

Minority Faculty Development Scholarship Award



Nomination Instructions

DESCRIPTION OF AWARD: This is an annual award offered to minority faculty pursuing a postprofessional doctoral degree (excluding a transitional DPT [t-DPT]) by the Physical Therapy Fund, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization supported by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA).

PURPOSE: To provide doctoral education support for minority faculty members, to acknowledge and reward those who demonstrate commitment to minority services and activities and show superior achievements in the profession of physical therapy.

ELIGIBILITY FOR AWARD:

1. The applicant must be a US citizen or legal permanent resident and a member of one of the following racial/ethnic minority groups: African-American or Black, Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native and Hispanic/Latino.
2. The applicant must be a physical therapist, a full-time faculty member, teaching in an accredited or developing professional physical therapist education program, who at the time the award is presented, will have completed a minimum of 2 full semesters or 3 full quarters of post-professional doctoral course work. The degree must be conferred after January 1, 2024.
3. The candidate must possess a license to practice physical therapy in a US jurisdiction or have met all the requirements for licensure in a US jurisdiction.
4. The applicant must be enrolled as a student in a regionally accredited post-professional doctoral program whose content has a demonstrated relationship to physical therapy.
5. The applicant must demonstrate continuous progress toward the completion of his/her postprofessional doctoral program in a timely fashion.
6. The applicant must demonstrate commitment to minority services and activities.
7. The applicant must demonstrate a commitment to further the physical therapy profession through teaching and research.
8. Those who have received the Minority Faculty Development Scholarship Award in prior years are no longer eligible.

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APPLICATION PROCESS:

The following documents must be uploaded electronically via APTA's designated awards portal:

1. A personal essay outlining your professional goals, along with plans to contribute to the profession and minority services. Your essay must include a response to the 4 questions listed in the application.
2. Curriculum vitae to include but not be limited to: education and honors; continuing education courses; licensure and certification; employment (and titles of positions held); consultative and advisory activities; membership in scientific, professional, and honorary societies (and positions held); minority community activities/services; scientific and professional presentations; presentations at continuing education seminars/workshops; publications; published abstracts; grant activities; and other pertinent information.
3. Application form (found on award's website).
4. Three reference forms (on website): Reference Form 1: completed by the PT program director
Reference Form 2: completed by the faculty advisor or chair of the dissertation committee
Reference Form 3: completed by a resource who can verify contributions to the minority community
5. Plan of study for attaining the graduate degree, signed by the applicant's faculty advisor. When appropriate, include dates of the comprehensive examination; admission to candidacy; approval of overview of research project; and defense of thesis, dissertation or equivalent requirement (form provided in application on award's website).

Applications for this award which are not selected may be resubmitted for the following year's Honors and Awards Program (i.e., one year after the original nomination submission). Staff will review applicants for continued eligibility. Resubmission of applications for this award in subsequent years will require the consent of the applicant and update of the application package.

CRITERIA USED TO SELECT THE RECIPIENT:

The criteria used to determine the scholarship award recipient(s) are:

1. Demonstrated evidence of contributions in the area of minority affairs and services.
2. Contributions to the profession of physical therapy as demonstrated by: honors and awards, past/present physical therapy related activities, demonstrated leadership (i.e., offices held); clarity of written communication and ability to articulate realistic goals and plans; commitment to excellence in physical therapy research and education; progression towards the successful completion of doctoral studies; critical thinking abilities, community service, research, publications and presentations.

If you have questions about the nomination process, please contact the Honors and Awards office at honorsandawards@apta.org.