



Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health Presidential Scholars Award

SUMMARY:

The Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health (SPPH) of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) seeks to recruit and retain MPH students to serve as Presidential Scholars. In supporting this goal, the School will award scholarships of up to \$5,000 to selected students for Fall and Spring semesters of appointment as a Presidential Scholar. Students must be enrolled full time throughout the course of the scholarship.

REQUIREMENTS:

Scholarships will be awarded to students enrolled in or accepted into programs of the School and who agree to engage in service-learning activities in their communities. “Service-learning” is defined as a structured learning experience that combines community service with preparation and reflection. Students engaged in service-learning provide community service in response to community-identified concerns and learn about the context in which the service is provided, the connection between their services and their academic coursework, and their roles as citizens and professionals. The recipients should show a commitment to the TTUHSC values through their service learning projects and their reflections on the TTUHSC, the School, and the Office of the President. Students will be required to provide reflection papers at the end of each semester in which they are Presidential Scholars. Scholars will be required to attend monthly meetings where they will receive guidance on service-learning activities as well as mentoring and career advising in public health. Students will also be required to present their final project to students, faculty, and staff at the end of their scholar year.

NOMINATIONS: Continuing and newly admitted students to any degree program in the Julia Jones Matthews School of Population and Public Health may apply. Students enrolled only in the Public Health Certificate Program are not eligible.

ELIGIBILITY:

To maintain eligibility for the scholarship, students must maintain full-time status with a minimum of 9 credit hours in the Fall and Spring semesters. Any student who drops below full-time status will lose the scholarship for the next semester. Students must also maintain satisfactory progress on their degree plans and remain in good academic standing. Any student who drops below a 3.0 GPA in one semester will lose the scholarship for the next semester. Previous Presidential Scholar recipients are eligible to reapply.

State law requires that each student identifies any familial relation to a current member of the Board of Regents. A student who is related to a current member of the governing board of that institution is prohibited from receiving scholarships unless the scholarship is awarded exclusively based on academic merit or is an athletic scholarship. It is a Class B misdemeanor to file a false statement. Please review a list of current Texas Board of Regent members at



<http://www.texastech.edu/bor/> and then select the most appropriate answer below indicating your relation to any members of the Board of Regents.

CONSIDERATIONS:

The SPPH has identified five Student Priority Populations (subject to change over time) as detailed and described in our Council on Education for Public Health 2023 Self-Study Report for accreditation. To access the report, visit: https://www.ttuhsc.edu/population-public-health/documents/ceph/TTUHSC_Preliminary_Self-Study.pdf. For descriptions on the priority populations, please refer to *Appendix A* in this document.

- Multilingual Speakers
- West Texas Residents
- First Generation College Graduates
- TTUHSC Clinical Students
- Public Health Workers

Applicants are strongly encouraged to highlight details related to the above criteria in their applications. Student applicants will be evaluated holistically with all qualifications and institutional priorities considered.

For the application evaluation criteria, please refer to Appendix B.

This policy is reviewed annually and subject to change.



APPENDIX A: SPPH Priority Populations

Multilingual Speakers: Approximately 29.5% of Texans live in Spanish-speaking households, more than twice the national average and the highest proportion of any state in the US (<https://statisticalatlas.com/state/Texas/Languages>). It is important to the health of West Texas for our graduates to communicate effectively with constituents in our region. Since all non-US students must demonstrate English proficiency through standardized assurances (Page 5 of the SPPH Catalog – ERF/Criterion A/Criterion A5/A5.2 Official Catalog or Bulletin of Degrees Offered, <https://www.ttuhsu.edu/population-public-health/student-affairs.aspx>), we define multilingual as any applicant in SOPHAS who lists a non-English language (Spanish or otherwise) under languages spoken. This data is collected through the SOPHAS application and will be reviewed by the SEC/Admissions Subcommittee for each admissions cycle (three times per year). The SEC will report trend data at least once every two years to the LOC and/or the whole faculty and will make recommendations for remediation if appropriate.

