

Public Health & Alzheimer's Disease Graduate Scholarships

Deadline for Application: April 20, 2015 at 11:59 pm EDT

Application Submission: <https://alzpublichealth.submittable.com/submit>

Graduate students in public health schools or programs are invited to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship from the Alzheimer's Association. The Association is making up to five scholarships available to support projects toward a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation on a topic related to cognitive health, cognitive decline, and/or Alzheimer's disease and other dementias as a public health issue. The applicant's public health school or program must be accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), and the project must relate directly to [*The Healthy Brain Initiative: The Public Health Road Map for State and National Partnerships, 2013-2018*](#).

Award recipients will be notified about their award by May 31, 2015. An external, independent review committee will evaluate all applications.

Scholarship Recipients Will Receive

- \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded in a single payment; the actual award is contingent upon the submission of several additional documents in June 2015:
 - a. Acceptance of the project proposal at the CEPH-accredited graduate school/program of public health as part of a thesis or dissertation;
 - b. Documentation of enrollment as a full-time student in the fall 2015 semester; and
 - c. Documentation of identity as a citizen or a non-citizen national of the United States, or as having been lawfully admitted for permanent residence at the time of the award.
- Complimentary registration to the 2015 [Alzheimer's Association International Conference](#), July 19-23, in Washington, DC (in-kind value of \$965).
- An opportunity to present the project results to the public health community via an Alzheimer's Association webinar in 2016.
- Select technical support from the Alzheimer's Association Public Health Department, such as introductions to experts or connections to local Alzheimer's Association chapters.

Eligibility and Other Requirements

Applicants must meet all requirements to be considered. See also the FAQs.

Eligibility Requirements

1. The project must be:

- a. For a master's thesis or a doctoral dissertation.
- b. On the topic of public health policy and practice as it relates to Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and/or cognitive health, function, decline, and impairment (inclusive of support for caregivers) in the United States. A wide variety of topics and methods will be considered. (See exclusions, below.)

Exclusions: Scholarship awards are *not* available for projects that fall into one or more of the following categories.

- Are clinical research.
- Require an Institutional Review Board approval.
- Are conducted outside the United States or focus on non-U.S. populations.

- c. Conducted and completed during the academic 2015-2016 year. The project must result in a written product by May 31, 2016, such as a thesis, a chapter in a dissertation, or a report provided to a thesis/dissertation committee.

2. Academic Requirements:

- a. Enrollment as a full-time student (9 credit hours or more) in a masters or doctoral degree program in a school or program of public health that is [accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health \(CEPH\)](#).¹
- b. Transcript (unofficial or uncertified is acceptable).
- c. Letter of recommendation from a faculty advisor who will work with or oversee the applicant's efforts on the project; the letter must attest that the applicant has the primary role in the project.

3. Identity Requirements:

All applicants who are selected to receive a scholarship must be able to present documentation at the time of award that establishes identity as a citizen or a non-citizen national of the United States, or that establishes they have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence at the time of the award. (See FAQs for a list of accepted documents.)

Other Requirements

4. Submission of a project proposal (maximum 1,500 words) with these sections:

- a. Problem statement
- b. Objectives
- c. Methods
- d. Relevance to [The Healthy Brain Initiative: The Public Health Road Map for State and National Partnerships, 2013-2018](#)

¹ <http://ceph.org/accredited/>

- e. Schedule for project design, implementation, and reporting phases and description of current phase (the thesis/dissertation project may be in progress)

NOTE: Refer to application scoring rubric for additional information.

- 5. Submission of resume, curriculum vitae (CV), or NIH biosketch (maximum four pages).
- 6. Applicant’s statement (max. 150 words) on his/her interest in a career in public health related to cognitive health and/or dementia issues.

Application Components

Only applications that contain all of the following components will be considered. If uploaded documents exceed the page limit, the application will be rejected.

Component	Format	Note
Application Form	Online form	
Project proposal	Online form	1,500 word maximum
Applicant’s statement	Online form	150 words maximum
Professional resume, CV, or NIH biosketch	PDF upload	4 pages maximum
Current transcript	PDF upload	May be uncertified or unofficial
Faculty advisor letter	PDF upload	

Applicants whom the Alzheimer’s Association has identified to receive a scholarship award will be required to submit additional documents regarding enrollment and identity (see FAQs).

Application Review and Awards

The Association is seeking high quality project proposals that have the potential to make a pragmatic contribution to the field of public health policy and practice as it relates to Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias and/or cognitive health, function, decline, and impairment, inclusive of support for caregivers. An external, independent review panel will evaluate all applications. Representatives include public health faculty, professional and trade association members or staff, and subject matter experts.

In a blinded review process, each application that meets all eligibility requirements will be reviewed by two members of the committee using the scoring rubric included in this packet. Committee members will not review applications submitted by students at the same school.

