# Wy'east Pathway

## Frequently Asked Questions

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The Wy’east Post-Baccalaureate Pathway is designed to equip American Indian & Alaska Native (AIAN) post-baccalaureate students with the knowledge and skills to successfully complete medical school. The objectives of the Wy’east Pathway are:

1. To build upon scholars’ knowledge in core topic areas through rigorous coursework (e.g., biological sciences, epidemiology, research methods) and MCAT preparation
2. To amplify scholars’ strengths and resiliencies by imparting tools, skills, and resources that facilitate academic and personal self-efficacy and success (e.g., evidence-based study methods)
3. To promote scholars’ sense of cultural connectedness and community through immersion in a rich indigenous community, indigenous coursework, and cultural activities.

The Wy’east Pathway takes place over a 10-month period, from mid-September through early June of each calendar year. The Pathway is housed at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) in Portland, OR. All scholars are expected to live in Multnomah County, OR except for WSU Wy’east Scholars without current WA residency who are expected to live in Clark County, WA. See Admissions criteria for more details.

At this time, three medical schools participate in Wy’east. Each of these schools recruits, interviews, and admits a limited number of Scholars to the Wy’east Post-Baccalaureate Pathway:

Upon successful completion of the Pathway and satisfaction of matriculation requirements, scholars will matriculate into their admitting school (the medical school through which they were admitted to Wy’east). For example, Wy’east applicants who completed the admissions process via WSU Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine will matriculate into WSU College of Medicine.
The eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Be a citizen or descendant of a federally recognized American Indian/Alaska Native Tribe
- A four-year degree from an accredited college or university
- A GPA minimum of 2.60–2.80 (minimum varies by admitting school; see Wy’east Admissions Criteria for details)
- MCAT Requirements vary by school
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to:*
  - Have previously applied to medical school, and/or
  - Have taken the MCAT

* These two criteria vary by admitting school; see Wy’east Admissions Criteria for details.

**Please note:** All scholars accepted into Wy’east must also pass a drug screening, federal background check, and submit immunization records prior to entering the Pathway.

**Please note:** Due to OHSU policy, all Wy’east scholars must submit proof of COVID-19 vaccination as part of the immunization requirements. If you have questions about this policy, please email wyeast@ohsu.edu.
What does “Conditional Acceptance” or "Guaranteed Acceptance" mean?

One of the most valuable attributes of the Wy'east Pathway is the provision of *conditional acceptance* or *guaranteed acceptance* (choice of wording varies by medical school) into the medical school that admitted you into the Pathway.

Both of these provisions mean that you will enter your admitting medical school as a first-year medical student provided that you

1. Successfully complete the Pathway
2. Obtain the minimum MCAT score of your admitting school
3. Meet final matriculation requirements of your admitting school

What are the criteria to successfully complete the Wy’east Pathway?

Successful completion of the Wy’east Pathway includes, but is not limited to:

- Attending all classes with no unexcused absences
- Satisfactory completion of all coursework and quizzes
- Obtaining a passing score during all end-of-block exams
- Conscientiousness, courtesy and respect in all aspects of pathway activities.
You will submit one primary application.
- All applicants complete and submit an online primary application. The primary application is completed once for all three medical schools.

You may submit up to three secondary applications.
- When you complete the Wy’east primary application, each school will review your primary application and invite you (via email) to complete their secondary application, provided that you meet their eligibility criteria. You will be required to submit a separate secondary application for each medical school that invites you to complete it, if you want to be considered by them. You do not have to apply to all three schools.

You will submit additional materials once.
- You will submit your academic transcripts, letters of recommendation, and documentation of tribal affiliation once.
# Criteria & Application Process

## What are the criteria to matriculate into your school of choice (your admitting school)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School of Medicine</th>
<th>OHSU Wy’east Scholars</th>
<th>WSU Wy’east Scholars</th>
<th>UCD Wy’east Scholars</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OHSU Wy’east Scholars must meet these requirements to matriculate into OHSU School of Medicine</td>
<td>WSU Wy’east Scholars must meet these requirements to matriculate into WSU Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine</td>
<td>UCD Wy’east Scholars must meet these requirements to matriculate into UCD School of Medicine</td>
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## MCAT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum MCAT score of 497</th>
<th>MCAT score minimum requirements vary depending on AMCAS UGPA:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• If AMCAS UGPA is 3.8 – 4.0, then 27th percentile rank or higher on the MCAT</td>
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<td>• If AMCAS UGPA is 3.4 – 3.79, then 43rd percentile rank or higher on the MCAT</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• If AMCAS UGPA is 2.6 – 3.39, then 61st percentile rank or higher on the MCAT</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Minimum MCAT score of 497</td>
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## Additional Requirements

