



MacKenzie Gerszewski Scholarship

The MacKenzie Gerszewski Scholarship was established by the Primary Care Foundation (PCF) in 2023.

MacKenzie Lind Gerszewski was a third-year medical student attending the Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine when she passed away on July 31, 2022 after a courageous 11-year battle with cancer. She was a member of ICOM's Class of 2023.

Student Doctor Gerszewski fit a lifetime of experiences into her 26 years. She was part of a medical mission to Haiti led by her family physician, Dr. Tonia Hoggarth. Student Doctor Gerszewski was privileged to shadow and help with research at the University of Minnesota, alongside her medical team.

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 a commitment to pediatrics and serving rural or underserved communities;
- Demonstrate leadership and a commitment to service;
- Demonstrate academic excellence; 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.

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 found on the following page. Each section is weighted as indicated by the percentage listed in the heading, reflecting its contribution to the overall application score.

1. Personal Background and Connection to Idaho (25%)

Provide a brief personal statement introducing yourself, your path to medical school, and the life experiences that led you to pursue medicine.

Describe your connection to Idaho and your commitment to living and/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, college, or other educational programs in Idaho (include school names and locations, if applicable)
- Personal, family, or community ties to Idaho
- How Idaho has influenced your interest in pediatrics or rural practice

2. Commitment to Pediatrics and Rural Practice (25%)

Describe your commitment to pursuing pediatrics, particularly in rural or underserved communities, including:

- Your reasons for choosing pediatrics
- How rural pediatric practice aligns with your career goals and personal values
- Experiences that influenced your interest in pediatric or rural medicine
- Your intention to serve children in rural Idaho or similar communities after training

3. Leadership Experience (10%)

Describe your leadership experience, including:

- Leadership roles or responsibilities held during medical school or prior education
- Informal leadership, mentorship, or advocacy activities
- The impact of your leadership on individuals, organizations, or communities

4. Service and Volunteerism (10%)

Describe your commitment to service and volunteerism, including:

- Volunteer activities within ICOM, healthcare settings, or the broader community
- Duration of involvement and level of responsibility
- How service has shaped your approach to patient care, particularly for children and families

5. Academic Excellence (15%)

Describe your academic performance at ICOM:

- Your cohort and anticipated graduation year
- Your current class ranking and academic standing
- Academic achievements, honors, or distinctions

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

6. Financial Need (15%)

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

- Factors contributing to your financial need
- How scholarship support would alleviate educational expenses
- How this support would enable you to pursue a career in pediatrics and rural medicine

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. 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.