

St. Mary Medical Center Auxiliary

2025-2026 Scholarship Program Guidelines

I. FUNDING

Funds are made available for this program through monies raised by the SMMC Auxiliary members through various activities. Individual donations fund certain scholarships.

II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The goal of this competitive program is to aid high school seniors, employees, legally dependent children of qualifying employees, and/or volunteers who are preparing to be or currently enrolled as full-time students in university education programs. This program allows students the opportunity to receive financial assistance to reach their goals.

III. AWARDS

Applicants will be considered based on academic achievement, written essays, and personal interviews. The scoring system is a confidential review process.

IV. WHO MAY APPLY?

Eligible applicants include high school seniors from the following St. Mary Medical Center Service areas: Hobart High School, River Forest High School, Thomas A. Edison High School, Lake Station; Valparaiso High School, Andean High School, Boone Grove High School, Wheeler High School, Portage High School, Merrillville High School & West Side Leadership Academy.

St. Mary Medical Center & Powers Health Rehabilitation Center employees, volunteers, dependents, or direct descendants from an active adult volunteer in good standing, recipients of this scholarship from one year prior to those listed. Employees must be employed at least one full year working at a .6 FTE or above for themselves or their dependents to qualify.

University enrollment should reflect a two- or - more-year accredited college program. Applicants must be seeking a post-secondary degree in any medical field related to the biological edifice of a person. These applicants must have a cumulative and current Grade Point Average of 3.0 or higher.

Applicants must be United States citizens or legal permanent residents (green card holders). Please submit a copy of the social security card or Lawful permanent resident Identification.

Applicants may only apply to one system hospital for a scholarship.

V. AWARDS

The Scholarship Review Committee will decide the awards. Awards will be made based on the program funds available. Distribution will be two different payments payable to the institution.

The recipient must be enrolled for one full year as a full-time student. If a student is not enrolled for the fall semester, the scholarship will be forfeited. To receive spring semester disbursement, the student is required to submit fall semester transcripts to show they maintained a 3.0 GPA, along with proof of enrollment to obtain the second half of the award. Recipients will forfeit the remaining award in the spring semester if these requirements are not submitted correctly and timely.

Successful scholarship recipients of the prior year are eligible to re-apply for this scholarship in subsequent years.

APPLICATION PROCESS

All completed applications must include the following:

- Official school transcripts of grades and course work demonstrating good academic standing. Transcripts should not be watermarked "unofficial."
- Letter of acceptance from the educational institution the applicant is planning to attend (high school applicants only).
- High school students are required to submit two letters of recommendation in support of their application, one personal and one professional. College applicants should have two professional recommendations reflecting this past school year's accomplishments. All recommendations must be current and dated.
- If the applicant is an employee or volunteer or their dependent, a photocopy of the employee's or volunteer's badge is required. Applicants may apply to only one system hospital for a scholarship.
- Be an employee or employee dependent of St. Mary Medical Center or Powers Health Rehabilitation Center who has worked at .6 or above for the last full year prior to this notice or be a dependent of the previously stated employees for principal support and maintenance.
- Employee and employee dependent must agree to allow the Volunteer Services Department of St. Mary Medical Center to verify my employment with Powers Health Human Resources. Employees are to be at .6 or above for the last full year prior to this notice or be dependent on the previously stated employees for principal support and maintenance. Furthermore, qualified applicants must authorize Powers Health to utilize this information for public relations purposes (See Application for signature page).
- A typed essay.
 - The essay should be a personal reflection of your education/career goals in the healthcare field. This essay should explain why you are choosing this career path. Please include a plan on how you will achieve your goals. Elaborate on any information you think the committee should know that would be helpful to you in attaining a scholarship.

- Applicants who previously received an award should have the essay reflect why they are deserving of another scholarship and the accomplishments/challenges that they may have experienced in the last year. Applicants should not replicate the previously submitted essay nor include components of that essay.

The application Deadline is Friday, April 25th, 2025, by 2:00 P.M.

To submit your application:

- Submit hard copies to the Gift Shop volunteer
 - Application must be enclosed in an envelope labeled “Scholarship Application.”
- Via email to mrdixon@powershealth.org.

If the application submission is via email, the subject line MUST read, "Scholarship Application 2025-2026 School Year."

If an application is not complete at the time of submission, the application will be denied. Use "NA" (non-applicable) in any section that does not apply to your application. Do not leave any blank spaces.