amta
american **massage therapy** association
— NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER —

NEW HAMPSHIRE AMTA CHAPTER STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY — REVIEWER SCORING FORM

Applicant: | **Reviewer:** | **Date:**

1. ELIGIBILITY SCREENING — COMPLETE BEFORE SCORING

Check each requirement against the chapter's application requirements. If eligibility is unclear, confirm it before scoring.

- ☐ Applicant is enrolled in an approved massage therapy education program that meets New Hampshire requirements for licensure.
- ☐ Applicant is a current AMTA student member.

2. ESSAY SCORING CRITERIA

Score the evidence in the essay. Consider the quality of the applicant's ideas and reflection—not writing sophistication or personal similarity to a reviewer. Each category is scored from **0 to 4**.

CATEGORY	WHAT TO LOOK FOR	SCORE
A. Motivation and personal journey	Explains what inspired the applicant to choose massage therapy; demonstrates genuine interest in the profession; shares meaningful experiences, values, or reasons for pursuing this career.	_____ / 4
B. Educational commitment and professional goals	Communicates goals for completing education and obtaining licensure; shows willingness to learn and grow; recognizes the importance of education and licensure.	_____ / 4
C. Intended impact on clients and the profession	Describes hoped-for impact on clients or community; reflects professional values such as compassion, respect, ethical practice, or client-centered care; identifies a meaningful contribution to massage therapy.	_____ / 4
D. Scholarship impact and authenticity	Explains how the $1,000 award would support education or progress toward licensure; gives a thoughtful, sincere response; communicates clearly and stays within the 300 word limit.	_____ / 4

TOTAL ESSAY SCORE _____ **/ 16** | **Eligibility verified?** ☐ Yes ☐ Needs follow-up

Reviewer comments / evidence supporting scores:

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$1,000 Scholarship | Maximum essay score: 16 points | Four categories scored from 0–4

How essays are evaluated

Eligible essays are scored using the four criteria below. Reviewers consider the quality of the applicant's ideas and reflection, based on evidence in the response. Writing sophistication or personal similarity to a reviewer is not a scoring criterion.

A. Motivation and personal journey:

Explains what inspired the applicant to choose massage therapy; demonstrates genuine interest in the profession; shares meaningful experiences, values, or reasons for pursuing this career.

Score: 0–4

B. Educational commitment and professional goals:

Obtaining the goals for completing education and obtaining licensure; shows willingness to learn and share; recognizes the importance of education and licensure.

Score: 0–4

C. Intended impact on clients and the profession:

Describes hoped-for-impact on clients or community; reflects professional values such as compassion, respect, ethical practice, or client-centered care; identifies a meaningful contribution to massage therapy.

Score: 0–4

D. Scholarship impact and authenticity:

Explains how the $1,000 award would support education or progress toward licensure; gives a thoughtful, sincere response; communicates clearly and stays within the 300-word limit.

Score: 0–4

Scoring scale

SCORE	RATING	DESCRIPTION
4	Excellent	Thoughtful, specific, and compelling response.
3	Good	Clear response with relevant detail.
2	Satisfactory	Addresses the topic but needs more depth or detail.
1	Limited	Minimal explanation or connection to the topic.
0	Not addressed	Does not address the category.

Eligibility requirements

Applicants must be enrolled in an approved massage therapy education program that meets NH Licensure requirements or have an Alternative Plan for out of state programming and additional training to meet NH Licensure requirements; and be current AMTA student members. Eligibility should be verified according to the chapter's application requirements before essay scoring.

How finalists are selected

1. **Independent review:** Each committee member scores every eligible essay using this rubric.
2. **Calculate averages:** Add each applicant's reviewer scores and divide by the number of reviewers.
3. **Advance finalists:** Forward the highest-scoring applicants to the board; a suggested starting point is the top three to five, depending on the applicant pool.
4. **Discuss close scores:** For ties or close scores, revisit the criteria and essay evidence, applying the same approach to all applicants.
5. **Board vote:** Present finalists and average scores to the board for the final selection of the $1,000 scholarship recipient.

Fairness reminder

Evaluate the essay content—not the applicant's writing sophistication, financial circumstances, personal connections, or similarity to a reviewer's own career path. In the scholarship-impact category, reward a clear explanation of how the award would help, not the degree of financial hardship disclosed. Use the same standards for every eligible submission.