

GRD Scholarship application personal experience section: Essay questions & guide

Application guide:

Section four of the application consists of two essays. The first prompt asks applicants to share about their clinical or personal experiences in a Medically Underserved Area ([MUA](#)) or Health Professional Shortage Area ([HPSA](#)). The second prompt asks applicants to describe the type of community they see themselves practicing in and what type of roll they will fulfill. While we encourage applicants to revise their essays prior to submission, we want to highlight that this section is not an evaluation of the applicant's grammar or writing style.

Question #1:

How have your past volunteer, clinical or personal experiences influenced your plans to work in a Medically Underserved Area ([MUA](#)) or Health Professional Shortage Area ([HPSA](#))?
(Maximum 300 words)

Guidance

The mission of the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS) is to build pathways into high-demand careers in Washington for Washington students. We do this by reducing barriers to education for students in the state through financial aid and student support. There is a current and ever-growing need in Washington state for more primary and behavioral health professionals, particularly in underserved areas. The purpose of this section is to help WSOS learn more about you, your experiences, and how they inform your desire to practice in an MUA or HPSA.

In 150-300 words, describe how your past volunteer, clinical, personal, or lived experiences have shaped your interest in practicing in underserved communities.

Using 1-2 examples, please address the following:

- The geographic location(s), setting(s), and population(s) involved
- What you learned from these experiences about health care access, equity, or community needs
- Specific skills, perspectives, or values you developed and how you expect to apply them in future training or practice
- How these experiences influenced your plans to work in a Medically Underserved Area or Health Professional Shortage Area

Question #2:

After becoming a licensed Nurse Practitioner, describe the type of community in Washington state you see yourself serving. What medical role do you aspire to fulfill in your future community? (Maximum 300 words)

Guidance

WSOS values Graduate Scholars who demonstrate a drive to pursue healthcare careers in a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) designated MUA or HPSA in Washington State. Nurse Practitioners provide more than health care: they are educators, role models and civic leaders in their communities.

In 150-300 words, describe the type of community in Washington state you see yourself serving after becoming a licensed Nurse Practitioner. Please include:

- Specific settings, geographic locations, and patient populations
- Explain the medical role you aspire to fulfill and discuss the skills, qualities, or competencies that will enable you to succeed in this community