



**College of Health Professions
Occupational Therapy
Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students (SDS)
Application Guide**

NOTE: THIS IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE APPLICATION FOR THE ONLINE VERSION – YOU MUST APPLY VIA REDCAP

APPLICATION LINK: <https://redcap.musc.edu/surveys/?s=4779C7JEXNL4L4P4>

APPLICATION DEADLINE: **MARCH 1, 2022 by 9:00pm EST**

For questions, please contact: Randal Davis, Program Evaluation Director (davisra@musc.edu)

SECTION I – General Information

PRINT FULL NAME:

CURRENT ADDRESS:

CITY / STATE / ZIP:

EMAIL:

PHONE:

GENDER: Female Male

DATE OF BIRTH:

US CITIZENSHIP: Yes No (if no, please read next line)

Permanent Residence Card: Yes No

(attach copies of permanent residence card, and driver's license or identification card)

US VETERAN: Yes No

RACE (check all that apply):

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Asian
- African American
- White
- Prefer Not To Answer

ETHNICITY:

- Hispanic
- Not Hispanic

HIGH SCHOOL NAME:

HIGH SCHOOL ADDRESS:

HIGH SCHOOL CITY, STATE, ZIP, COUNTY:

SECTION II – Worksheet

Please check any applicable eligibility criteria and provide the required documentation of eligibility for each checked category to be uploaded in REDCap.

A. Current Financial Need (required of all applicants)

Required Documentation

- Provide copies of **parental individual income tax returns** for 2018, 2019, 2020 (Form 1040 or 1040A only), **unless you meet the HRSA definition of “independent” below**
- Follow FAFSA guidance for questions relating to definitions of "legal parent(s)" at: <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out/parent-info>
- HRSA definition of “Independent” – at least 24 years of age at the time of application, AND not listed as a dependent on his or her parents’ individual income tax for any of the last 3 years
- **If you qualify as an independent – provide copies of your individual income tax returns** for 2018, 2019, 2020 (Form 1040 or 1040A only)
- **All US applicants must complete the 2022-2023 FAFSA if not done previously**, and add MUSC as an institution (if you need to add MUSC, revisit the FAFSA and file an amendment) (<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>)

B. Environmental / Educational Disadvantage

(please check all categories that apply and provide the required documentation for each category checked)

- B1.** I am the first generation in my family to graduate from college (must be reported via FAFSA) – defined as “a student both of whose parents did not complete a bachelor’s degree, or in the case of students who live with and are supported by only one parent, a student whose only such parent did not complete a bachelor’s degree.”
- B2.** I graduated from a public high school in which >50% of the enrolled students were eligible for free or reduced-price lunches.
Required Documentation: Find your school’s report via: <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/> Add the numbers in the Enrollment Characteristics section for: Free Lunch Eligible and Reduced-Price Lunch Eligible (do not include Directly Certified). Divide that number by Total Students in the School Details section to fill in the percentage number above. Upload a screenshot of the webpage displaying these data.
- B3.** I graduated from a public high school for which ACT/SAT scores are lower than the state’s average
Required Documentation: Go to the SC School Report Card website (or to your state’s school report card site, if not from SC and determine the percentage for your school and your state) at <https://screportcards.ed.sc.gov/> Find your school’s report card. Click on “College & Career Readiness.” Click the “The SAT” or “The ACT” link to the left - if your school Average Composite Score is less than the statewide average (1028 for SC), you qualify. Upload a screenshot of the webpage(s) displaying these data.
- B4.** I graduated from a high school located in a Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) and/or Medically Underserved Area/Population (MUA/P).
Required Documentation: Go to the HRSA Find Shortage Areas by Address website (<https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/by-address>), enter address of your high school, check the results to see if it is located in a Primary Care HPSA (mental health and dental do not count) and/or a MUA/P. Upload a screenshot of the webpage displaying these data.

C. Economic Disadvantage (please check all categories of economic disadvantage that apply and provide the required documentation for each category checked).

IMPORTANT REMINDER – you DO NOT have to qualify for Economic Disadvantaged to be eligible for the scholarship. You must only 1) have a FAFSA-determined Estimate of Financial Need of \$18,100 (Cost of Attendance minus FAFSA Estimated Family Contribution) and 2) meet any ONE of the criteria for B1, B2, B3, B4, C1, C2 and/or C3.

- C1.** I was a Pell Grant recipient. *If yes, years received:*
- C2.** I come from a family that received/receives public assistance (e.g., Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Medicaid, and/or public housing).
Required documentation: Provide a current letter of eligibility or other official document from the agency if receiving current benefits. For documentation of receipt of public assistance in prior years please provide documentation that demonstrates any period of eligibility.
- C3.** I am considered low-income based upon federal guidelines (see definitions of low-income for purpose of grant eligibility below).
Required documentation:
Provide copies of parental individual income tax returns for 2018, 2019, 2020 (Form 1040 or 1040A only), unless you meet the HRSA definition of “independent” below

HRSA definition of “Independent” – at least 24 years of age at the time of application, AND not listed as a dependent on his or her parents’ individual income tax for 3 or more years

If you qualify as an independent – provide copies of your individual income tax returns for 2018, 2019, 2020 (Form 1040 or 1040A only)

HRSA Low Income Definition

A student comes from a family with an annual income below a level based on low-income thresholds according to family size published by the US Bureau of the Census, adjusted annually for changes in the Consumer Price Index, and adjusted by the Secretary of Health and Human Services for use in health professions and nursing programs. Economically disadvantaged low income thresholds (200% above the federal poverty line) of the Department of Health and Human Services guidelines found at <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>

200% Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2020 (note – income chart is subject to annual updates)	
Persons in Family/Household *	48 Contiguous States & DC **
1	\$25,250
2	\$34,480
3	\$43,440
4	\$52,400
5	\$61,360
6	\$70,320
7	\$79,280
8	\$88,240
For each additional person, add	\$8,960
* Includes only dependents listed on federal income taxes	
** Adjusted gross income for calendar year 2020	

SECTION III – Personal Statement

The SDS Program aims to increase the: 1) number of graduates practicing in primary care; 2) enrollment and retention of full-time students from disadvantaged backgrounds including students who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups, and 3) number of graduates working in medically underserved communities (MUCs).

Required Personal Statement: Attach a statement (500 words or less) describing how one or more of the three aims of the program would be met if you received an SDS scholarship. Include information about your professional goals as an Occupational Therapist after graduation and your dedication to serving in a medically underserved community of two years.