

Dear New England ACSM Member:

The New England Regional Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine is proud to announce that applications for the 2026 Student Scholarships are now being accepted. All student members of NEACSM are eligible for these scholarships. The scholarships are designed to highlight professional and academic excellence in undergraduate (Robert S. Axtell Undergraduate Scholarship), masters (Mark Connolly Memorial Masters Scholarship), and doctoral (Linda Pescatello Doctoral Scholarship) students in our region. Students can also apply for the Donna Murphy Service Scholarship. University faculty are asked to encourage qualifying students to apply for these scholarships.

The criteria for these scholarships are outlined in the attached documents. Scholarship winners will receive an award of \$1,000 and will be recognized at the NEACSM Fall Conference at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA.

Please note that the NEACSM Cover Form (provided in this attachment) must accompany all applications. Application materials may also be obtained at <https://www.neacsm.org/>.

Completed applications (all application materials and letters of recommendation) must be submitted via email to neacsm1@gmail.com no later than Friday, September 25, 2026. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Please take this opportunity to help us recognize our exceptional students and highlight our future leaders.

Jonathan J. Nardi, Ph.D., CEP., CSCS., EIMIII
Nicholas SantaBarbara, Ph.D., CSCS
Scholarship and Awards Committee Co-Chairs

2026 New England ACSM Student Scholarship Awards

NEACSM offers the following student scholarships:

- Robert S. Axtell Undergraduate Scholarship (\$1,000)
- Mark Connolly Memorial Masters Scholarship (\$1,000)
- Linda Pescatello Doctoral Scholarship (\$1,000)
- Donna Murphy Service Scholarship (\$1,000)

Although each scholarship has specific requirements, all scholarships require the applicant to:

- Be a current NEACSM member at the time of application. Applicants should log into the Member Portal on the ACSM website (<https://acsm.org/altai-pages/member-hub/>) and verify that they are a current New England Chapter member.
- Be actively matriculated in or have graduated in the past six months from an accredited New England college or university in a curriculum consistent and aligned to the mission of the ACSM (e.g., exercise science, sports medicine, nutrition, biology, physiology, or related field).
- Demonstrate academic excellence with a minimum GPA of 3.3 (4.0 scale) in undergraduate or graduate coursework (see Donna Murphy Service Scholarship description for exceptions).
- Have professional/work experience and/or involvement in a professional organization.
- Scholarship award eligibility is based on the current level of training.
- Prior scholarship award recipients are not eligible to apply for the same scholarship award in subsequent years.

Presentation of the awards will be made at the NEACSM Fall Meeting at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA.

Questions should be directed to Jonathan J. Nardi (jonathannardi@usj.edu) or Nicholas SantaBarbara (santabarbaran@merrimack.edu).

Completed applications (including all application materials and letters of recommendation) must be submitted via email to neacsm1@gmail.com no later than September 25, 2026. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

ACSM New England Chapter

Robert S. Axtell

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

This is to announce the availability of a \$1,000 scholarship award to recognize outstanding NEACSM undergraduate students in the areas of exercise science, sports medicine, or a related field.

Purpose of the Award: To support and encourage professional involvement and academic excellence in undergraduate students in the New England region.

Amount of the Award: The winner will receive an award of \$1,000.

Announcement of the Award: Presentation of the awards will be made at the NEACSM Fall Meeting at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA.

To be eligible for this award, students must meet the following requirements:

- The student must be a NEACSM member at the time of application. Applicants should log into the Member Hub on the ACSM website (<https://acsm.org/altai-pages/member-hub/>) and verify that they are a current New England Chapter member.
- The student must be an undergraduate student actively matriculated in or graduated in the past six months from an accredited New England college or university in a curriculum consistent and aligned to the mission of the ACSM (e.g., exercise science, sports medicine, nutrition, biology, physiology, or related field).
- The student must demonstrate academic excellence of 3.3/4.0 scale in undergraduate-level coursework.
- The application must include the following:
 - Official NEACSM Cover Sheet for Scholarship and Award Applications;
 - Cover letter highlighting academic and professional accomplishments;
 - Curriculum vitae;
 - Official transcripts; and,
 - Two letters of recommendation (submitted via email from the person writing the recommendation).
- The completed application (all application materials and two letters of recommendation) must be sent via email to neacsm1@gmail.com **by September 25, 2026.**

