

Dear Student Doctors,

We are proud to have the opportunity to present a new scholarship for those interested in pursuing primary care specialties. The Pathways to Careers in Primary Care Scholarship offered by the Rowan Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine is an excellent opportunity for medical students pursuing careers in family medicine, internal medicine, and/or pediatrics.

BACKGROUND

Rowan-Virtua SOM is dedicated to addressing the healthcare needs of New Jersey and the nation, particularly in medically underserved areas.

Aligned with this mission, RowanVirtuaSOM has received the Medical Student Education Program (MSEP) grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The grant aims to alleviate New Jersey's primary care physician shortage by creating pathways into primary care residencies for those committed to serving in rural, tribal, or other medically underserved communities. As part of this initiative, RowanVirtuaSOM has launched the Pathways to Primary Care Program, which includes up to 20 tuition scholarships for students dedicated to pursuing careers in primary care. Priority is given to applicants from rural, tribal, or medically underserved areas in New Jersey who plan to return and practice in underserved regions.

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

Name: Rowan-Virtua SOM Pathways to Careers in Primary Care Scholarship Award

Scholarship Amount: \$23,430 per year (approximately half of in-state tuition)

Application Deadline: April 30th, 2025

Award Notifications: Applicants will be informed of their status by May 21, 2025.

Award period: Academic Year 2025-26

Eligibility Criteria:

To qualify for the scholarship, applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Be a first- through third-year medical student at Rowan-Virtua SOM in good academic standing during the academic year for which the scholarship is given. (Accepted students entering in July 2025 may apply)
2. Demonstrate a commitment to practicing primary care (family medicine, general internal medicine, pediatrics, or med-peds) in rural and/or medically underserved areas.

3. Priority consideration will be given to students from rural, tribal, or medically underserved ZIP codes in New Jersey.
4. Students are not eligible if their full tuition needs are already covered by other scholarships, including but not limited to those provided by the military or the National Health Service Corps (NHSC).
5. To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must meet one of the following criteria:
 - i. Be a U.S. citizen or a non-citizen national
 - ii. Be lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States
 - iii. Qualify as a “qualified alien” under section 431(b) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-193, as amended)

RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS

Scholarship recipients are expected to meet the following program obligations:

1. **Attendance: Participate in the Pathway Curriculum and assigned clinical sessions.**
 - First and second year students will be required to attend in person seminars which will be approximately monthly during the academic year, lasting 1–2 hours each. (a detailed schedule will be provided)
 - Clerkship year students will have readings and short assignments/quizzes to complete approximately monthly starting in September of their clerkship year.
 - Clinical shadowing in primary care settings is required for 1st and 2nd year students during pre-clerkship curriculum (there will be no requirements for shadowing during Level 1 dedicated time, but requirements will resume during Intercessions). Shadowing locations and time slots will be provided for you to choose from in both Family Medicine and Pediatrics offices in medically underserved areas of southern NJ.
2. **Renewal Application:**
 - Students are eligible to apply to receive the scholarship for up to a total of three years, contingent on grant funding and completion of a renewal application demonstrating continued interest in primary care. Students who fail to meet attendance (both clinical and didactic) requirements will not be eligible for renewal.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, students must complete and submit the following materials by April 30th, 2025 through the online Pathways to Careers in Primary Care Application link below:

[APPLICATION LINK](#)

1. **Application demographic information**

- a. Provide your name, contact information, medical school year, and other demographic data. Use this form to upload your essay responses.

2. **Essay Questions**

1. Submit responses to the following essay prompts

- a. **For Entering students, 1st-time applicants & Re-applicants**

NOT previously awarded scholarships: (500 words or less for each):

- i. Describe your lived experience in a tribal, rural, or medically underserved community. How has this experience motivated you to pursue a career in primary care?
- ii. Describe your intended career path after completing medical school. What type of community do you hope to practice in, what draws you to it, and how do you plan to make a meaningful impact through your medical career?

- b. **Re-newing scholarship recipients:** (200 words or less for each)

- i. Please describe your continued interest in pursuing a career in primary care. Have you participated in any new experiences, activities, or reflections that have strengthened or reshaped your commitment to this field? Why do you believe you are a strong candidate for this scholarship?
 - If you are a **rising third-year student**, please also share your plans for the upcoming year and how they align with your primary care goals.
 - If you are a **rising second-year student**, please reflect on how the primary care seminars have influenced your understanding or perception of primary care, and how they have impacted your career interests or aspirations.

3. **Leadership and Service Activities (ONLY for For Entering students, 1st-time applicants & Re-applicants NOT previously awarded scholarships)**

List your top five leadership or service activities from your undergraduate and medical school experiences that demonstrate your interest and commitment to primary care.

CONTACT INFORMATION

1. **For inquiries about financial aid implications, contact the Financial Aid Office.**
2. **Applicants will receive a confirmation email upon submission.** If you do not receive confirmation upon submission , please immediately contact

Daisha Carson

Email: carsond@rowan.edu

Phone: 856-566-6745

3. For all other questions please contact:

Millicent Channell, DO

kingmi@rowan.edu

Warm regards,
Dr. Channell