



# Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative 2026-27

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Who can apply to the Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative (SHOI)?** Anyone who has applied to OHSU School of Dentistry DMD program, School of Medicine MD program, School of Nursing DNP programs (Nurse Midwifery, Family Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Anesthesia, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner) or Physician Associate Studies as either an Oregon Resident or qualifies as Oregon Heritage may apply for SHOI funding.

**When can I apply?** Applicants may apply at any time after completing their application to an eligible OHSU academic program. Only those students admitted to a qualified program may be awarded SHOI funding.

**When will funding be awarded?** Funding will be awarded on a rolling basis based on the specific program's admission dates. Complete your application early for priority consideration.

**What criteria are used to award SHOI funding?** The criteria for eligibility and funding preference can be found at the SHOI webpage [www.ohsu.edu/education/scholars-healthy-oregon-shoi](http://www.ohsu.edu/education/scholars-healthy-oregon-shoi)

**If I receive SHOI funding, what am I obligated to do?** Students receiving SHOI funds will be required to practice in a rural or underserved community, as defined by OHSU for one year longer than the number of years for which the student received funding under the Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative.

For example, a student receiving two years of funding for the PA program would have a service commitment of three years. Additional details can be found in the program summary at [www.ohsu.edu/education/scholars-healthy-oregon-shoi](http://www.ohsu.edu/education/scholars-healthy-oregon-shoi)

**When would my practice commitment begin?** Service commitments begins within 90 days following degree completion for programs that do not require residency training. Medical students will begin their service commitment within 90 days following completion of their residency. Pursuing additional fellowship training is generally not allowed. If you plan to pursue an additional degree as part of your program of study (such as an MPH, etc.) your service commitment will be deferred without penalty, however, funding will not cover the tuition and fees for the additional degree program.

**If I receive SHOI funding, do I have to choose to practice in primary care?** While no specific specialty commitments are required, many job opportunities in rural or underserved communities and will be in primary care fields. Highly specialized positions will be limited. In addition, if you choose to work in an urban area, approved sites are limited to primary care. If

you choose to work in rural areas, approved practice sites include, but are not limited to primary care.

***Do I choose my own practice site or is it selected for me?*** Scholars will be able to apply to a variety of eligible underserved sites in both rural and urban settings. An inventory of eligible sites will be maintained by OHSU. Sites will generally be in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), Medically Underserved Areas, or have similar designations. These designations change annually, so an accurate inventory of sites is not available at this time. It is the student's responsibility to apply and secure employment in an OHSU approved service site within 90 days of graduation, or completion of required training such as a residency for medical students.

***Can I also apply to the National Health Service Corp Scholars program or other OHSU funding to cover tuition and fees if I have an application pending with SHOI?*** Yes, you may apply to the National Health Service Corp or other obligated scholarship programs in addition to SHOI. You **may not**, however, receive more than one scholarship with a service commitment. In addition, Scholars may not accept other OHSU funding such as the President's Award or the Swindell Scholarship.

***Can I apply for and accept scholarships or funding that supports other educational expenses like books and cost of living?*** Yes, you may apply for and accept other scholarships and funding that support cost of living expenses, etc. You may not accept more than one scholarship with a service commitment.

***Does my SHOI application have any effect on the admissions process at OHSU schools?*** No, the admissions committee makes their decision independently of the SHOI process. The SHOI selection is made only after the school's admissions process is completed.

***How many SHOI scholarships are available?*** The number of scholarships varies depending on the funding provided through the state legislature.

***If selected to receive SHOI funding, what resources are available to me during my education at OHSU?*** All funding recipients for the 2026-27 academic year will meet with the selection committee members from their designated program and the Office of Rural Health (who will monitor the service commitment side of the agreement) as a general orientation to OHSU as a SHOI Scholar. Students can participate in student sponsored special interest groups at OHSU such as the Rural Health Interest Group which will allow you to be exposed to the landscape of care for rural and underserved communities in Oregon. During clinical rotations, you can work with program coordinators to find placements in rural or underserved communities in the areas that you are considering for future practice. The OHSU Office of Rural Health will also be available to discuss workforce needs, make connections with employers and to offer assistance with questions related to the service commitment portion of the award.

***What happens if I do not continue as a SHOI scholar while in my academic program, do not graduate, or if I decide not to fulfill my service commitment?*** If you accept SHOI funding and later do not continue as a SHOI scholar, do not graduate, or do not want to complete the service commitment, you will be required to enter into repayment. All students, including SHOI recipients, have access to [Educational Debt Counseling and Financial Management](#) services through OHSU. For more information about satisfying the service commitment see page 4 of the [SHOI Brochure](#). For what to expect once you have breached your service agreement see [SHOI Repayment FAQ](#).