MARSHALL UNIVERSITY
Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY JOAN C. EDWARDS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Marshall Medical Pathways Policy

Purpose and Program Overview

The Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine (MUJCESOM) is committed to identifying, developing, and educating future physicians who have the potential to address the health care needs of West Virginia and the Appalachian region, while maintaining a strong and visible commitment to students who choose Marshall University for their undergraduate education.

The Marshall Medical Pathways initiative establishes three complementary pathways. The pathways are designed to preserve a distinct Marshall undergraduate pathway, create a statewide pathway for West Virginia residents regardless of where they attend college, and provide an Early Decision option for qualified West Virginia residents who identify MUJCESOM as their first-choice medical school.

1. Marshall Advantage Medical Scholars Program - a longitudinal pathway specifically for eligible Marshall University undergraduate students, regardless of state residency. It provides enhanced access to MUJCESOM mentoring, advising, clinical and scholarly opportunities, and a guaranteed MUJCESOM MD admissions interview for students who satisfy all pathway requirements.
2. West Virginia Medical Scholars Program - a statewide longitudinal pathway for eligible West Virginia residents attending any accredited United States college or university. It provides structured development, mentoring, a Medical Scholars Institute experience, and a guaranteed MUJCESOM MD admissions interview for students who satisfy all pathway requirements.
3. Marshall West Virginia Early Decision Program - an admissions pathway for qualified West Virginia residents who identify MUJCESOM as their first-choice medical school and apply through the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) Early Decision Program.

Participation in either Medical Scholars program does not constitute acceptance or conditional acceptance into the MUJCESOM MD program. A Scholar who satisfies all applicable pathway requirements earns a guaranteed admissions interview; the MUJCESOM Admissions Committee retains final authority for admission.

Students who are both Marshall University undergraduates and West Virginia residents will ordinarily participate through the Marshall Advantage Medical Scholars Program rather than applying to enroll in both Scholars programs. Participation in either Scholars program is not required to apply through the Marshall West Virginia Early Decision Program.

The number of participants selected for each pathway may vary annually based on program capacity, available resources, and the number and qualifications of applicants.

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PART A - MARSHALL ADVANTAGE MEDICAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Program Purpose

The Marshall Advantage Medical Scholars Program is designed specifically for Marshall University undergraduate students and preserves a clearly identifiable undergraduate-to-medical-school pathway following closure of the MD Early Assurance Program. Its purpose is to invest in students who choose Marshall for their undergraduate education by providing sustained access to MUJCESOM people, programs, and preparation for medical school.

The program is open to eligible Marshall University undergraduate students regardless of West Virginia residency. The Marshall Advantage is developmental and does not guarantee admission to MUJCESOM.

- Provide dedicated premedical advising in coordination with Marshall undergraduate advising.
- Connect Scholars with MUJCESOM faculty or physician mentors and medical student mentors.
- Facilitate structured physician shadowing and clinical exposure when feasible.
- Provide simulation and clinical skills experiences.
- Connect Scholars with research and scholarly opportunities involving MUJCESOM faculty when feasible.
- Provide MCAT preparation, application preparation, personal statement support, and mock interviews.
- Provide opportunities to participate in selected MUJCESOM educational, service, or professional activities.
- Provide a guaranteed MUJCESOM MD admissions interview to Scholars who meet all published benchmarks.

Marshall Advantage Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must:

1. Be enrolled as a degree-seeking undergraduate student at Marshall University at the time of application and remain enrolled at Marshall University while participating in the pathway, except as otherwise approved for documented circumstances.
2. Be a United States citizen or hold permanent resident status, consistent with applicable MUJCESOM MD admissions requirements.
3. Ordinarily be completing the sophomore or junior year of undergraduate education at the time of application.
4. Have a minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.5.
5. Have a minimum cumulative BCPM GPA of 3.5.
6. Demonstrate appropriate academic preparation for continued premedical study.
7. Demonstrate meaningful interest in medicine through clinical exposure, physician shadowing, community service, research, employment, leadership, or other relevant experiences.
8. Meet any additional published application requirements for the applicable cohort.

