

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

UIC

College of Medicine

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2008-2009

**SCHOLARSHIPS FOR
 DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS(SDS)
 INFORMATION AND PARENTS
 INCOME VERIFICATION GUIDELINES**

The Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students program, which is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide scholarships to full-time, financially needy students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are enrolled in health professions programs. Each year we apply for funds. If we receive funding, we award it to students who have met either of two definitions of "disadvantaged" listed below and if awarded it usually reduces the loan portion of the recipient's financial aid package.

- **Economically Disadvantage** - An individual who comes from a family with an annual income below a level based on low-income thresholds according to family size published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, adjusted annually for changes in the Consumer Price Index, and adjusted by the Secretary of Health and Human Services for adaptation to this program (<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/povdef.html>).

OR

- **Environmentally Disadvantage** - An individual who comes from an environment that has inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skill and abilities required to enroll in and graduate from a health professions school.

Eligibility Requirements for the Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students Program

Awards will be allocated and disbursed based on highest need. A scholarship committee will review all student applications. **ALL APPLICANTS MUST PROVIDE A COPY OF THEIR PARENTS' FINANCIAL INFORMATION (2007 tax forms) REGARDLESS OF AGE, MARITAL, OR INDEPENDENT STATUS.** This is a requirement of the Federal Government, and is used in order to give scholarships to those students in highest need. **Students who do not send in a copy of their parents' tax forms will not be eligible for this program.**

- A. In order to be eligible for the SDS scholarship, you must be considered either **Economically Disadvantaged** according to the guidelines below.
- OR
- B. Come from an **Environmentally Disadvantaged** Background in which some examples are listed below.

A. Low Income Guidelines:

Students coming from a family with an annual income below the level determined by the U.S. Census Bureau guidelines will be considered. This is based on the student's parents' income regardless of independent/dependent or marital status. All students applying must submit their parents' latest income tax forms regardless of age, independent/dependent, or marital status.

2008 HHS Poverty Guidelines

Table 1

Persons in Family or Household	48 Contiguous States and D.C.	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$10,400	\$12,770	\$11,750
2	14,000	17,120	15,750
3	17,600	21,470	19,750
4	22	25,820	23,750

5	24,130	30,170	27,750
6	27,610	34,520	31,750
7	31,090	38,870	35,750
8	34,570	43,220	39,750
For each additional person, add	3,480	4,350	4,000

SOURCE: *Federal Register*, Vol. 73 No. 15, January 23 2008 pp. 3971-3972

B. Some Examples of Environmental Limitations:

- Member of the first generation in the family to attend college.
- Having attended an Illinois high school listed as under funded by the Illinois State Board of Education.
- Having attended a high school in another state listed as under funded.

PARENTS INCOME VERIFICATION GUIDELINES:

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) administers the Scholarship for Disadvantaged Students. After identifying potentially eligible students, HHS requires the College of Medicine Office of Student Financial Aid (COM OSFA) to verify parental income information. This information sheet has been created to assist students who appear eligible for SDS funds, but who need to submit the appropriate documentation for parental income verification. This guide by no means incorporates all situations or details all documentation the COM OSFA may request. It is merely a guide and is subject to change. The following is a list of all of the possible scenarios we have encountered with recommendations as to the documentation that will be required.

Parents Filed a 2007 U.S. Federal Income Tax Return

Submit a signed copy of your parents' 2007 U.S. federal income tax return
 Submit all schedules and attachments
 Submit all W2s and 1099s

Parents Did Not File a 2007 U.S. Federal Income Tax Return But They Do Reside in the U.S.

Request a tax transcript and the W-2 transcript from the Internal Revenue Service

Note: *IRS Tax Transcript is an official federal document that will verify your parents' non-filing status. To obtain an IRS Tax Transcript, your parents will need to call the IRS at 800-829-1040 and specifically request the Tax Transcript. The Tax Transcript is available free of charge.*

Parents Reside and Work in Another Country

Submit the equivalent to a federal income tax return from your parents' country for calendar year 2007.
 Submit documentation of the conversion rate you used to convert your parents' currency into U.S. dollars.

Parents Reside in Another Country But They Are Not Working

Submit documentation from a disinterested third-party confirming your parents' income.
 The example HHS provided was that of a clergy person, notarized documentation, etc.
 Submit documentation of the conversion rate you used to convert your parents' currency into U.S. dollars.

To apply for the SDS Scholarship for Academic Year 2008-2009, please complete the **Parental Information Form**. The application deadline is **August 1, 2008**.