These ratings will be used in an advisory nature to assemble a portfolio of scholarship-funded projects on diverse issues, geographies, and populations, and across a variety of schools/programs of public health. Priority will be given to applications that have a strong linkage to [*The Healthy Brain Initiative: The Public Health Road Map for State and National Partnerships, 2013-2018*](#) and the potential to make an important contribution to the field. The final selection process will also take into consideration faculty advisors’ recommendations and applicants’ credentials (both academic and professional) and career interests.

Notwithstanding the scoring of the reviewers, final decisions on the award recipients rest with the Alzheimer's Association. The Association reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to award scholarships to those other than the highest scorers, and to withdraw this call for applications in its entirety.

Limitation

Falsification of any information will result in immediate disqualification of the applicant.

APPLICATION FOR Public Health & Alzheimer's Disease Graduate Scholarships

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: April 20, 2015 at 11:59 pm EDT

Only applications submitted through the following portal will be accepted:

<https://alzpublichealth.submittable.com/submit>

The platform requires users to establish a free account in order to access the form and upload files. The platform enables users to begin an application, save it, and resume entry at a later time over a three-week period or until the application closes on April 20, 2015, whichever is first.

Application Information and Materials to Submit

In addition to filling in the online form with background information, applicants must also submit five items in order for their applications to be complete.

1. **Project proposal** that describes effort in support of your thesis or dissertation; required sections include problem statement, objectives, methods, relevance to the [Road Map](#), and project schedule and current status (maximum 1,500 words; submit electronically in online form)
2. **Applicant's statement** (maximum 150 words) regarding your interest in a career in public health that includes a focus on cognitive health and dementia issues (submit electronically in online form)
3. **Resume, CV, or NIH biosketch** (maximum 4 pages; submit electronically as a PDF)
4. **Current transcript** (uncertified or unofficial transcript is accepted; submit as a PDF)
5. **Faculty advisor's** letter of recommendation in support of the project toward fulfillment of thesis or dissertation requirements (submit electronically as a PDF)

Any application that is incomplete as of April 21, 2015, will not be considered.

Rubric for Rating Scholarship Applications

The Alzheimer’s Association will initially review all applications for eligibility. Each application that meets all eligibility standards will be forwarded to two review committee members who are not from the applicant’s institution. Applications will only be identified by a unique number (applicants’ personal and academic information will be removed). Committee members will use this rubric to score.

		Possible Points
1. Problem Statement	Problem statement clearly identifies and describes a public health problem related to Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias and/or cognitive health, function, decline, and impairment; the topic may address supporting the needs of caregivers for people with Alzheimer’s or related dementias.	2
	Problem statement includes quantitative data.	2
	Problem statement refers to published work in the field.	2
2. Objectives	Project question or hypothesis is clear.	2
	Project objectives are SMART (i.e., specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound).	2
	Project proposal clearly defines subject population (e.g., age, race, gender, disease stage).	2
3. Methods	Objectives have a clear link to the problem statement.	2
	Methods section outlines a project design that is appropriate to address project question or to test hypothesis.	2
	Methods are sufficiently justified.	2
4. Road Map Relevance	Project proposal describes the importance of addressing this problem for public health, with reference to the population affected, severity of the problem, and/or potential benefits.	2
	Project proposal justifies how the project will support specific Road Map action item(s).	2
5. Innovativeness	Project is innovative in its focus and approach.	2
6. Schedule	Project plan is feasible in terms of enabling the applicant to complete the proposed project by May 2016.	2
	Timeline covers key phases of project design, implementation, analytic, and reporting.	2
	Schedule notes current project phase (see above)	2
TOTAL POINTS FOR ALL DOMAINS:		
Reviewer Comments <i>(optional, regarding additional considerations about this application):</i>		

FAQs

The Alzheimer's Association will address additional questions that are deemed relevant to multiple prospective applicants and have not been discussed in this set of FAQs. Submit questions to the open Google Group: ALZ.scholarships@alz.org. NOTE: Questions regarding the substance of proposed projects (e.g., topic or methods) will be disregarded. Only questions about the application process and policies will be answered.

Eligibility

1. Will you accept applications from people studying in a field other than, but related to, public health?

No. Applications from graduate degree programs other than public health will not be considered. If students are enrolled in a dual-degree graduate program and one of the degrees is in public health, they are eligible to apply.

2. Will you accept project proposals for other master's level final projects, such as a capstone project or professional paper?

No. Scholarships will only support projects that contribute to the development of theses and dissertations.

3. How can I learn if my School or Program of Public Health is CEPH-accredited?

Go to: <http://ceph.org/accredited/>

4. Am I eligible if my School/Program of Public Health is applying for CEPH accreditation?

No, the school or program must be currently accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health. For a list of CEPH-accredited Schools and Programs of Public Health, go to: <http://ceph.org/accredited/>

5. What documentation can be used to establish eligibility at the time of award?

Prior to the Alzheimer's Association release of a scholarship award, the designated applicants (i.e., persons notified by the Alzheimer's Association of a pending scholarship award) must submit documentation by June 30, 2015, that they meet eligibility requirements for all three criteria.