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<tr>
<th>OHSU Wy’east Scholars</th>
<th>WSU Wy’east Scholars</th>
<th>UCD Wy’east Scholars</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Submit a formal AMCAS application</td>
<td>Successful interview with the WSU ESF College of Medicine during the regular interview cycle</td>
<td>Submit a formal AMCAS application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit a secondary application to OHSU SoM 2022-2023 cycle for entry in August 2023</td>
<td>Submit a secondary application to WSU ESF COM in the 2022-2023 cycle for entry in August 2023</td>
<td>Submit a secondary application to UC Davis SOM in the 2022-2023 cycle for entry in August 2023 once offered</td>
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<tr>
<td>Successfully pass a 10-panel drug screening and federal background check</td>
<td>Interview during the 2022-2023 cycle</td>
<td>Successful interview with the UCD SOM during the regular interview cycle</td>
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How do I apply to the Wy’east Pathway?

A complete application consists of five components:

1. **Primary application.** All applicants complete and submit an online primary application, regardless of the medical school through which you apply.
2. **Secondary application.** Applicant’s primary application submissions will be reviewed by the three participating medical schools. Each school will invite applicants to complete a secondary application, if applicants meet the school’s initial requirements. Applicants may receive invitations to complete up to three separate secondary applications. Please note that secondary applications are required for consideration for an interview.
3. **Unofficial transcripts.** Unofficial transcripts from all accredited undergraduate and graduate-level programs must be submitted. The submission deadline for unofficial transcripts is 11:59pm on May 20, 2022.
4. **Documentation of affiliation with a federally recognized Tribe.** There are two forms of acceptable documentation: A copy of your tribal membership card or identification, OR A letter from your tribal government attesting to your citizenship or descendancy.
5. **Letters of recommendation.** A minimum of two letters of recommendation are required. You may submit up to four letters of recommendation.

Transcripts, recommendation letters, and documentation of tribal affiliation should be scanned and emailed as electronic attachments to: wyeast@ohsu.edu

Though we prefer that materials be sent via email, you may mail materials.
Attention: Wy’east Pathway
Oregon Health & Science University
Northwest Native American Center of Excellence
Mail Code: CL2N
3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Rd
Portland, OR 97239

*Mailed materials (including recommendation letters) must be postmarked by May 16th so that they are received in time for proper consideration of your application. Wy’east is not responsible for lost materials.*
What qualifies as “acceptable documentation” of tribal affiliation?

We recognize the sovereignty and authority of tribal nations, each of whom have specific criteria for citizenship or descendancy. There are two forms of acceptable documentation:

- An electronic copy of your tribal membership card or ID
- A letter from your tribal government attesting to citizenship or descendancy

I am having trouble obtaining a letter from my Tribe. Are there any other criteria that would meet this requirement?

We acknowledge the complexities and challenges involved in meeting this requirement. At this time, we do not accept any other form of documentation. If you do not presently have this documentation, we recommend getting in touch with your tribal government office as soon as possible to determine what is involved in obtaining this information.

I am a member of a state-recognized Tribe. Does this meet the tribal affiliation requirement?

At this time, eligibility is based on membership or descendance in a federally recognized tribe.

Please see this link for a current list of federally recognized Tribes:

It is possible to apply to Wy’east through all three schools, provided that you meet each school’s eligibility requirements. If you successfully interview with all three medical schools and receive an invitation to join the Wy’east Pathway from each school, you must choose one school prior to entering the Pathway. Each school has a limited number of funded scholar seats, and one individual may not occupy multiple seats.

Please note that while you are a Wy’east scholar, you may still apply to the other schools during the general cycle. Being a Wy’east scholar does not limit you from applying to other medical schools- you may still apply to other schools during the general cycle.

This is not a requirement. Scholars may apply to any medical schools during the AMCAS general cycle.
Can you tell me more about the drug screening requirement?

To be compliant with OHSU’s drug screening policy (OHSU 02-01-003), Oregon law, and federal law, all Wy’east Scholars must submit to a drug screen prior to formal admittance into the Wy’east Pathway.

