Pre-Health Award Overview
2019-2020

Loyola University Chicago will grant up to five awards for the 2019-2020 academic year in the amount of $2,500 each to currently enrolled, full-time Loyola University students who plan to seek admission to health professional school. The Pre-Health Awards (PHA) are scheduled to be distributed in one installment in February of 2020 provided eligibility is maintained after the fall 2019 semester.

The awards reduce one's financial burden and, by doing so, offer promising pre-health professional students greater opportunity to further cultivate their candidacies for health professional school. Such financial assistance may allow the selected students more freedom to engage in volunteer patient care experiences within their field of interest, defray the cost of applying and traveling to health professional schools, and assist with other activities that entail financial demands.

Selection Process and Criteria

The PHA Selection Committee considers applicants on criteria including (but not limited to) the following:

1. Academic progress as evidenced by completing at least 60 credit hours by the end of the summer term (i.e., summer term 2019), 30 of which must be completed at Loyola University Chicago.
2. Full-time enrollment (excepting summers).
3. A high-level, demonstrable commitment to a given health profession (minimum of 100 hours recommended).
4. Academic rigor and promise as evidenced by minimally completing three of the following four year-long course sequences by the end of the summer term 2019: (a) General Biology, (b) General/Inorganic Chemistry, (c) Organic Chemistry, or (d) Physics. Students who have earned Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate Credit for General Biology must have completed at least one of the following additional courses: Biology 251 (Cell Biology) or Biology 282 (Genetics) for Biology to count as one of the three-year-long course sequences.
5. Academic excellence as evidenced by earning a minimum cumulative and science GPA of 3.50.
6. Professional behavior as evidenced by interactions with staff of the Pre-Health Professions Office and other members of the Loyola University Chicago staff, faculty, and student community.
7. Quality of both expression and content in the PHA application.
8. Quality of interview—if granted.

Letters of Evaluation

Two letters of evaluation are required: One from a Loyola Science Faculty member and one from a professional in a relevant, post-secondary clinical experience in which the applicant was/is engaged. Letters of evaluation from relatives will not be considered. Letters of evaluation from co-workers of relatives will also not be accepted.

Letters of evaluation should be submitted directly from the evaluators electronically via the Pre-Health Application Database (PHAD). Please first make your request in person to your evaluators for confirmation a letter will be provided. Upon confirmation, notify the recommender that they will receive an electronic request, which will be sent via email and will include the student's waiver selection of confidentiality, recommendations and guidelines for reference. Instructions for uploading the completed letter will also be included.
Letters of evaluation must be received by the Pre-Health Professions Office no later than 5:00 PM (CST) on Friday, December 13, 2019.

Interview Process

Requests for interviews can only be generated by the PHA Selection Committee. Interviews are tentatively scheduled to occur during December of the application year (December 2019 for this application cycle).

Applicants will be notified whether or not they will be receiving an interview sometime during the final week of November or early December of the application year.

Eligibility Requirements after Award has been Granted

The PHA will be disbursed in February of 2020 provided the following conditions have been met:

1. Winners of the Pre-Health Award will be required to acknowledge in writing their acceptance of the award and the terms for continued eligibility within three weeks of the acceptance.
2. Continued full-time enrollment in Loyola University Chicago.
3. Maintaining the minimum 3.50 cumulative and science GPA at the end of the fall 2019 semester.
4. Successful completion of all Pre-Health Award Program requirements.
5. Continued endorsement by the Pre-Health Professions Office.
6. Progress toward degree.
7. Maintaining the same high standards evidenced in the recipient’s initial PHA application.
8. Winners of the Pre-Health Award must submit all requested documentation for financial processing (the Pre-Health Professions Office will communicate more specific information to individual awardees).

Note: This information reflects details pertinent only to the awarding of the Pre-Health Award for the application academic year. The Pre-Health Award will be reviewed annually to determine any necessary or desirable changes regarding eligibility requirements, selection standards, and/or existence of the award. The Pre-Health Professions Program reserves the right to make changes to the Pre-Health Award at any time.

This application must be completed by 5:00 PM on Monday, November 25, 2019 (CST), and letters of evaluation must be received no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, December 13, 2019 (CST).

Please contact our office at 773-508-3636 or email us at PHadvising@luc.edu if you have any questions. We look forward to working with you!