



BIRTHWISE MIDWIFERY SCHOOL

Midwives of Color Scholarship Guidelines

Goal of Scholarship:

As a way to play a small part in addressing the disparities in birth outcomes among Black mothers, people of color, and their babies, Birthwise Midwifery School offers a program to decrease financial barriers for applicants of color.

The goal of the Midwives of Color Scholarship is to increase the number and presence of midwives of color in the midwifery profession by providing direct support and financial resources for aspiring midwives of color whose presence may have an immediate effect on birth outcomes in their community and nationwide. We feel it is imperative that communities have access to health providers who understand what it means to be a person of color in America and how the stressors of systemic racism can contribute to unfavorable birth outcomes if the disparities are to be corrected. Birthwise would like to help make midwifery training, and ultimately midwifery care, more accessible to the people who need it most.

Eligibility Criteria

Participants in this access program will be chosen using the following criteria. Applicants must:

- a) Identify as a person of color that desires to incorporate respectful birthing practices into their community.
- b) For those without a prior college degree, applicants must be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant as determined in the FAFSA application process OR
- c) For those with a prior college degree (Bachelor's, Masters, or Doctorate), applicants must demonstrate financial need through the FAFSA application process.
- d) Share a philosophy of birth and midwifery that is compatible with Birthwise and demonstrate familiarity with and/or involved in birth work prior to admittance to Birthwise.
- e) Meet all the admission requirements as outlined in the Birthwise catalog and be accepted into the program.
- f) Maintain satisfactory academic progress, as outlined in the Student Handbook, in order to continue receiving the scholarship.
- g) Must have proficiency in the English language.

Current students may apply for this scholarship by April 15th of any year while enrolled at Birthwise and if awarded it would apply to all future semesters.



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Midwives of Color Scholarship - FAQs

When is the Application Due?

- April 15, 2018

What does the Scholarship Include?

- A tuition reduction and a \$600 stipend for books and materials at the beginning of the first semester, and a \$200 stipend at the beginning of the second, third and fourth semesters. Students in the community model will also receive \$75 at the beginning of the fifth semester.

What is the Student's Responsibility?

- The recipient must complete the FAFSA application prior to the start of each academic year and must continue to be eligible for financial aid and show financial need. If selected, recipients must have all necessary verification paperwork to the financial aid office 30 days prior to the start of each academic year (July 1st).
- The recipient understands that all eligible Federal Student Loans and/or Grants will be included in the financial aid package. Any federal loans will be due to the federal government after a 6-month grace period upon leaving Birthwise.

What are the Responsibilities of the Recipient once the Scholarship is Awarded?

- By accepting the scholarship, the recipient acknowledges their intention to complete their studies at Birthwise. If a recipient were to withdraw from Birthwise prior to the 30th calendar day of the semester, Birthwise reserves the right to cancel the scholarship. If a recipient received money from Birthwise which included the scholarship, the recipient will be required to pay back the amount received. If a student withdraws after the 30th calendar day of the semester, the student can still receive the scholarship to help cover any of the charges incurred. If the recipient's educational costs are refunded or waived, the scholarship will be canceled and the recipient will not be allowed a refund from the scholarship monies. If this results in a balance owed to Birthwise, the recipient is required to pay that money back to the school.

- The recipient is expected to maintain satisfactory academic progress as described in the Student Handbook. If the recipient does not maintain satisfactory academic progress, the school reserves the right to rescind the scholarship.
- The recipient must be registered each semester for the standard full time course load and must secure a preceptorship in a timely manner in order to maintain financial aid eligibility in all semesters. Exceptions to this policy may be made under extenuating circumstances on a case by case basis as determined by the Academic Director.
- The recipient is bound by the policies and regulations as outlined in the Birthwise Student Handbook. Any violation of these policies may result in the loss of scholarship.

How Can I Get My Application to You?

- Email: Student Affairs Coordinator: studentaffairs@birthwisemidwifery.edu
- Mail: Birthwise Midwifery School, Attention: Student Affairs Coordinator, 24 S. High St. Bridgton, ME 04009
- Fax: 207.647.5919



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Application Form & Essay Questions

Please fill out the application below. Write a 2-4 page double spaced essay addressing the statements and questions below. Return to Birthwise by **April 15, 2018**: Birthwise Midwifery School, Attention: Student Affairs Coordinator, 24 S. High St. Bridgton, ME 04009

Student Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please address the following in an essay:

- How you meet the above eligibility criteria.
- The importance of diversity in midwifery education and practice.
- What it takes to succeed in midwifery education.
- Your professional goals as a midwife and how those goals relate to the community you want to serve.
- Any barriers you face in pursuing a midwifery education that you would like the Scholarship Committee to take under consideration.
- How will receiving this scholarship assist you with your goal of becoming a midwife.