If a positive drug screen is returned, and the results are upheld by the vendor after taking into account valid prescriptions and prescribed dosages, scholars may be denied admittance into Wy’east.

What about marijuana, which is legal in Oregon, Washington, and California?

Wy’east scholars must be in compliance with OHSU’s drug policy in order to attend the Pathway. As a recipient of federal funds, OHSU is required to comply with federal laws and regulations regarding marijuana possession and use, including the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988. OHSU’s Drug and Alcohol Use policy continues to prohibit being under the influence or in possession of any unlawful drug, misused prescription drug or any alcohol while in the workplace, while on duty, or while operating a vehicle or equipment owned or leased by OHSU. The policy has been updated to clarify that “an unlawful drug is any drug that is illegal under federal, state or local law.”
Throughout the Pathway, Scholars will complete coursework in biomedical sciences, epidemiology/population health, anatomy, clinical skills, and research methods. In addition, scholars will complete coursework focused on Indigenous and academic health and wellness.

The Pathway takes place from September through early June of each calendar year (10 months).

Coursework typically takes place during the first half of the day, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, with flexible clinical shadowing hours in the afternoons*. The anatomy thread courses may take place in the afternoon during the Spring.

* Clinical shadowing has been suspended due to circumstances created by COVID-19. Wy'east staff are working to identify possible alternative activities while this restriction is in place.
As an OHSU, UCD, or Wy’east Scholar, am I considered an OHSU student?

Wy’east is not an accredited program at OHSU and you will not be considered an OHSU student.

No credit is offered through Wy’east and no degree awarded.

Will I receive a Certificate or Degree from Wy’east?

No official certificate or degree will be awarded upon completion of the Wy’east Pathway.

What course materials do I need?

An updated list of course materials will be provided with sufficient time to obtain those materials prior to course beginning; some materials may be provided for free depending on available funding.
Scholars will need to take the MCAT if their MCAT score is below the requirements for matriculation into their admitting school.

If this is the case, scholars will be required to re-take the MCAT in the spring of the Pathway year and obtain the minimum required score for their admitting school.

Wy’east scholars who need to take the MCAT are expected to take the exam in March.

A formal MCAT prep course and dedicated MCAT prep time will be provided leading up to the test date.

Given the timeline of Wy’east, there is not an opportunity to re-take the MCAT if scholars do not achieve the required score of their admitting school.
OHSU Wy’east scholars are required to move to Multnomah County, OR by September 1st of their Scholar year.

WSU Wy’east scholars who do not meet WA residency requirements at the time of their Wy’east application are required to move to Clark County, WA by August 15th. WSU Wy’east scholars who already meet WA residency requirements may live in either Multnomah County, OR or Clark County, WA, and must move there by September 1st.

UC-Davis Wy’east scholars are required to move to Multnomah County, OR by September 1st of their Scholar year.

**Can I attend Wy’east remotely?**

COVID-19 may affect in-person activities; we are working to identify creative workarounds.

**How will COVID-19 affect Wy’east activities outside of coursework (e.g. field trips, tribal engagement opportunities, etc)?**
Yes, participants receive a monthly stipend beginning in September and ending in June. The stipend each year is approximately $1100 per month. The amount of the stipend is subject to change.

Scholars generally need to supplement their income by finding part-time employment or another funding opportunity. Wy’east staff do not assist with finding employment, though we will forward job opportunities to the group if they come to our attention.

The Wy’east Pathway does not provide financial aid since it is not an accredited program. We also cannot accept scholarship funds on behalf of a Wy’east scholar since scholars are not enrolled as official OHSU students. This program does not have access to use OHSU Financial Aid Office and most scholarship programs require use of the Financial Aid Office.

However, some scholarships award funding directly to the awardee. We encourage scholars to seek out these opportunities. We also encourage scholars to reach out to their Tribes to determine if they offer scholarships or other forms of financial support.

All scholars will be responsible for their own moving costs.
Wy'east scholars living in Multnomah County typically live in Portland, OR, while WSU scholars living in Clark County, WA typically live in Vancouver, WA.

We encourage scholars to be in touch with former Wy'east Scholars for housing recommendations. Wy’east staff will help to connect you with former Wy’east Scholars.

**Health insurance**

Please note regarding health insurance requirements:

All Wy’east Scholars will be expected to obtain and maintain health insurance for the duration of the Pathway. All scholars should be eligible for coverage through Indian Health Services (IHS).

If you have further questions, please contact: wyeast@ohsu.edu