Determination of the Undergraduate Scholarship Award is based on the following:

- Academic excellence;
- Professional/work experience and its relationship to professional development for a career in exercise science, sports medicine, or a related field; and,
- Professional activities including professional memberships, workshop/conference attendance, and professional service.

ACSM New England Chapter

Mark Connolly Memorial

MASTERS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

This is to announce the availability of a \$1,000 scholarship award to recognize outstanding NEACSM masters graduate students in the areas of exercise science, sports medicine, or a related field.

Purpose of the Award: To support and encourage professional involvement and academic excellence in Masters students in the New England Region.

Amount of the Award: The winner will receive an award of \$1,000.

Announcement of the Award: Presentation of the awards will be made at the NEACSM Fall Meeting at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA.

To be eligible for this award, students must meet the following requirements:

- The student must be a NEACSM member at the time of application. Applicants should log into the Member Hub on the ACSM website (<https://acsm.org/altai-pages/member-hub/>) and verify that they are a current New England Chapter member.
- The student must be a masters student actively matriculated in or graduated in the past six months from an accredited New England college or university in a curriculum consistent and aligned to the mission of the ACSM (e.g., exercise science, sports medicine, nutrition, biology, physiology, or related field).
- The student must demonstrate academic excellence of 3.3/4.0 scale in master's-level coursework.
- The application must include the following:
 - Official NEACSM Cover Sheet for Scholarship and Award Applications;
 - Cover letter highlighting academic and professional accomplishments;
 - Curriculum vitae;
 - Official transcripts; and,
 - Two letters of recommendation (submitted via e-mail from the person writing the recommendation).
- The completed application (all application materials and two letters of recommendation) must be sent via email to neacsm1@gmail.com **by September 25, 2026**.

Determination of the Masters Scholarship Award is based on the following:

- Academic excellence;
- Professional/work experience and its relationship to professional development for a career in exercise science, sports medicine, or a related field;
- Professional activities including professional memberships, workshop/conference attendance, and professional service; and,
- Special emphasis is placed on presentations at professional meetings, and publication of peer-reviewed abstracts and manuscripts.

ACSM New England Chapter

Linda Pescatello

DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

This is to announce the availability of a \$1,000 scholarship award to recognize outstanding NEACSM doctoral graduate students in the areas of exercise science, sports medicine, or a related field.

Purpose of the Award: To support and encourage professional development and academic excellence in Doctoral students in the New England region.

Amount of the Award: The winner will receive an award of \$1,000.

Announcement of the Award: Presentation of the awards will be made at the NEACSM Fall Meeting at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA.

To be eligible for this award, students must meet the following requirements:

- The student must be a NEACSM member at the time of application. Applicants should log into the Member Hub on the ACSM website (<https://acsm.org/altai-pages/member-hub/>) and verify that they are a current New England Chapter member.
- The student must be a doctoral student actively matriculated in or graduated in the past six months from an accredited New England college or university in a curriculum consistent and aligned to the mission of the ACSM (e.g., exercise science, sports medicine, nutrition, biology, physiology, or related field).
- The student must demonstrate academic excellence of 3.3/4.0 scale in doctoral-level coursework.
- The application must include the following:
 - Official NEACSM Cover Sheet for Scholarship and Award Applications;
 - Cover letter highlighting academic and professional accomplishments;
 - Curriculum vitae;
 - Official transcripts; and,
 - Two letters of recommendation (submitted via e-mail from the person writing the recommendation).
- The completed application (all application materials and two letters of recommendation) must be sent via email to neacsm1@gmail.com **by September 25, 2026**.

