

§ 68b.3

credit hours to be classified as full-time, as defined by the school attended.

Individual from Disadvantaged Background means:

(1) An individual who—

(i) Comes from an environment that inhibited (but did not prevent) him or her from obtaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to enroll in an undergraduate institution; or

(ii) Comes from a family with an annual income below established low-income thresholds.

(2) These low-income thresholds are based on 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 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' health professions programs. The Secretary periodically publishes these income levels in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

Scholarship Program means the National Institutes of Health Undergraduate Scholarship Program Regarding Professions Needed by National Research Institutes authorized by section 487D of the Act (42 U.S.C. 288-4).

Scholarship Program participant or participant means an individual whose application to the Scholarship Program has been approved and whose contract has been signed by the Director.

Scholarship Program Review Committee means the committee that reviews, ranks, and accepts or declines applications for Program participation. This committee also ascertains whether a participant will be awarded continued scholarship support after his or her initial acceptance.

School means a 4-year college or university that:

(1) Is accredited by an agency recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Post-Secondary Accreditation; and

(2) Is located in a State.

State means one of the several U.S. States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Palau, Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

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§ 68b.3 Who is eligible to apply for a Scholarship Program award?

(a) To be eligible for a scholarship under this part, applicants must meet the following requirements:

(1) Applicants must be accepted for enrollment, or be enrolled, as full-time undergraduate students in a school;

(2) Applicants must have an overall grade point average of at least 3.5 or a 3.5 average in their major field of study (on a 4.0 scale) or be ranked within the top five percent of their current class (or those students entering, if applying in their freshman year);

(3) Applicants must come from a disadvantaged background as defined by § 68b.2;

(4) Applicants must meet the citizenship requirements for federal employment; and

(5) Applicants must submit an application to participate in the Scholarship Program together with a signed contract as outlined in sections 487D(a) and (f) of the Act.

(b) Any applicant who owes an obligation for service to a State or other entity under an agreement entered into before filing an application under this part is ineligible for an award unless a written statement satisfactory to the Director is submitted from the State or entity that:

(1) There is no potential conflict in fulfilling the service obligation to the State or entity and the Scholarship Program, and

(2) The Scholarship Program service obligation will be served before the service obligation for professional practice owed to the State or entity.

§ 68b.4 How is an application made for a Scholarship Program award?

Each individual desiring a scholarship under this part must submit an application (including a signed contract as required under section 487D(a) of the Act) in such form and manner as the Director may prescribe.

§ 68b.5 How will applicants be selected to participate in the Scholarship Program?

(a) *General.* In deciding which applications for participation in the Scholarship Program will be approved, the Director will place the applications

into categories based upon the selection priorities described in paragraph (b) of this section. Except for renewal awards (see paragraph (e) of this section), the Director will then evaluate each applicant under paragraph (c) of this section.

(b) *Priorities.* (1) First priority will be given to applicants who have completed at least 2 years of undergraduate course work, including four core science courses, and are classified by their educational institutions as juniors or seniors as of the beginning of the academic year of scholarship. (Core science courses include, but are not limited to, biology, chemistry, physics, and calculus.)

(2) Second priority will be given to applicants who have completed four core science courses, as defined above.

(3) Third priority will be given to applicants who are matriculated freshmen or sophomores.

(c) *Selection.* In selecting participants and determining continuation of program support, the Director will take into consideration those factors determined necessary to ensure effective participation in the Scholarship Program. These factors may include, but are not limited to:

(1) Biomedical research experience and performance,

(2) Academic performance,

(3) Career goals, and

(4) Recommendations.

(d) *Duration of Scholarship award.* Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for the Scholarship Program, the Director may, at his/her discretion, award scholarships under this part for a period of one, two, or three academic years.

(e) *Continuation of scholarship support.* Subject to the availability of funds for the Scholarship Program, the Director may continue scholarship support if:

(1) The participant requests a continuation of scholarship support;

(2) The scholarship will not extend the total period of Scholarship Program support beyond 4 years; and

(3) The participant is eligible for continued participation in the Scholarship Program, as determined by the Scholarship Program Review Committee.

§ 68b.6 What will an individual be awarded for participating in the Scholarship Program?

(a) *Amount of scholarship.* (1) Subject to a maximum annual award of \$20,000, a scholarship award for each school year will consist of:

(i) Tuition;

(ii) Reasonable educational expenses, including required fees, books, supplies, and required educational equipment;

(iii) Reasonable living expenses for the academic year as documented in the school's financial aid budget; and

(iv) For purposes of this section, "required fees" means those fees that are charged by the school to all students pursuing a similar curriculum, and "required educational equipment" means educational equipment that must be purchased by all students pursuing a similar curriculum at that school.

(2) The Director may enter into an agreement with the school in which the participant is enrolled for the direct payment of tuition and reasonable educational expenses on the participant's behalf.

(b) *Payment of scholarship: Leave-of-absence; repeated course work.* The Director will suspend scholarship payments to or on behalf of a participant if the school:

(1) Approves a leave-of-absence for the participant for health, personal, or other reasons; or

(2) Requires the participant to repeat course work for which the Director has previously made scholarship payments under § 68b.6. However, if the repeated course work does not delay the participant's graduation date, scholarship payments will continue except for any additional costs relating to the repeated course work. Any scholarship payments suspended under this paragraph will be resumed by the Director upon notification by the school that the participant has returned from the leave-of-absence or has completed the repeated course work and is pursuing as a full-time student the course of study for which the scholarship was awarded.