West Texas Residents: TTUHSC and SPPH have an abiding commitment to the region of West Texas and the communities of Abilene and Lubbock, where SPPH has campuses. Part of our commitment to the region and our local communities is offering accessible education to our residents. We define applicants from West Texas as those whose applications include a permanent mailing address in the 108 counties (Please refer to the TTUHSC Fact Book <https://www.ttuhsu.edu/about/factbook.aspx>). This data is collected through the SOPHAS application and will be reviewed by the SEC/Admissions Subcommittee for each admissions cycle (three times per year). The SEC will report trend data at least once every two years to the LOC and/or the whole faculty and will make recommendations for remediation if appropriate. This information will also be shared with the CAB at least once every two years.

First Generation College Graduates: Only 34.9% of Texans 25 or older hold a bachelor's degree or higher, which is lower than the national average; and 17.7% have no high school diploma (<https://statisticalatlas.com/state/Texas/Educational-Attainment>). Within the state, West Texas has lower educational attainment than the state as a whole. Aspiring students who are the first in their families to enroll in or graduate from college often need extra support in affording and navigating graduate school. They also have influence and close ties to constituents who are most adversely affected by disease and disability. We define First Generation College Graduates as those who answered "Yes" to the SOPHAS application prompt: *"I am the first generation in my family to attend college (neither my mother nor my father attended college)." This data is collected through the SOPHAS application and will be reviewed by the SEC/Admissions Subcommittee for each admissions cycle (three times per year). The SEC will report trend data at least once every two years to the LOC and/or the whole faculty and will make recommendations for remediation if appropriate.*



TTUHSC Clinical Students: TTUHSC strongly supports public health education for all who work in health and health care. Chancellor Tedd Mitchell and President Lori Rice-Spearman have made it a University priority to afford every TTUHSC student the opportunity to receive a public health credential (MPH or Certificate) during their studies at the University. To date, we have formal joint degree programs with the Schools of Medicine and Pharmacy, and the Certificate is available to any student in any of the other five Schools of TTUHSC. We define TTUHSC Clinical Students as those who are enrolled in joint degree programs with SPPH or who enroll in the Public Health Certificate Program. The SEC will report trend data at least once every two years to the LOC and/or the whole faculty and will make recommendations for remediation if appropriate.

Public Health Workers: The proportion of public health workers in West Texas with formal public health credentials is low and decreasing as the COVID-19 pandemic and its wake cause burnout and increased early retirement of formally trained public health workers. Engaging current public health workers via credentialing also provides collateral benefits of enhancing classroom discourse, partnering with local health officials on Applied Practice Experiences and post-graduation placements, and building a community of public health scholars across West Texas. We define Public Health Workers as those who self-identify as being employed in the public health field when they began the Program. In the future, we will collect this information as a customized question on the SOPHAS application. This data will be reviewed by the SEC/Admissions Subcommittee for each admissions cycle (three times per year). The SEC will report trend data at least once every two years to the LOC and/or the whole faculty and will make recommendations for remediation if appropriate.



APPENDIX B: Presidential Scholar Application Evaluation Criteria

Note: Applications will be evaluated and scored using the following criteria

	Complete Application	SPPH student?	Full-time TTUHSC	GPA		Multilingual speaker?	West Texas resident?	1st generation college graduate?	TTUHSC Clinical student?	Public Health Worker?	Statement Rating	Letter Rating
Scale Range	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	0-1	0-4	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-5	0-5
Scale & definitions	If 'No,' application is disqualified			0 = No Grad GPA 1 = Grad GPA	0 – 4 (0 = < 3.0 1 = 3.0 - 3.25 2 = 3.26 - 3.5 3 = 3.51 - 3.75 4 = 3.76 - 4.0	No = 0 Yes = 1	No = 0 Yes = 1	No = 0 Yes = 1	No = 0 Yes = 1	No = 0 Yes = 1	1=Poor; 2=Fair; 3=Good; 4=Very Good; 5=Excellent	1=Poor; 2=Fair; 3=Good; 4=Very Good; 5=Excellent