

Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students Program

The Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) program provides scholarships for full-time students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are enrolled in the Master of Science in Midwifery program at Bastyr University - including those from underrepresented racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic populations. The SDS program can help fund up to \$40,000 per academic year in tuition, costs, and living expenses for eligible students who are awarded this scholarship.

Funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), to the Bastyr Midwifery program, this program promotes diversity in the health professions while aiming to increase the number of graduates working in medically underserved and rural communities.

Award Amount

- No less than half of the annual cost of tuition (which varies by year in the program)
- Up to \$40,000 per academic year
- Award is renewable as long as grant funds remain available

Basic Eligibility Requirements**

- A U.S. citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident
- From a disadvantaged background (economically or educationally, based on HRSA definitions; see below)
- Demonstrate financial need of at least half the cost of tuition, as indicated on the FAFSA
- Enrolled full-time in the Midwifery program at Bastyr University during the 2024-2025 academic year
- Maintain good academic standing on a full-time basis in the Midwifery program

**There are additional criteria for scholarship eligibility. Please see below for the full list of requirements. Eligibility does not guarantee a scholarship, as funding is limited.

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ELIGIBILITY FOR SDS ASSISTANCE

Under the SDS Program, scholarships are awarded to any full-time Midwifery student who is an eligible individual as defined by the statute in Section 737(d)(2) of the PHS Act. The definition of “eligible individual” means an individual who: (A) is from a disadvantaged background; (B) has a financial need for a scholarship; and (C) is enrolled (or accepted for enrollment) at an eligible health professions or nursing school as a full-time student in a program leading to a degree in a health profession or nursing.

A student receiving support from grant funds must be a citizen or national of the United States, or a lawful permanent resident of the United States, or a foreign national having in his/her possession a visa permitting permanent residence in the United States, or a non-citizen national.

Students are required to be from a disadvantaged background, enrolled or accepted for enrollment as full-time, and must demonstrate **financial need** to be eligible for the SDS Program. To ensure consistency in assessing financial need, HRSA has adopted the need analysis procedure approved by the Department of Education (see 20 U.S.C. 1087kk–1087vv). Financial need is determined only by the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Refer to the following link and follow the steps detailed on the site to calculate financial need: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/next-steps/how-calculated>. Any student who is enrolled (or accepted for enrollment) in a health professions school or nursing school must provide information on their parents’ financial situation or their own financial situation, depending upon their tax status.

In determining financial need for potential SDS recipients, the school must take into consideration the:

- Financial resources available to the student (Expected Family Contribution); and
- Costs reasonably necessary for the student's attendance at the school (Cost of Attendance).

General Requirements for Calculating Financial Need

The following general requirements apply when calculating financial need:

- The school must use the Expected Family Contribution calculated from the need analysis formula as detailed by the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (See 34 CFR 682.200). This is calculated on the student’s FAFSA.
- Parental income must be used to determine a student’s eligibility for financial need in all cases except in those cases where the student is considered independent by being at least 24 years old **and** not listed as a dependent on their parents’ income tax returns for 3 or more years. In those cases, the student’s income will be used instead of parental income. See below for other source of proof of independence.

- The school must be able to produce documentation of a student's age and independent status, if applicable. Schools have discretion in determining which documentation to use to demonstrate this status, such as the student's or parents' last three years of income tax returns. For proof of age, examples of sufficient documentation include a photocopy of a driver's license, birth certificate, or passport. The school must determine whether a student should be deemed independent.
- If a student satisfies the age requirement but is unable to provide proof that they can be deemed independent, then they will be considered dependent and schools must use the parental income for financial need.
- The school must consider a student's estimated other financial resources, including financial aid.
- The information collected by the school to make an assessment of a student's need for SDS funds must be extensive enough to include a student's (and their spouse's and parents') current income, assets and other resources such as trust funds or support from other family members.

Other sources of proof of independence:

- Currently married. Applicants should provide a marriage certificate.
- Have children who receive more than half of their support from the individual. Applicants should provide a copy of most recent filed tax returns.
- Have dependents (other than children or a spouse) who live with you and receive more than half of their support from you. Applicants should provide a copy of most recent filed tax returns.
- A veteran of the U.S. armed forces. Applicants should provide a copy of their military or veterans card or DD-214.
- At any time since the individual turned age 13, both individual's parents were deceased, or the individual was in foster care, or was a ward of the court. Applicants should provide documentation from the state.
- An unaccompanied youth who is homeless. Must provide one form of documentation as stated below:
 - A shelter or referral agency certification that the participant has been residing on the street;
 - Or a written statement from one of the following that the applicant is homeless:
 - A case manager, social worker, or medical professional;
 - A district homeless liaison;
 - The director (or designee) of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or
 - The director (or designee) of a transitional living program or homeless assistance program.
 - An emancipated minor or in a legal guardianship as determined by a court. Applicants should provide documentation from the state.

Determining Educational Disadvantage

An individual from an educationally disadvantaged background is defined as one who comes from an environment that has inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skill, and abilities required to enroll in and graduate from a health professions school, or from a program providing education or training in an allied health profession.