- I. Acceptance of the project proposal at the CEPH-accredited graduate school/program of public health as part of a thesis or dissertation;
- II. Documentation of enrollment as a full-time student in the fall 2015 semester; and
- III. Documentation of identity as a citizen or a non-citizen national of the United States, or have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence at the time of the award.

Applicants should not submit these documents until requested.

Criteria	Examples of Accepted Documents
I. Acceptance of the project proposal at the graduate school/program of public health as part of a thesis or dissertation;	Signed letter from chair of thesis or dissertation committee on school/program of public health letterhead
II. Documentation of enrollment as a full-time student in the fall 2015 semester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receipt for tuition • Correspondence on letterhead from school/program affirming enrollment
III. Documentation of identity as a citizen or a non-citizen national of the United States, or as an individual that has been lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States at the time of the award.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. passport • Permanent resident card or alien registration receipt card (Form I-551) • Foreign passport that contains a temporary I-551 stamp or temporary I-551 printed notation on a machine-readable immigrant visa • Passport from the Federal States of Micronesia or the Republic of the Marshall Islands with Form I-94 or I-94A • Birth certificate issued by a state, county, municipal authority, or territory of the United States bearing an official seal • Voter’s registration card • U.S. Military card • Military dependent’s card • U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Card.

6. Will you accept paper submissions?

No. Only applications submitted through the following portal will be accepted:

<https://alzpublichealth.submittable.com/submit>

Definitions

7. What is “cognition”?

Cognition can be viewed along a continuum—from optimal functioning to mild cognitive impairment to Alzheimer’s disease and severe dementia—and may include tasks involved with cognitive function such as: language, thought, memory, executive function (the ability to plan and carry out tasks), judgment, attention, perception, remembered skills such as driving, and the ability to live a purposeful life.

8. What is “cognitive impairment”?

When cognitive abilities are impaired (often referred to as cognitive impairment), a person has trouble with cognitive processes that begin to affect the things s/he can do in everyday life. This

may eventually result in Alzheimer's disease or other dementia. It is important to note that some causes of cognitive impairment are related to treatable health issues (e.g., medication side effects, vitamin B12 deficiency, and depression).

9. What is "dementia"?

Dementia is a general term for a decline in mental ability severe enough to interfere with daily life. Dementia is not a disease itself, but rather a syndrome defined by a group of symptoms that often occur together in various combinations and severity. Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia and along with other conditions, such as stroke and traumatic brain injury, can result in impairment in cognitive abilities.

10. How do you define "caregiver"?

A "caregiver" is an unpaid individual, often a family member or close friend, who provides care or assistance to someone with Alzheimer's or a related dementia.

11. What constitutes "and completed" in item 1C of the eligibility requirements (i.e., conducted and completed during the academic 2015-2016 year)?

The project supported by the scholarship is "completed" when the recipient submits to the Alzheimer's Association a paper, chapter, or other type of written product that contains the project results and that directly advances the recipient's thesis or dissertation process.

12. Who can be a "faculty advisor"?

A faculty advisor is a faculty member of the applicant's school or program of public health. For example, a faculty advisor can be a mentor or a member of the applicant's thesis or dissertation committee.

Project Methods

13. Does "project" include literature reviews?

No. A project would not include a literature review. The project must entail the generation of some type of new and generalizable knowledge or data.

14. Are qualitative projects considered?

Yes. Projects that use qualitative methods are eligible for scholarship support.

15. What types of thesis or dissertation projects are not eligible?

Scholarships will not support clinical research or any research that would require approval by an Institutional Review Board. Also, scholarships are not offered for projects outside the United States.

16. If a project encompasses populations in the United States and other countries, will the project be eligible?

No. Only projects regarding U.S. populations (inclusive of citizens and immigrants) and conducted within the United States are eligible.

Other

17. What is the Web address for the online submission form?

<https://alzpublichealth.submittable.com/submit>

18. How can I access [The Healthy Brain Initiative: The Public Health Road Map for State and National Partnerships, 2013-2018](#)?

Go to: <http://www.alz.org/publichealth/downloads/2013-RoadMap.pdf>. Additional background information is available at: <http://www.alz.org/publichealth>.

19. Will there be ongoing support?

Scholarships are limited to one year. No additional support is anticipated.

20. If a scholarship recipient cannot attend the [Alzheimer's Association International Conference](#), could the value of the complimentary registration be available as financial support?

No.

21. Will the Alzheimer's Association cover the scholarship recipient's travel expenses to [Alzheimer's Association International Conference](#)?

No.

22. How will applicants be notified of their standing?

Applicants selected for a scholarship award will be notified by telephone call, e-mail, or both. Applicants that are not selected for an award will be notified by e-mail.