

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 Washington careers for Washington students. We do this by reducing barriers to education for students in the state through financial aid and student supports. 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 a MUA or HPSA.

In a maximum of 300 words we encourage you to write about 1-2 past experiences.

- Include information about geographic locations, specific settings and patient populations.
- What did you learn from the experiences?
- What specific skills will you take forward to future experiences?
- If you do not have experience in MUA or HPSA, what other experiences have you had?
- What skills have you developed that might be beneficial in this type of community?

Essay 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 a maximum of 300 words, tell us about the type of community you see yourself practicing in, including specific settings/locations and patient populations. Tell us what you will be doing in that community.

- What skills are necessary to succeed in this environment?
- What role would you fulfill in this community?
- Why is this role important to you?