Determination of the Doctoral Scholarship Award is based on the following:

- Academic excellence;
- Professional/work experience and its relationship to professional development for a career in exercise science, sports medicine, or a related field;
- Professional activities including professional memberships, workshop/conference attendance, and professional service;
- Special emphasis is placed on presentations at professional meetings, and publication of peer-reviewed abstracts and manuscripts; and,
- Further consideration is given to students demonstrating grantsmanship skills.

ACSM New England Chapter

Donna Murphy Service Scholarship Award

Background and History:

Donna Murphy was a longtime friend and colleague to many of the NEACSM membership. Donna served for over a decade as the NEACSM Processing Coordinator, where she earned a reputation for service excellence. Donna's passing in December 2011 inspired the NEACSM leadership to create the Donna Murphy Service Scholarship, which resides within the David N. Camaione Fund.

Purpose of Award:

The Donna Murphy Service Scholarship recognizes an outstanding student who demonstrates extraordinary and sustained service to a genuine and worthy cause, broadly defined herein. Characteristics such as engagement, citizenship, resourcefulness, and scholarship are considered essential qualities of the students being considered for the award.

Amount of the Award: The winner will receive an award of \$1,000.

Announcement of the Award: Presentation of the awards will be made at the NEACSM Fall Meeting at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA.

Eligibility:

All candidates being considered for the Donna Murphy Service Scholarship will meet all of the following minimum qualifications:

- The student must be a NEACSM member at the time of application. Applicants should log into the Member Hub on the ACSM website (<https://acsm.org/altai-pages/member-hub/>) and verify that they are a current New England Chapter member.
- Actively matriculated in or graduated in the past six months from an accredited New England college or university in a curriculum consistent and aligned to the mission of the ACSM (e.g., exercise science, sports medicine, nutrition, biology, physiology or related field).
- Demonstration of academic excellence, specifically, earning an undergraduate GPA of 3.0/4.0 and/or graduate GPA of 3.5/4.0.

The application must include the following:

- Application form;
- Official transcripts;
- Two letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the student's work. Letters may be from either two university faculty OR one from university faculty and one from a professional in the community. Letters must be submitted via email from the person writing the recommendation;
- Essay that provides a critical reflection of the applicant's service activities; and,
- Curriculum vitae.

The completed application (all application materials and two letters of recommendation) must be sent via email to neacsm1@gmail.com **by September 25, 2026**.

Donna Murphy Service Scholarship Candidate Information Form

Name:

E-mail Address:

Address:

Telephone:

College/University:

Major:

Contact information of faculty providing letter of recommendation (name, e-mail address, work address and telephone number):

Contact information of second individual providing letter of recommendation (name, e-mail address, work address and telephone number):

List below your specific service activity (activities), a brief description of the activity (activities) and the dates you have been involved with the activity (activities):

Please attach a critical, self-reflective essay (500 words or less) describing why you should be considered for this award.

**NEACSM COVER SHEET
FOR SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD APPLICATIONS**

Applicant's Name:			
Mailing Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Telephone:			
E-mail:			

Is the applicant an NEACSM member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

College/University:

Academic Year:

GPA:

Area of Study:

Advisor:

List national and regional ACSM meetings attended in the previous three years.

Year:	Location of Meeting:	
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Year:	Location of Meeting:	
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Year:	Location of Meeting:	
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Year:	Location of Meeting:	
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Year:	Location of Meeting:	
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Has the applicant presented at a national or regional ACSM meeting?

☐ No ☐ Yes (if Yes, list on curriculum vitae)

Has the applicant authored or co-authored a peer-reviewed abstract or manuscript?

☐ No ☐ Yes (if Yes, list on curriculum vitae)

Indicate the Scholarship or Award that candidate is applying for:

☐ Robert S. Axtell

Undergraduate Scholarship

☐ Mark Connolly Memorial

Masters Scholarship

☐ Linda Pescatello

Doctoral Scholarship

☐ Donna Murphy Service Scholarship