



Dr. Rita Getz Student Excellence Scholarship

The Dr. Rita Getz Student Excellence Scholarship was established by the Primary Care Foundation (PCF) in 2025 to honor the legacy of Dr. Rita Getz, PhD, a founding faculty and administrative leader at the Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine (ICOM).

Dr. Getz is Professor Emeritus at ICOM and devoted more than 25 years of her career to osteopathic medical education. Throughout her tenure, she was widely recognized for her leadership in student assessment, academic performance, and student success, positively impacting the lives of thousands of medical students.

With a deep belief in the power of medical education, Dr. Getz focused on creating assessment strategies that not only measured student performance, but also fostered learning, reflection, and growth. Her work emphasized critical thinking, academic integrity, and the continuous pursuit of personal and professional excellence. This scholarship honors Dr. Getz's lasting impact by supporting students who exemplify those same values.

In order to be eligible for this scholarship, students must meet the following criteria:

- Be enrolled full-time and in good academic standing (not on academic probation or leave of absence) at the Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine (ICOM);
- Demonstrate academic excellence;
- Demonstrate a commitment to personal and professional growth consistent with the values of academic integrity, critical thinking, and lifelong learning;
- Demonstrate an interest in primary care medicine and/or rural health; and
- Demonstrate financial need.

Applicants must submit the following materials:

- One essay responding to the supplemental questions outlined below (1,000 words or less total); and
- Supporting documentation from the ICOM Registrar verifying full-time enrollment, good academic standing, and class rank.
- One letter of recommendation from an ICOM faculty member, and any supporting documentation requested within the application.

Scholarship Amount

\$10,000

Deadline

March 31, 2026

Supplemental Questions

Applicants must submit one essay (1,000 words or less total). Please organize your response using the numbered headings below. Each section is weighted as indicated by the percentage listed in the heading, reflecting its contribution to the overall application score:

1. Personal Statement and Connection to Idaho (15%)

Provide a brief personal statement introducing yourself, your path to medical school, and your motivation for pursuing medicine. Describe your connection to Idaho and your commitment to living, learning, or practicing in the state. Please address all that apply:

- Where you grew up and where you consider your permanent home
- Whether you attended high school in Idaho (include school name and city)
- Whether you attended college or other educational programs in Idaho
- Family, community, or professional ties that demonstrate your intention to live and practice in Idaho

2. Academic Excellence and Learning Approach (35%)

Describe your academic performance at ICOM and your approach to learning. Please address the following:

- Your cohort and anticipated graduation year
- Your current class ranking and academic standing
- Academic achievements, honors, or distinctions
- How you engage with assessment, feedback, and self-reflection
- How you demonstrate academic integrity and critical thinking

**Please attach supporting documentation from the ICOM Registrar verifying your standing and class rank.*

3. Commitment to Personal and Professional Growth (20%)

Describe how you have demonstrated a commitment to continuous improvement and personal growth, including:

- Academic or professional challenges you have faced
- How you incorporate feedback and adapt your learning strategies
- How you plan to continue developing as a learner and physician

4. Interest in Primary Care and/or Rural Health (15%)

Describe your interest in primary care medicine and/or rural health:

- Experiences that influenced this interest
- How this interest aligns with your long-term career goals
- How your education at ICOM is preparing you to serve these populations

5. Financial Need (15%)

Describe your financial need and how this scholarship would support your education:

- Factors contributing to your financial need (e.g., dependents, cost of attendance, educational debt)
- How the scholarship will help you continue your medical education
- How this support aligns with your long-term career goals

Note: Your response to all of the above should not exceed 1,000 words. Please attach supporting documentation from the ICOM Registrar verifying your standing and class rank, as well as one letter of recommendation from an ICOM faculty member. Applicants for this scholarship will also be considered for PCF's Rural Health Scholarship, but can only be awarded one.

How to Submit

Please send your essay and supporting documentation as a single PDF via email to Kylie Turner, Executive Director of PCF, at kturner@theprimarycareinitiative.org, using your name as the filename. You should also include your full name on the header of each page.

Note: Applicants should expect to receive a response to their application indicating it has been received. If they do not receive a reply, it will be incumbent upon them to inquire about receipt of their application prior to the deadline.

Disclaimer

The number of scholarships and amount per scholarship(s) will be determined each year based on the PCF Board's policy on distribution and availability of funds. Scholarships are not automatically renewable; students must re-apply each year. Students receiving full-tuition scholarships from other sources are not eligible. If awarded the scholarship, funds will be distributed directly toward the recipient's tuition. If other sources of aid cover the full cost of attendance, other aid will be adjusted down to accommodate this scholarship.