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Meeting minimum eligibility requirements does not guarantee selection for an interview or acceptance into the Marshall Advantage Medical Scholars Program.

Marshall Advantage Selection and Longitudinal Experience

Applicants must submit the Marshall Advantage application and required supporting materials by the published deadline. The MUJCESOM Admissions Office will conduct an initial review and identify applicants for interview using a mission-aligned review process. Finalists will participate in an interview conducted by MUJCESOM admissions committee and admissions interview team. Final selection will occur through a process established by the Admissions Office and approved by the MUJCESOM Admissions Committee.

Because Marshall Advantage Scholars are located on the Marshall University campus, the program may provide longitudinal experiences throughout the academic year in addition to summer programming. Activities may include advising, mentoring, shadowing, simulation, clinical exposure, research, service, MCAT and application preparation, mock interviews, and interaction with MUJCESOM faculty, physicians, residents, and medical students. The specific activities and schedule may evolve based on educational goals, participant needs, capacity, and available resources.

PART B - WEST VIRGINIA MEDICAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Program Purpose

The West Virginia Medical Scholars Program is a statewide, longitudinal undergraduate pathway designed to establish a relationship between promising West Virginia residents and MUJCESOM two to three years before the traditional medical school application cycle. The program is open to eligible West Virginia residents attending any accredited United States college or university and is not limited to students attending a West Virginia institution.

- Identify promising future physicians from throughout West Virginia.
- Provide early exposure to MUJCESOM, its faculty, students, clinical programs, and educational mission.
- Support development of academic, professional, clinical, service, and interpersonal competencies needed for medical school.
- Increase understanding of rural, underserved, Appalachian, and statewide health care needs.
- Provide mentoring and preparation for the MCAT and medical school application process.
- Encourage talented West Virginia residents attending colleges both within and outside West Virginia to consider returning to Marshall for medical education and future practice in West Virginia.

West Virginia Medical Scholars Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must:

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1. Be a West Virginia resident at the time of application to the program.
2. Be a United States citizen or hold permanent resident status, consistent with applicable MUJCESOM MD admissions requirements.
3. Be enrolled as a degree-seeking undergraduate student at an accredited United States college or university.
4. Ordinarily be completing the sophomore or junior year of undergraduate education at the time of application.
5. Have a minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.5.
6. Have a minimum cumulative BCPM GPA of 3.5.
7. Demonstrate appropriate academic preparation for continued premedical study.
8. Demonstrate meaningful interest in medicine through clinical exposure, physician shadowing, community service, research, employment, leadership, or other relevant experiences.
9. Meet any additional published application requirements for the applicable cohort.

Meeting minimum eligibility requirements does not guarantee selection for an interview or acceptance into the West Virginia Medical Scholars Program.

Application, Selection, and Medical Scholars Institute

Applicants must submit the West Virginia Medical Scholars application and all required supporting materials by the published deadline. The MUJCESOM Admissions Office will conduct an initial review and identify applicants for interview. Selection will use a mission-aligned review process. Factors may include academic achievement and trajectory; personal attributes; motivation for medicine; clinical exposure; service; leadership; research or scholarly activity; experiences with rural, underserved, or Appalachian communities; ties to West Virginia; and demonstrated interest in contributing to the health and well-being of West Virginia communities.

Selected West Virginia Medical Scholars will participate in a structured Medical Scholars Institute at Marshall University and MUJCESOM. The Institute may include:

- Anatomy and biomedical sciences
- Clinical skills and simulation
- Physician shadowing and clinical exposure
- Clinical reasoning
- Rural, Appalachian, and underserved health
- Research and scholarly activity
- Medical ethics and professionalism
- MCAT preparation
- Medical school application preparation
- Mentoring and interaction with faculty, physicians, residents, and medical students

The content, duration, and format of the Institute and subsequent longitudinal programming may evolve based on educational goals, resources, and continuous quality improvement. Successful completion of required activities is a condition of continued participation unless an exception is approved for documented extenuating circumstances.