The Bastyr University Department of Midwifery has defined educational disadvantage as graduating from a high school that meets any of the following criteria:

- graduation rate of <85%
- over 50% of the students were receiving free or reduced-price lunches.
- per-pupil expenditure of <\$8000.
- designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement (TSI) school or a Comprehensive Support & Improvement (CSI) school or a National Board Challenging school

HRSA also defines educational disadvantage as being a first-generation college student, which is defined as neither parent having attended any amount of college coursework.

Determining Economic Disadvantage

Low income family/household is defined by the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) Secretary for various health professions programs included in Titles III, VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act, as having an annual income that does not exceed 200 percent of the DHHS's poverty guidelines. A *family* is a group of two or more individuals related by birth, marriage, or adoption who live together. A *household* may be only one person.

Parental income will be used to determine a student's eligibility as economically disadvantaged in all cases except those where the student is considered independent by being at least 24 years old and has not been listed as a dependent on their parents' income tax returns for 3 or more years. In those cases, the student's family income will be used instead of parental family income (please see the poverty guideline below for parental and student's family income).

Documentation must be provided to the school for age and independent status. The school will be responsible for gathering and obtaining accurate information to determine the student's independent status. Schools may use whichever documentation they choose, such as the student's last three years income taxes or the parents' last three years income taxes or other sources of proof of independence. For proof of age, some examples are a driver's license, birth certificate, or passport. Schools must maintain this documentation for their own records.

Low Income: Use the Low Income Level published in the Federal Register dated March 22, 2023 (see table below). To be eligible for SDS, family income must not exceed the resultant number.

2023 Low Income Levels (200 percent of HHS Poverty Guidelines)			
Income Level **			
Size of family*	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$29,160	\$36,420	\$33,540
2	39,440	49,280	45,360
3	49,720	62,140	57,180
4	60,000	75,000	69,000
5	70,280	87,860	80,820
6	80,560	100,720	92,640
7	90,840	113,580	104,460
8	101,120	126,440	116,280
For each additional person, add	\$10,280	\$12,860	\$11,820

*Includes only dependents listed on federal income tax forms. Some programs will use the student's family rather than their parents' family.

**Adjusted gross income for calendar year 2022.

Note:

Size of Parent's Family means the number of exemptions listed on the parent's Federal Income tax form. (e.g. family size of 4 might include two parents and two dependents).

Income Level is an adjusted gross income for the prior calendar year.

The school is required to give preference to students for whom the cost of attendance would constitute a severe financial hardship and to former recipients of scholarships under sections 736 [Scholarships for Students of Exceptional Financial Need] and 740(d)(2)(B) [Financial Assistance for Disadvantaged Health Professions Students] (as such sections existed on the day before the date of enactment of this section) of the PHS Act. Eligible students who have a greatest financial need are considered to have a severe financial hardship.

For additional questions about eligibility and application for this scholarship program please e-mail the Department of Midwifery at domw@bastyr.edu.

Amount of Scholarships

The amount of a scholarship may not exceed a recipient's cost of tuition expenses, other reasonable educational expenses and reasonable living expenses incurred in attendance at the school. The scholarship may be expended by the student only for these expenses. Child care expenses are not allowed.

The amount of the scholarship to students must be at least half of the cost of the annual tuition for the Midwifery program (which varies by program year), with a cap of \$40,000 per student award per year. The scholarship may not exceed a recipient's cost of tuition expenses, other reasonable educational expenses and reasonable living expenses incurred in attendance at such school.

Tracking of Program Success

The school is required to have all trainees in eligible health professions to obtain National Provider Identifier (NPI) numbers to aid long-term assessment of the program's impact on access and delivery of quality health care services. Eligible trainees who receive HRSA funds as a result of this award must apply for an NPI for the purpose of collecting post-completion employment demographics, and the school is required to report the NPI numbers for all individuals participating in the program to HRSA.

Methods for Awarding SDS Scholarships

Based on the MS Midwifery program annual tuition costs, Bastyr University will be able to provide eligible MSM students with SDS funds for the following:

- Minimum 50% of tuition and fees, up to a maximum of \$40,000
- Room and board
- Books, supplies and transportation

Selection Priorities and Criteria

The SDS Scholarship Committee will evaluate each of the student applications by determining whether the student meets the basic qualifications (full-time enrollment, US citizen, national or permanent resident) and one or both criteria for educational or economic disadvantage, as described above. Financial need will be assessed from the applicant's Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) on the FAFSA. The Department of Midwifery will give priority to students with the greatest financial need. Program GPA and transcripts will also be assessed for second- and third-year students to confirm academic standing.

Once it has been determined that a student meets all eligibility requirements, the allocation of the amount of the scholarships is then made, taking into consideration the educational costs (includes tuition costs, books, other reasonable educational & clinical expenses and reasonable living expenses incurred while attending Bastyr University). The amount of the scholarship is determined on an individual basis based on the Cost of Attendance (COA) and the Estimated Family Contribution (EFC). Scholarship awards are capped at a maximum of \$40,000, but will not exceed the established economic need of the student, in accordance with all applicable Federal statutes.