



2026 Scholarship Awards Descriptions and Qualifications

Scholarship application opens August 1, 2026 – September 1, 2026 (11:59 PM)

Year started	Fund Name	Base Qualification Information	Additional Qualifications for Consideration
		You will be asked to provide your FAFSA submission summary as part of your application to the following needs-based funds.	
2000	John G. Nolen Scholarship Fund	D3 students attending University of Michigan 3.2 GPA Open to U.S. Citizens Only	• Having leadership experience on any type of organized activity • Interested in future leadership positions to promote dentistry
2002	George L. Bletsas Scholarship Fund	D3 students attending University of Detroit Mercy 3.0 GPA Open to U.S. Citizens Only	• Having leadership experience on any type of organized activity • Interested in future leadership positions to promote dentistry
2004	MDA IFG Scholarship Fund	D3 or D4 students attending University of Michigan 3.2 GPA Open to U.S. Citizens Only	• Outstanding leadership qualities • Interests in giving back to the communities in which they reside
2004	William Schumann Scholarship Fund	D3 or D4 students attending the University of Detroit Mercy 3.2 GPA Open to U.S. Citizens Only	• Outstanding leadership qualities • Interests in giving back to the communities in which they reside
2009	Genesee District Scholarship Fund	Dental and hygiene students from Genesee County (as determined by application) 3.2 GPA Open to U.S. Citizens Only Essay Required: 300 words explaining how scholarship will help applicant attain educational goals	• Leadership experience with interests in giving back through organized dentistry • Preference given to those students who will practice in Genesee County after graduating, but not required • D3 or D4 students preferred; any level hygiene student

2011	Ray Gist Fund	D3, D4 under-represented populations attending University of Michigan or Detroit Mercy D2 eligible only if D3 or D4 is not nominated 3.0 GPA U.S. Citizens a first priority, others welcome to apply	• Open to all under-represented ethnicities • Award can be used as scholarship or for use at the annual NDA Meeting • Outstanding leadership qualities • Interest in giving back to the communities in which they reside
2017	Washtenaw District Dental Society	Annual Scholarship for a D4 at either U of M or UDM Must be Washtenaw County Resident 3.2 GPA and in good standing with school Essay Required: 500 word personal statement as to why applicant qualifies and is applying for the scholarship	• Student must demonstrate financial need • Neighboring county eligible only if Washtenaw County residents are not nominated
2020	Dr. & Mrs. Gary Jeffers Scholarship Fund	D2 or above at Detroit Mercy Dental School 3.4 GPA and in good standing with school Essay Required: 500 words describing current involvement in organized dentistry and future plans	• Must have established record of involvement to organized dentistry • Must have a commitment to serving vulnerable populations
2024	MDAF Michigan Residential Scholarship Fund	Three awards/year to: 1 U of M D4 or post-grad student (up to \$6,000) 1 UDM D4 or post-grad student (up to \$6,000) 1 2 nd year Hygiene student (up to \$2,500) 3.0 GPA or higher Already licensed or planning to be in Michigan Essay required: In 750 words or less, explain your aspirations for your dental career in Michigan and in what ways you are pursuing leadership roles in your community	• Excellent leader • Desire to give back to community • Interested in future leadership positions in dentistry • Evidence of service/volunteerism

2024	Karen Burgess Scholarship Endowment	Up to \$10,000 D3 students In 2026 attends University of Detroit Mercy OR University of Michigan 3.0 GPA or higher Lives in MI permanently and plans to practice here Essay required: In 750 words or less, describe how you plan to best serve your Michigan community and practice culture sensitivity as a dental leader	• Represents a diverse background or non-traditional status • Demonstrated leadership in organized dentistry/community • Expresses interest in service/volunteerism involvement • Interest in growing leadership skills
2025	The Christy Family Scholarship	Up to \$5,000 D4 students Attends University of Detroit Mercy Permanent Michigan residents U.S. Citizens, Permanent Residents or equivalent Plans to practice in Michigan in a "non-metro" area (rural area preferred) Essay required: In 500 words, describe how you plan to best serve your Michigan community as a dental leader	• Represents a diverse background or non-traditional status • Demonstrated leadership in organized dentistry/community • Expresses interest in service/volunteerism involvement • Interest in growing leadership skills