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PART C - REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO BOTH MEDICAL SCHOLARS PROGRAMS

Definitions

BCPM GPA: The cumulative grade point average for Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics coursework, as calculated by AMCAS when available or by MUJCESOM for program purposes.

Medical Scholar: An undergraduate student formally selected for either the Marshall Advantage Medical Scholars Program or the West Virginia Medical Scholars Program.

Good Academic Standing: Academic standing that permits continued enrollment and progress toward a degree at the student's undergraduate institution, in addition to meeting this policy's academic requirements.

Good Institutional Standing: Standing that permits continued enrollment at the student's undergraduate institution without an institutional sanction that would preclude pathway participation or subsequent matriculation.

West Virginia Resident: An individual determined to be a West Virginia resident under the residency criteria applicable to MUJCESOM admissions.

Guaranteed Interview: An invitation to participate in the MUJCESOM MD admissions interview process after satisfaction of all applicable Medical Scholars requirements. It does not constitute or imply guaranteed admission.

Longitudinal Requirements and Continued Eligibility

To remain eligible for the guaranteed interview, a Medical Scholar must:

1. Maintain a minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.5.
2. Maintain a minimum cumulative BCPM GPA of 3.5.
3. Complete the premedical academic requirements established by MUJCESOM for the applicable matriculation cycle.
4. Successfully complete required pathway programming, including the Medical Scholars Institute or Marshall Advantage activities applicable to the participant.
5. Participate in required advising, mentoring, and other pathway activities.
6. Demonstrate continued meaningful engagement in clinical exposure, physician shadowing, community service, research, employment, leadership, or other activities appropriate for preparation for medical school.
7. Maintain satisfactory professional conduct and good institutional standing.
8. Take the MCAT and achieve a minimum total score of 505 by the deadline established for the participant's application cycle.
9. Complete all applicable AMCAS and MUJCESOM application requirements by the deadlines established for Medical Scholars.
10. Satisfy all other published requirements for the guaranteed interview.

The Admissions Office will monitor progress and may require periodic academic or activity updates. A temporary decline below a required GPA does not automatically result in dismissal. The Admissions Office may issue a notice of concern, require an improvement plan, establish probationary conditions, or refer the participant for review when appropriate.

Guaranteed MD Admissions Interview

A Medical Scholar who successfully completes all applicable requirements of this policy will receive an interview for admission to the MUJCESOM MD program. The guaranteed interview does not guarantee admission, waitlist placement, or any other particular admissions decision. Scholars will be evaluated through the MD admissions process in effect for the applicable application cycle. The MUJCESOM Admissions Committee retains final authority regarding acceptance to the MD program.

The academic benchmarks for earning the guaranteed interview are intended to be consistent across the two Medical Scholars programs. The Marshall Advantage consists of enhanced longitudinal access and investment available to Marshall undergraduates, not a lower academic or admissions standard.

Relationship to Early Decision

Participation in either Medical Scholars program does not obligate a student to apply to MUJCESOM through Early Decision. A Scholar who determines that MUJCESOM is the student's first-choice medical school may elect to apply through the Marshall West Virginia Early Decision Program if eligible. A Scholar who does not apply through Early Decision may apply through the regular admissions process and may apply to other medical schools without affecting the guaranteed MUJCESOM interview, provided all applicable Scholars requirements have been satisfied.

PART D - MARSHALL WEST VIRGINIA EARLY DECISION PROGRAM

Purpose and Eligibility

The Marshall West Virginia Early Decision Program provides an early admissions pathway for qualified West Virginia residents who have determined that MUJCESOM is their first-choice medical school. Applicants are not required to have participated in either Medical Scholars program.

