Overview

The Scholarships for Disadvantaged (SDS) program is authorized by the Public Health Service (PHS) Act section 737 (42 U.S.C. 293a). The SDS program was established by the Disadvantaged Minority Health Improvement Act of 1990 (Public Law (P.L.) 101- 527). The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance to health professions (including social workers) from disadvantaged backgrounds. To be considered for the SDS scholarship students must be enrolled full-time in the UGA MSW Program, pursuing the Micro (Clinical) or Combined/Integrated Concentrations, and able to demonstrate that they came from either economically disadvantaged or environmentally/educationally disadvantaged background. Award amounts will vary and will be determined based on the funding received, number of applicants, and the level of demonstrated need for each applicant.

Scholarship awards are required to equal an amount no less than 50 percent of the student’s annual allowable costs up to a maximum amount of $30,000 per student award per academic year. Awards to students are typically made for the full academic year; however, if awards are made to students for less than the full academic year, the award amount must equal no less than half the cost of their annual tuition. No student can be awarded SDS funds greater than $30,000 per academic year. In general, activities funded under the SDS program must be considered allowable under the grant, as required by 45 CFR 75.403 (http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?node=pt45.1.75).

All interested students, including current recipients, must submit a new application for the 2018/19 academic year.

Eligibility Criteria

As required by section 737(d), eligible individuals for SDS program participation must be enrolled full-time in the fall and spring in a MSW program leading to a degree in the MSW. If an SDS recipient drops below full-time student status due to academic failure, disability, or death they are considered ineligible to receive funds. The funds that have already been used for the semester for which the student became ineligible do not need to be recovered if the date the school has set for refunds has passed. However, the funds that were set aside for that student for the rest of the academic year must either be awarded to another eligible student at that institution, or if the school cannot award the funds to another eligible student, the school must return the funds to HHS.

Full-time Enrollment Status: Awardees must be enrolled as a full time degree-seeking student in the MSW Program pursuing the Micro (Clinical) or the Integrated/Combined Concentration. Full-time enrollment is defined as 9 hours in Fall and Spring semesters, which permits Gwinnett Program students to be eligible.

Financial Aid Status: All applicants must submit a FAFSA as part of the application process and the student’s current Expected Family Contribution (EFC) will be considered in the awarding process. Financial need must be demonstrated to be eligible for SDS.

Citizenship Status: Awardees must be citizens, nationals, or lawful permanent residents of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico or the Marianas Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Trust of Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Federated State of Micronesia. Applicants who are permanent residents must provide a copy of permanent resident card.

Disadvantaged Background: The SDS Scholarship program seeks to support students who have come from an
economically OR environmentally disadvantaged background as defined below:

**Environmentally/Educationally disadvantaged** is defined as an individual who comes from an environment that has inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to enroll in and graduate from a health professions school, or from a program providing education or training in an allied health profession.

The UGA School of Social Work will consider applicants who meet one or more of the follow criteria to be from an environmentally disadvantaged community.

1. First generation college student.

2. Graduated from a high school with low ACT/SAT score based on most recent data available.

3. Graduated from a high school from which, based on most recent data available:
   a. low percentage of seniors receive a high school diploma; or
   b. low percentage of graduates go to college during the first year after graduation.

4. Graduated from a high school with low per capita funding.

5. Graduated from a high school at which, based on most recent data available, many of the enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced price lunches.

6. The individual comes from a family that receives public assistance (e.g., Temporary Aid to Needy Families, food stamps, Medicaid, public housing):

7. The individual comes from a hometown county that is designated under section 332 of the Act as a health professional shortage area by HRSA.

**Economically Disadvantaged** is defined as an individual that 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 use in health professions and nursing programs. This data can also be found on the Federal Register website.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of parents’ family*</th>
<th>Income level*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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For families with more than 8 persons, add $8,640 for each additional person.


* Adjusted gross income for calendar year 2018.

To determine if a student meets the definition of economically disadvantaged, the students’ parent(s)’ tax information will be used. However, if a student was at least 24 years old as of June 1, 2017 and has not been listed as a dependent on his or her parent(s)’ taxes for the previous three years, the student’s tax documents will be used.

If you meet eligibility requirements and have questions about applying, contact Dr. David Okech at sds@uga.edu