



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I have to be a US Citizen to receive this scholarship?

You must be a US Citizen or otherwise lawfully present in the United States AND a resident of Tennessee to receive this scholarship.

If I have already applied for the Pathways scholarship and received assistance, do I need to reapply for each semester?

No. Once you have applied, received a confirmation number and received financial assistance, you do not have to reapply. You will continue to submit invoices each semester for review and approval up to the maximum award amount.

How far back can I receive assistance after applying?

Students with applications that have been approved for awards in the past may be eligible for continued payments starting in the summer of 2026 and forward. Only applicants who receive funding from the OAC scholarship can work for an OAC funded treatment agency. If you have not previously been awarded a scholarship, please consider applying for funding that would start in the summer of 2026 and for ongoing semesters.

How much may I receive?

Scholarships are provided for tuition costs, excluding books or fees, of up to \$7,500 per academic semester and up to \$15,000 per academic year, with a maximum award of \$30,000. Students can be part-time or full-time. Full time is considered 12 academic hours per semester.

If I receive other scholarships or financial assistance, may I still apply?

Yes, this scholarship is intended to complement any other scholarship or grant funding. Recipients may not receive a Tennessee Behavioral Health Pathways Scholarship from both administrators, Tennessee Association of Alcohol, Drug and other Addiction Services (TAADAS) and Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO).

What information is required to apply?

- A government-issued state ID, U.S. passport or copy of your completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA).
- Proof of Tennessee residency (i.e. Tennessee Driver's License, utility bill, lease, etc.).
- Social Security Number
- Proof of acceptance to an accredited college or university in Tennessee or serving Tennessee students.
- Evidence of enrollment in an eligible behavioral health master's degree program.
- A detailed tuition invoice and when requested, a class schedule for the semester(s) that includes your name, university name, and student ID for which you are requesting the scholarship.

What master's degree programs are eligible for the scholarship?

Eligible programs are master's degree programs in behavioral health fields that directly prepare graduates to serve Tennessee's public behavioral health system and may lead toward clinical licensure or certification. Examples include counseling, psychiatric nursing, social work, clinical psychology, and closely related clinical behavioral health programs. Programs that do not prepare graduates for behavioral health practice or clinical licensure are not eligible. Bachelor's, post master's degrees, and certificate programs do not qualify for the scholarship.

I applied for a scholarship. What's next?

The scholarship administrators will review your application. A TAADAS or TAMHO administrator will contact you if additional information is required. Please be informed that official scholarship award letters are only provided via email from TAMHO or TAADAS. Submitting an application or follow-up documentation does not guarantee an award. If approved, scholarship funds are paid directly to your college or university.

I received a scholarship. What's next?

If you are planning to request scholarship funds for more than one term, remember to submit your class enrollment, tuition invoice and when requested, a class schedule when you register each semester. Ongoing scholarship funds are not automatically disbursed to your school. Funds are allocated based on tuition statements that are reviewed and approved by administrators. A scholarship administrator will review your submission and notify you of ongoing approval via email. Please allow up to 45 days for processing. Due to this delay, approved applicants may want to consider another payment method for each semester in order to keep your academic account current. You will be reimbursed by your school once they receive the scholarship funds.

How long is the post-graduate employment obligation?

You must commit to working at a Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) OR Opioid Abatement Council (OAC)-funded treatment agency that is also a TAADAS or TAMHO member for the same duration of time as the tuition assistance received. Only applicants who receive funding from the OAC scholarship can work for an OAC funded treatment agency.

Example:

Full Time Scholarship Award by Semester/Term	Full Time Employment Commitment Months	Part Time Employment Commitment Months
1	4	8
2	8	16
3	12	24
4	16	32

	Full Time is defined as 12 credit hours. Less than 12 credit hours are considered part time.	
Part Time Scholarship Award by Semester/Term	Full Time Employment Commitment	Part Time Employment Commitment
1	2	4
2	4	8
3	6	12
4	8	16

Internship time does not apply toward the post-graduate employment commitment, and previous employment time cannot be retroactively applied. Work must be completed at a qualifying organization post-graduation. Eligible employers are TDMHSAS or OAC funded treatment agencies and a TAADAS and/or TAMHO member. Qualified employers are listed on their respective websites.

What happens if I cannot finish my school or work requirement? The purpose of the Tennessee Behavioral Health Pathways Scholarship is to increase the number of highly qualified mental health professionals working in Tennessee community organizations. Recipients who do not complete their degree program or employment commitment are required to repay their scholarship. TDMHSAS, TAMHO and TAADAS reserve the right to collect all payments in full.

Will I have to maintain a certain GPA to receive the scholarship? Continued enrollment in your master's program is sufficient evidence of progress towards your degree and subsequent scholarship funding. Recipients are required to provide evidence of enrollment each semester and the corresponding tuition invoice.

How do I contact the scholarship administrators? The scholarship administrators may be reached at pathways@taadas.org or tamho@tamho.org.