Wisconsin Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences Scholarship for Underrepresented in Medicine Visiting Medical Students

Mission: The University of Wisconsin Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences encourages underrepresented in medicine medical students (URiM) seeking external ophthalmology rotations to apply for our Underrepresented in Medicine (URiM) Visiting Student Scholarship.

Our goals are to increase interest in ophthalmology and program awareness among underrepresented in medicine medical students and provide support and mentorship for them as visiting medical students. We are seeking applications from visiting medical students who meet one or more of these criteria:

1. High level of financial need
2. First generation college student (neither parent received a baccalaureate degree)
3. Students who contribute to the intellectual and cultural enrichment of the program because of their life experiences, including overcoming personal adversity or family hardship, records of extensive community service, or successful careers in other fields
4. Significant barriers to achieving higher education, such as experience in the foster care system, living in a single-parent household, having an incarcerated parent, or responsibilities for providing financial support or primary care for other household members.

Program Benefits:

- Opportunity to work with a diverse group of recognized Ophthalmology faculty on an individualized schedule
- \$3,000 scholarship (a taxable stipend to be used toward application fees, elective fees, travel and living expenses)
- Mentorship & Networking: Each scholarship recipient is offered hands-on exposure and expert introduction to the specialty of ophthalmology and visual sciences through a mentorship experience with ophthalmologists. Recipients will also have opportunities to network with faculty, residents, and fellows to build professional relationships. This month-long mentorship experience could include clinic work as well as work on publications and conference presentations. Upon successful completion of the rotation, scholarship recipients may request a letter of recommendation from their mentors.

Program Details:

Rotations are four weeks in duration and are available to full-time fourth-year medical students who are in good standing and currently enrolled in an LCME-accredited U.S. medical school during the summer. Awards will be given to up to 2 qualifying applicants on a competitive basis.

Application Process:

This competitive scholarship is open to underrepresented in medicine fourth-year medical students who have expressed interest in applying for a visiting student rotation at the University of Wisconsin Ophthalmology Program. Your VSLO application materials must be submitted by June 15. Only U.S. citizens are eligible to apply.

To apply for this scholarship, please submit all the items listed below to DOVS Education at medstudents@ophth.wisc.edu June 15:

- Current CV
- Unofficial Transcript
- USMLE 1 score
- Letter of Intent
- Completed scholarship application form

Selection Process:

A committee will carefully review each application and selects scholarship recipients on the basis of their demonstrated interest in ophthalmology, involvement in local or international community, desire to contribute to the intellectual and cultural enrichment of the UW medical student program, and ability to excel in the rigorous educational environment.

For further information, [please visit our webpage](#) or contact the Graduate Medical Education Coordinator, Jessica Benton, at jl Benton2@wisc.edu