

RMCCF Healthcare Scholarship Essay Evaluation Sheet

Applicable to College Pathways, Technical Education, and Continuing Education applicants

This evaluation sheet is designed to ensure a consistent, equitable, and holistic review of all scholarship applicants, regardless of pathway. Evaluators should base scores **only on the content of the applicant's personal statements**. Writing polish alone should not outweigh clarity of purpose, depth of reflection, or alignment with community-centered values.

Each personal statement is scored across **five shared evaluation categories**, using a **discrete 1–6 scale**. Scores should reflect the descriptor that best matches the *overall quality and substance* of the response.

Each essay has a minimum score of 5 points & a maximum score of 30 points.

Essay Prompt 1

What inspired you to choose a career in healthcare? Think about experiences, challenges, or moments that had a real impact on you. How did these experiences help shape who you are today and the goals you have for the future? Give specific examples that show why healthcare matters to you.

Evaluation Categories

1. Staying on Topic & Prompt Responsiveness

Assesses whether the applicant directly and fully answers the essay prompt.

Score	Descriptor
6	Fully and directly answers all parts of the prompt: inspiration, shaping experiences, and connection to future goals. Focus is consistent throughout.
5	Addresses all parts of the prompt clearly, with minor lapses in focus or emphasis.
4	Addresses the core of the prompt but one element (inspiration, experiences, or future goals) is underdeveloped.
3	Partially addresses the prompt; key elements are missing or only briefly mentioned.
2	Responds loosely to the prompt with significant gaps or misunderstandings.
1	Does not meaningfully address the prompt.

2. Use of Real, Specific Examples

Assesses the presence and quality of concrete, lived experiences that illustrate motivation for healthcare.

Score	Descriptor
6	Uses vivid, specific examples that clearly illustrate pivotal moments or challenges shaping interest in healthcare.
5	Includes specific examples that support motivation, though detail or depth may be slightly limited.
4	Examples are present but general or lightly developed.
3	Examples are vague, implied, or inconsistently connected to motivation.
2	Minimal use of examples; largely generalized statements.
1	No concrete examples provided.

3. Personal Reflection & Meaning-Making

Assesses how well the applicant explains why their experiences mattered and what they learned from them.

Score	Descriptor
6	Demonstrates strong reflection, insight, and self-awareness; clearly explains how experiences shaped values, identity, or perspective.
5	Reflection is thoughtful and clear, with evident learning or growth.
4	Some reflection is present, but insight remains mostly descriptive.
3	Limited reflection; experiences are described with little exploration of meaning.
2	Minimal reflection; little evidence of learning or personal impact.
1	No meaningful reflection.

4. Connection to Future Growth & Goals

Assesses how clearly past experiences are connected to future educational and career goals in healthcare.

Score	Descriptor
6	Past experiences are clearly and thoughtfully linked to specific future goals in healthcare. The pathway feels intentional.
5	Clear connection between experiences and future goals, though specificity may be limited.
4	General connection is stated but not fully explained.
3	Weak or unclear connection between past experiences and future goals.
2	Future goals are vague or disconnected from experiences described.
1	No connection made to future goals.

5. Clarity, Organization & Writing Quality

Assesses whether the essay is clear, organized, and easy to follow.

Score	Descriptor
6	Writing is clear, well-organized, and flows logically from beginning to end.
5	Mostly clear and organized with minor lapses.
4	Understandable but uneven organization or clarity.
3	Difficult to follow in places due to organization or clarity issues.
2	Poorly organized and hard to understand.
1	Incoherent or extremely unclear.

Essay Score Summary

Category	Score (1-6)
Personal Motivation & Purpose	
Depth of Reflection & Insight	
Community Awareness & Impact Orientation	
Alignment Between Education, Career Goals & Action	
Clarity, Organization & Responsiveness	
Total Essay Score (out of 30)	

Evaluators should score independently and avoid comparisons between applicants. Scores should reflect the quality and substance of each individual response within the context of the applicant's lived experience.