

Obenzinger Scholars Application 2021-2022



Ronald Matthew Obenzinger Class of 1961

- *The amount of the scholarship for the 2021/2022 academic year will be approximately \$42,152 to be used toward meeting your financial need as measured by the FAFSA and CSS Profile.*
- *Any need in excess of the Obenzinger Award will be met with Union College Scholarship, eliminating your need-based loans for the year!*
- *\$1,000 cash at Prize Day after completion of the fellowship*
- *Paid work-study position doing public health-related work, which could include an internship with a local healthcare agency.*
- *Must be either a **Sophomore** or **Junior** who plans to apply to allopathic medical (MD) schools*
- *Must present the results of your work at Steinmetz Symposium at the conclusion of the academic year*

**Note: The Obenzinger award cannot be combined with other Union administered merit awards, such as the Presidential Award, Henle Scholarship etc...*

A memorial endowment to support your pre-medical education at Union College

At the College, Ronald M. Obenzinger '61 was a member of the Pre-Medical Society and the *Concordiensis* as well as an officer of his fraternity, Kappa Nu. Graduated as a pre-medical major with standing in the top twenty percent of his class, and accepted for enrollment that fall at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Ronnie looked forward to his next step toward becoming a doctor.

Despite a diagnosis of Hodgkin's Disease in the summer of 1961, he decided to begin his medical school studies. Regrettably, his worsening illness caused him to withdraw within a few weeks of the first term. He died in March 1962.

Ronald's parents, Nathan and Romana Obenzinger, have established a permanent endowment in his memory at Union College to support the efforts of other students who dream, study and work toward becoming a physician.

Obenzinger Scholars will be awarded a \$1000 prize upon the completion of a funded work study position in Public Health.

How To Become an Obenzinger Scholar

1. Sophomores and Juniors who plan to apply to allopathic (MD) medical schools and who are eligible for financial aid must apply to become an Obenzinger Scholar for the following academic year. Scholars must commit to working 6-8 hours per week all three terms in accordance with their work study eligibility.
2. Applicants need to secure/develop their own year-long healthcare project, which could be an unpaid internship that would replace work-study. If working with a community agency, the organization must provide a letter endorsing the project. Preference will be given to applicants who secure a project in advance. Examples of projects can be found at the end of this application.
3. Applicants must provide a personal statement that would be suitable for a medical school application, a 1-page description of the year-long health-related project(s) to be conducted, and evidence of an agency's support if applicable. In addition, applicants must provide a recent unofficial transcript, SAT scores, plus three letters of recommendation (2 from faculty and a third from an employer, coach or person who can speak directly to your ability to work independently on the project.). **Letters should describe your potential for success in the medical field as well as your ability to carry out the healthcare-related work you propose.**
4. Application materials are due no later than **Friday, April 2, 2021** and can be submitted via email to health_pro@union.edu with subject: "Obenzinger Prize [Applicant's last name, first name]." **Please provide your letter writers with a copy of this handout.**
5. Obenzinger Scholars are chosen by a committee consisting of the Director of Financial Aid, the Director Health Professions, the Director for Community Outreach, and alumni physicians including former scholars. Obenzinger Scholarship awards

may not exceed the amount of financial need as determined by the Office of Financial Aid. E-mail Professor Weisse (weissec@union.edu) with any questions.

Sample projects from past Obenzinger scholars:

Health and nutrition awareness classes for at-risk preschool children at **Schenectady Community Action Program-Head Start**

Establishment of an **Alzheimer's Buddy Program** –training/coordinating students to meet weekly with members of the community experiencing early dementia

Patient education in primary care practices to complete advance directives through the **Conversation Project**

Campus wide **health promotion campaigns** on safe sex practices, smoking cessation, mindfulness.

Sample of local Agencies in need of volunteers:

City Mission Empower Health <http://schenectadyworks.com/2018/home-page-3-1/empower-health/>

Schenectady Community Action Program Head Start <https://scapny.org/headstart/>

Residential homes for the dying (bedside care of terminally ill residents):

Joan Nicole Prince Home <http://joannicoleprincehome.org/>

Gateway House of Peace <http://www.gatewayhouseofpeace.org/>

Mary's Haven <http://www.maryshaven.org/>

Note: feel free to find your own agency and develop your own project!