UNIVERSITY OF PIKEVILLE
KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) Fact Sheet

Overview

The Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (KYCOM) will be awarding funds from the Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students Program (SDS) contingent upon available funding. This is a federal program designed to assist with the cost of tuition and other reasonable educational expenses. Students must be considered disadvantaged, either economically and/or educationally/environmentally. SDS awards will be applied to the fall and spring terms. SDS awards will cover at least one half of the annual tuition amount up to $30,000 per year. No financial aid awards may exceed the student's cost of attendance at KYCOM.

Requirements

Students must be U.S. citizens, enrolled full-time, in good academic standing, come from a disadvantaged background, and have a severe financial need for funding.

Citizenship

A student applicant must be a citizen or national of the United States, or a lawful permanent resident of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands or the Federated States of Micronesia.

A student who remains in this country on a student or visitor's visa is not eligible. When necessary, documentation of citizenship must be provided.

Disadvantaged Student Status - Eligibility

An **Educationally or Environmentally Disadvantaged** student is an individual who comes from an environment that has inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skills and abilities required to enroll in and graduate from a health professions school or a program providing education or training in an allied health profession.

To be identified as educationally or environmentally disadvantaged, KYCOM will consider applicants who meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. The individual graduated from (or last attended) a high school with low SAT scores based on the most recent data available.
2. The individual graduated from (or last attended) a high school from which, based on most recent data available:
    a. A low percentage of seniors receive a high school diploma; or
    b. A low percentage of graduates go to college during the first year after graduation.
3. The individual graduated from (or last attended) a high school with low per capita funding.
4. The individual graduated from (or last attended) a high school at which, based on the most recent data available, many of the enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches.
5. The individual comes from a family that receives public assistance (e.g., Aid to Families with Dependent Children, SNAP, Medicaid, public housing).
6. First-generation in the family to attend college.

Or

An **Economically Disadvantaged** student is an individual that comes from a family with an annual income below a level based on low-income thresholds according to family size published by the U.S. 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.

The parental income will be used to determine a student's eligibility for disadvantaged in all cases except in those cases where the student is considered independent by being at least 24-years-old and has not been listed as a dependent on his or her parents' income tax for three or more years. In those cases, the student's family income will be used instead of parental family income.

Students must submit three years of their and their parents' Federal tax returns and/or statements from the IRS that he or she was not required to file taxes. Students must also report their own, spouse's, and/or parents' assets and other resources, such as trust funds or family member support.

For economically disadvantaged low-income thresholds, use 200 percent of the Department of Health and Human Services guidelines found at https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines.

Financial Need

Student applicants must be in need of financial assistance to be awarded. Preference is given to students for whom the cost of attendance would constitute a severe hardship.

Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.studentaid.gov/FAFSA The parental income will be used to determine a student's eligibility for financial need in all cases except when the student is considered independent by being at least 24-years-old and has not been listed as a dependent on parents' federal income tax for three or more years. Dependent applicants must complete the "parental income section" on the FAFSA. Independent students will include the student's family income instead of the parental family.

To update the FAFSA go to www.studentaid.gov/FAFSA.

Additional Requirements

Student must provide proof of age. A birth certificate or driver's license will be acceptable.
Student must be enrolled full-time.
Student must be in good academic standing.

Application Deadlines and Requirements

The deadline to apply is July 3, 2023, at 5 p.m. Incomplete applications and forms will not be processed. Completed packets may be mailed or dropped off in the Financial Aid Office. Packets will not be accepted through email. The Financial Aid Office is not responsible for notifying students of missing information. Individual documents will not be accepted, only complete packets.

Students are encouraged to file their applications as soon as possible before the set deadline. Please note that awards are limited and disbursed according to eligibility and availability of funding to the university.

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