



Excellence in Medicine

EJI Excellence in Medicine Guidelines for Excellence in Medicine Scholarship Nominations 2026

Overview

The mission of EJI Excellence in Medicine is to encourage and recognize excellence in all aspects of medical care and healthcare for the citizens of New Jersey, including patient care, teaching, education, research, management, leadership, and civic engagement.

The *EJI Excellence in Medicine Awards*[™] have been given annually since 1939, honoring those extraordinary New Jersey physicians, and leaders in healthcare and healthcare delivery, whose dedication and commitment have enhanced medical care and healthcare in our state and in the nation.

Scholarship Awards

Just as we promote excellence by encouraging and recognizing it in those with established careers, we hope to promote *future* excellence by providing scholarships to New Jersey residents who are medical, dental, pharmacy, and physician assistant students in New Jersey schools. The students selected will have demonstrated excellence during their school careers in any of several ways, including but not limited to scholarship, research, leadership, civic engagement, and public service; and have indicated their intent to practice in New Jersey.

Nomination Package

The Scholarship Committee will select scholarship recipients based upon their unique attributes, areas of excellence and potential as a healthcare provider, scientist, educator or leader. Among the factors considered are academic performance (an equal but not primary criterion); basic and clinical research; publication, especially in a peer-reviewed journal; presentations at professional conferences, seminars, and meetings; significant participation and leadership in programs and activities within their institution and in the community at large; and civic engagement, especially in healthcare-related programs.

The nomination must include all the following materials in order for the nominee to be considered for an award:

1. Completion of the online application.
2. The student's curriculum vitae (CV)
3. A comprehensive description of the student's leadership, civic engagement, extracurricular activities, awards and honors, and research publications and presentations, during the medical, dental, pharmacy or physician assistant program. These details should present a picture of the student's interests and strengths, rather than simply listing activities. (Activities during college and high school should not be included.)
4. Submit an essay of no more than 750 words, on one of the suggested topics below. Your essay should help the Scholarship Committee to understand more about you than your academic performance, and should reflect your interests, activities, and accomplishments while in your professional school.
 - Discuss a challenge that you faced successfully while in your professional school, and how you handled it.
 - Discuss a challenge that you faced in your professional school, that you particularly struggled with, why you struggled, and how you learned from it.
 - Discuss a community service project or activity that you have been involved in while in your professional school, and how it has shaped your career goals.
 - Discuss a research project or publication that you have been meaningfully involved with while in your professional school, and how it has shaped your interest in a particular field or topic.
 - Discuss a leadership role that you played in a school or civic organization and the impact that it had on your school or the community.
5. A nomination letter prepared by a full-time faculty member. The faculty recommendation letter is the single most important element of the nomination package and should make clear why this is an exceptional and extraordinary student. It should provide personal and professional insights into the student with specific examples and details. The letter should be submitted on official letterhead, must include the title and signature of the faculty member, and should not exceed two typewritten pages in length.

Eligibility Requirements

Nominees must be legal residents of New Jersey who are currently pursuing a medical, dental, pharmacy or physician assistant degree at an accredited New Jersey school and must indicate their intent to practice in New Jersey.

Each school **must** submit three nominations for consideration. The students **must** be in their final year of school. If the school has not been established long enough to have students in their final year, three students from the class closest to graduation may be nominated.

Students must be nominated by a full-time faculty member at the New Jersey school they are currently attending. A faculty member can only recommend one applicant per year.

Students who have been previously nominated, whether or not they received a scholarship, are not eligible to be nominated, or to receive a scholarship, in subsequent years.

Submission of Nominations

Nomination materials should be submitted through the online application system found at <https://ejiawards.org/eji-2026-scholarship-application/>.

Faculty recommendation letters should be addressed to Paul J. Hirsch, MD, Chairman, EJI Excellence in Medicine, and can either be uploaded by the student as part of the electronic application or can be emailed directly by the faculty member, to Julie Dohanic at jdohanic@NJHF.org.

Nominations will be accepted through **November 14, 2025**.

Incomplete nomination submissions, or submissions after the deadline, may be disqualified.

Selection Criteria

The Scholarship Committee is comprised of an independent group of school administrators, physicians and healthcare leaders who review each scholarship application thoroughly. The Scholarship Committee will select students and make a recommendation to the EJI Excellence in Medicine Advisory Board. The number of students selected is at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee. The Advisory Board will have final approval.

Selected students and their nominators will be notified of the selection results by early January 2026.

For more information on the history of the *EJL Excellence in Medicine Awards*[®] and the Excellence in Medicine Scholarship Fund, log on to EJLawards.org or contact Julie Dohanic at 908-731-6606 or jdohanic@NJHF.org.

Requirements of Selected Scholarship Recipients

The scholarship recipients will be recognized at our awards dinner on **May 6, 2026**. Further details on the format of the 2026 event will be forthcoming. The selected students **must** attend the awards dinner.

The recipients may also be asked to participate in a Zoom interview, and attend a pre-event meeting or photo session.

Payment of Scholarship Funds

The scholarship funds will be paid directly to the schools in May 2026, following the awards event. The funds will not be distributed directly to the students. Students must make prior arrangements with the school in instances where the scholarship students will be graduating before the scholarship funds are distributed from the Foundation. If the student believes that they are due a refund because payment of the scholarship funds to the school resulted in an "overpayment," any such refund is the responsibility of the school. EJL is unable to pay or distribute funds directly to the Scholarship recipient.