

## APMSA Board Examination Grant Essay Rubric

Purpose: To evaluate applicants' written responses and determine recipients of the Board Payment Scholarship (\$1,000 for APMLE Part I or Part II) based on demonstrated need, reflection, and alignment with professional and organizational values.

Total Possible Points: 40

Category	Description	Excellent (10-9 pts)	Strong (8-7 pts)	Adequate (6-5 pts)	Needs Improvement (4-0 pts)
<b>Financial Need &amp; Impact</b> <b>(Prompt 1 only)</b>	Demonstrates clear, compelling financial challenges and articulates how these affect medical education and board preparation.	Vivid, honest, detailed; connects challenges to education and board prep; deeply reflective.	Clearly addresses the prompt; shows good understanding; ideas are relevant but less original or deep	Explains need with limited depth; some connection to board prep.	Generic, unclear, or lacks connection to education.
<b>Foot gear &amp; Personality</b> <b>(Prompt 2 Only)</b>	"Demonstrates a meaningful connection between footwear, personality, and health; offers thoughtful self-reflection to podiatric values."	Vivid, honest, detailed; connects Footwear with personality and Health	Clearly addresses the prompt; shows good understanding; ideas are relevant but less original or deep	Explains need with limited depth; some connection to Footwear with Personality and Health	Generic, unclear, or lacks connection to Prompt
<b>Insight, Originality, and Reflection</b>	Depth of reflection, self-awareness, and originality of perspective.	Highly thoughtful and original; strong insight and authenticity.	Clear personal voice; some originality present, but less consistently engaging or unique	Clear reflection and originality but less cohesive.	Limited reflection or originality; surface-level.
<b>Relevance to Prompt &amp; Organization</b>	Addresses all parts of the chosen prompt; essay structure and flow.	Fully addresses all elements; strong logical flow.	Well-organized with minor lapses in flow; arguments generally clear	Addresses certain aspects; moderate gaps in flow.	The essay demonstrates a deficiency in logical coherence or inadequately connects to the initial argument.
<b>Professionalism &amp; Alignment with APMSA Values</b>	Demonstrates professionalism, integrity, and service	Exemplifies professionalism and empathy; clear service	Professional tone with minor lapses.	Professional tone with moderate amount of	Unprofessional or unclear values.

	orientation.	motivation.		lapses.	
<b>Writing Quality &amp; Mechanics</b>	Grammar, spelling, clarity, and adherence to 350-word limit.	Clear, engaging; no major errors.	Minor errors do not impede understanding; language is clear but less polished or stylistically varied	Moderate amount of errors; overall clear.	Frequent errors or unclear writing.

Total Score (out of 40): \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer's Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

### Scoring Guidelines

Range	Descriptor	Recommendation
34–40	Excellent overall	Strongly recommend for award
28–33	Strong overall	Recommendation for award
20–27	Adequate overall	Consider if strong pool
0–19	Needs Improvement overall	Unlikely to be selected