To be considered through the Marshall West Virginia Early Decision Program, an applicant must:

1. Be a West Virginia resident.
2. Meet applicable citizenship or permanent residency requirements for MUJCESOM admission.
3. Meet all general MUJCESOM MD admissions eligibility requirements.
4. Have a minimum AMCAS-calculated cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.5.
5. Have a minimum AMCAS-calculated BCPM GPA of 3.5.
6. Have an MCAT total score of at least 505 available by the published Early Decision deadline.

7. Submit an AMCAS application designating MUJCESOM as an Early Decision Program school in accordance with applicable AAMC/AMCAS requirements.
8. Submit all MUJCESOM supplemental materials and required information by the applicable Early Decision deadlines.
9. Satisfy all other published requirements for Early Decision applicants.

Meeting minimum Early Decision eligibility requirements does not guarantee an interview or admission.

Early Decision Application, Interview, and Decision

Early Decision applicants must comply with all applicable AAMC/AMCAS Early Decision Program requirements and restrictions. The applicable AAMC/AMCAS deadlines and requirements for each admissions cycle are incorporated by reference rather than permanently fixed in this policy.

The Admissions Office will review completed Early Decision applications using the School of Medicine's mission-aligned admissions process. Applicants selected for interview will participate in the MUJCESOM MD admissions interview process during the Early Decision period. The MUJCESOM Admissions Committee will take an admissions action within the timeline required by AAMC/AMCAS. Permissible actions include acceptance, deferral to the regular applicant pool when appropriate and permitted, or denial.

PART E - PROFESSIONALISM, PROGRAM STATUS, AND APPEALS

Professionalism, Conduct, and Reporting

Medical Scholars must demonstrate conduct consistent with the professional expectations of MUJCESOM and the medical profession. A Medical Scholar must notify the Admissions Office in writing within five business days of becoming aware of any felony or misdemeanor charge or conviction, any formal disciplinary action or finding by the participant's undergraduate institution, or another significant institutional action that may affect eligibility for pathway participation or subsequent matriculation. Requested supporting documentation and updates must be provided.

A charge, allegation, or report will be evaluated based on the available facts and will not be treated as equivalent to a conviction or final disciplinary finding. Early Decision applicants are subject to the conduct, professionalism, disclosure, and background-check requirements applicable to all MUJCESOM MD applicants.

Program Noncompliance and Loss of Medical Scholar Status

A Medical Scholar who fails to satisfy program requirements may receive a written notice of concern, an improvement plan, probationary status, loss of the guaranteed interview, or dismissal from the applicable Medical Scholars Program, depending upon the nature and severity of the concern. Significant noncompliance may include:

- Failure to maintain required academic standards

- Failure to achieve the required MCAT score
- Failure to participate in required program activities or advising
- Failure to complete required application materials by established deadlines
- Academic, institutional, or professional misconduct
- Failure to disclose information required by this policy
- Other material noncompliance inconsistent with continued participation

Before a final decision terminating participation or revoking the guaranteed interview is made, the participant will ordinarily receive written notice of the concern and a reasonable opportunity to provide relevant information, except when immediate action is necessary to protect the integrity of the program or institution.

Change in Residency, Institution, or Program

A Marshall Advantage Scholar who ceases to be enrolled at Marshall University is no longer automatically eligible for Marshall Advantage. If the student remains a West Virginia resident and otherwise meets the requirements of the West Virginia Medical Scholars Program, the Admissions Office may approve transfer into that pathway when program capacity and timing permit. A West Virginia Medical Scholar who transfers between accredited United States colleges or universities may continue in that pathway if otherwise eligible and if the Admissions Office is promptly notified. A West Virginia Medical Scholar who subsequently enrolls at Marshall University may be considered for transfer to Marshall Advantage when appropriate.

Because the West Virginia Medical Scholars Program and Early Decision Program are specifically designed for West Virginia residents, loss of West Virginia residency may result in review of continued eligibility for those pathways.

