

# **VT AHEC Scholars Medical Student Incentive Scholarship/Loan Forgiveness Program**

## **Scholarship Description and Application Instructions**

### **2025-2026 Academic Year**

## **Scholarship Description**

### **UVMMED**

**Graduate student**

**Graduate program**

**Full time**

### **VT AHEC Scholars Medical Student Incentive Scholarship/Loan Forgiveness Program (Sponsored by the State of Vermont)**

This program was established by the Vermont legislature in collaboration with the Department of Health, UVM's Office of Primary Care and Area Health Education Centers Program (AHEC), and Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC). The purpose of the program is to strengthen the primary care workforce pipeline and increase the number of new physicians practicing in Vermont to meet the health care needs of Vermonters, with a focus on rural areas and undersupplied medical specialties. Funding for this program is conditional upon annual legislative appropriation.

#### **Eligibility:**

- Vermont residency is *not* required
- Be enrolled full-time in your third or fourth year of the Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont.
- Intend to work in Vermont as a primary care physician in an eligible medical specialty (listed below) for a minimum of one year following the completion of your medical training.
- If awarded, you must sign a promissory note detailing the terms and conditions of the award. The award and its terms become binding once the promissory note is signed and executed. Disbursement of the award will not be made unless a signed promissory note is received.

**Required Documents:** Unified Scholarship Application and personal statement/required questions (see below)

**Conditions:** Complete forgiveness of this loan under the following conditions: Practice medicine in Vermont in one of the following medical specialty priority areas, outside of Chittenden County, in a facility not owned by an academic medical center and that accepts patients covered by Medicaid, Medicare, or other publicly funded health benefit program:

- Family medicine
- Internal medicine adult primary care
- Pediatric primary care
- Obstetrics-gynecology
- Psychiatry

**Application Timeline:** Unified Scholarship Application and required documents listed above must be received/postmarked by **February 12, 2025**. Recipients will be notified by May 1, 2025.

**Amount:** Award amount no less than the in-state tuition rate for the Larner College of Medicine (LCOM) at the University of Vermont.

**Selection:** Personal statement/required questions and input from AHEC/LCOM Selection Committee.



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## Application Instructions

1. Complete the Unified Scholarship Application online at [www.vsac.org](http://www.vsac.org) (instructions below).
2. Complete the personal statement/required questions (see below). Once completed, these can be uploaded to your application (instructions below).
3. Submit both the Unified Scholarship Application and the required questions to VSAC by **February 12, 2025**.

### **HOW TO COMPLETE THE UNIFIED SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION (USA) ONLINE:**

- 1) **Log into your “MyVSAC” account at [www.vsac.org](http://www.vsac.org):**
  - a. Click on the MyVSAC button in the upper right corner of the home page.
    - i. If you already have a MyVSAC account, enter your email username and password in the box labeled “Login to MyVSAC” and click “Log In”.
    - ii. If you do not have a MyVSAC account, click on “Register Now” in the box labeled “New to MyVSAC” and follow the directions to create a MyVSAC account.
- 2) **Complete and submit the Unified Scholarship Application (USA):**
  - a. Click on “Work with Scholarships and Forgivable Loans”.
  - b. Click on “Submit Application” or look under the 'Submit Unified Scholarship Application (USA)' heading.
  - c. Click on “2025-2026 Unified Scholarships Application (USA)”.
  - d. For the following questions, please provide the answer as indicated:
    - i. **Question “Select the program or degree you will pursue”**, answer ‘Medical Doctor (MD)’
    - ii. **Question “Select your field of study”**, answer ‘Healthcare – Related Field Not on List’
    - iii. **Question “Select your year in college”**, answer ‘Graduate’
  - e. Complete all information and click “Submit” at the bottom of the Summary Page to submit the USA.

### **HOW TO UPLOAD REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:**

1. Complete the USA online per the instructions above.
2. In your MyVSAC account, click on “Work with VSAC Assisted Scholarships”.
3. Click on “Required Documents”.
4. Click on “Upload Scholarship Documents” and follow instructions.
  - a. Under Document Type, select the document ‘Essay-UVMMED’ to upload your personal statement/required questions.



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## Required Document

### Personal Statement/Required Questions

- Please review the program description prior to answering these questions.
- Please keep your responses concise—a paragraph, or up to one page per question.
- Once completed, upload to your Scholarship Application following the instructions above. Or you may mail to VSAC, Attn: Scholarships, PO Box 2000, Winooski VT 05404. Please be sure your name is on the document.

Please answer **all** the following **required** questions:

#### Question 1

- 1a. Have you met the minimum requirements of the AHEC Scholars program to be designated an AHEC Scholar at time of graduation? Yes or no.
- 1b. If no, what is your plan to meet the requirements before graduation?
- 1c. Do you have an existing service obligation in Vermont, *other than this program*? Yes or no. For eligibility, the answer to this question must be “no.”
- 1d. Do you have or anticipate concurrent applications under consideration for service incentive award programs? If yes, please list and continue with this application.

#### Question 2

- 2a. Which eligible specialty (i.e., family medicine, internal medicine adult primary care, pediatrics primary care, obstetrics-gynecology, and psychiatry) do you plan to practice in the future?
- 2b. What led you to select this specialty?
- 2c. Describe what “primary care” means to you.

#### Question 3

- 3a. Please describe why you are committed to future medical practice in Vermont.
- 3b. Is there a specific area of the state (county or town), outside of Chittenden County, you are interested in serving? Why? If undecided, please describe what factors may influence your decision.

#### Question 4

- 4a. Please reflect on the AHEC focus areas. Select one and describe how you have grown in that area as a medical student or describe how that area is important to the practice of medicine and population health.
  1. Interprofessional Education/Interprofessional Teamwork (team-based care delivery, patient-centered care)
  2. Behavioral Health Integration (services that better address the needs of individual with mental health and substance use conditions)
  3. Connecting Communities and Supporting Health Professionals/Community Health Workers (CHWs) (support paraprofessionals who serve as connectors between health professionals and the community)
  4. Virtual Learning and Telehealth (leverage technology to improve curricula and community-based experiential training)
  5. Social Determinants of Health (economic stability, education, social and community context, health and health care, neighborhood and built environment)
  6. Cultural Competency (recognize and address the unique culture, language and health literacy of diverse consumers and communities)
  7. Medical Practice Transformation (quality improvement, care coordination, cost containment, rural health care, primary care, care for underserved/disadvantaged populations, patient-centered care)
  8. Current and Emerging Health Issues (HRSA AHEC approved: opioids and substance use disorders, oral health as part of overall health)