Timing and Deferral

Participation in a Medical Scholars program does not create a right to admission or matriculation in a particular year. A Scholar who cannot apply to medical school according to the expected timeline because of documented extraordinary or extenuating circumstances may request permission to remain in the program for an additional application cycle. Approval is discretionary and must be documented in writing. Deferral of matriculation following MD acceptance is governed by the generally applicable MUJCESOM deferral policy and any requirements applicable to Early Decision applicants.

Appeals

A Medical Scholar who receives a final decision terminating participation or revoking the guaranteed interview may submit a written appeal within 30 calendar days of notification. The appeal must identify the basis for the appeal and may include supporting documentation. Appeals will be considered through a process established by MUJCESOM that ensures individuals reviewing the appeal did not make the original termination decision. The decision on appeal is final.

Admissions decisions regarding acceptance, denial, waitlist placement, or other disposition of an application to the MD program are not appealable through the Medical Scholars appeal process.

PART F - TRANSITION FROM THE MD EARLY ASSURANCE PROGRAM

Closure and Teach-Out of MDEAP

The Marshall University and Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine MD Early Assurance Program (MDEAP) is closed to new applicants. Students previously accepted into MDEAP and expected to enter MUJCESOM with the Class of 2031 or Class of 2032 will continue under the MDEAP requirements applicable to their respective cohorts.

Creation of the Marshall Advantage Medical Scholars Program, West Virginia Medical Scholars Program, and Marshall West Virginia Early Decision Program does not modify the requirements, benefits, expectations, or conditions applicable to legacy MDEAP participants. The Admissions Office will administer the MDEAP teach-out until all remaining participants have matriculated, withdrawn, been dismissed, or otherwise completed participation. Once no participants remain, the MDEAP policy may be formally retired.

PART G - ADMINISTRATION, AUTHORITY, AND CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Admissions Committee Authority

The MUJCESOM Admissions Committee retains final authority for determining acceptance of applicants to the MD program. Participation in a Medical Scholars program, completion of pathway programming, satisfaction of guaranteed-interview requirements, or participation in Early Decision does not supersede the authority of the Admissions Committee. No administrator, advisor, faculty member, undergraduate institution, or pathway representative may guarantee admission except through a formal Admissions Committee decision made pursuant to applicable admissions policies.

Program Administration

The MUJCESOM Admissions Office is responsible for administration and interpretation of the Marshall Advantage Medical Scholars Program, West Virginia Medical Scholars Program, and Marshall West Virginia Early Decision Program in consultation with appropriate Marshall University and MUJCESOM officials. The Admissions Office may establish annual operational procedures, application dates, forms, advising requirements, program schedules, MCAT deadlines, application deadlines, and other administrative requirements necessary to implement this policy, provided they are consistent with this policy and applicable AAMC/AMCAS requirements.

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Program requirements, notices of concern, exceptions, and material decisions affecting individual participants must be documented in writing.

Program Evaluation and Continuous Quality Improvement

MUJCESOM will periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the Marshall Medical Pathways initiative. Evaluation may include:

- Number and geographic distribution of applicants and participants
- Marshall University undergraduate participation and retention
- Undergraduate institutions represented in the statewide pathway
- Participation by students from rural and underserved West Virginia communities
- Pathway programming participation and completion
- Scholar retention and academic progress
- MCAT performance
- Application, interview, acceptance, and matriculation outcomes
- Participant experience and satisfaction
- Subsequent academic performance in medical school
- Longer-term educational and workforce outcomes when available

Program capacity, educational components, and administrative procedures may be modified based on evaluation, institutional priorities, available resources, changes in applicable admissions requirements, and continuous quality improvement.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically by the MUJCESOM Admissions Office and Admissions Committee and revised as appropriate. Changes required to maintain compliance with AAMC/AMCAS requirements may be implemented for the applicable admissions cycle and incorporated into the policy at the next scheduled review.

Approved MUJCESOM Admissions Committee 9/29/2026. Approved by Dean 9/30/2026.