



Physician Associate
Foundation

2026 Breitman-Dorn Research Award

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Open Date: February 2, 2026

Deadline: March 2, 2026

The Breitman-Dorn Endowed Research Award was established in 1998 through a generous donation from Jerald A. Breitman in memory of his partner Stephen Dorn to advance the PA profession and its role in healthcare. The award recognizes and supports doctoral candidates who are making a contribution to research on the PA profession or the influence of PAs on medical care.

The Breitman-Dorn Endowed Research Award is a cash award, not a grant. It is not a requirement that the recipient use the money to offset doctoral expenses. The award amount is \$4,500 for the 2026 cycle.

Applicant Requirements

- The applicant's research must address the role or contributions of PAs in healthcare; i.e., the research must focus on PA issues and benefit PAs and/or the PA profession. It is not a requirement that the research must focus exclusively on PAs or the PA profession.
- PhD candidates as well as clinical doctoral candidates may apply.
- It is not a requirement that the applicant must be a PA. Doctoral candidates from any discipline are welcome to submit an application.
- Applicants must be enrolled in a graduate program and working toward a doctoral degree.
- Applicants must have an approved original research proposal topic.
- Applicants must be in good academic standing.

Award Recipient Requirements

- The recipient must complete his or her research within three years of the award.
- The recipient must provide a copy of the completed research to the Physician Associate Foundation.
- The Physician Associate Foundation should be notified of any address changes.

Application Requirements

You will be asked to upload the following materials as part of the online application:

- A signed copy of the Graduate Program Reference Form (verifies applicant is enrolled in the stated graduate program, is in good academic standing, has advanced to doctoral candidacy, and has an approved original research proposal topic – to be signed by principal dissertation advisor or doctoral program director)
- A letter from the chair of the dissertation committee or doctoral program director stating that the candidate is approved to go forward with research. The letter should include a description of the research proposal and current status of the research.
- Current unofficial graduate academic transcript
- Current résumé/curriculum vitae
- Abstract(s) of recent and relevant publication(s) authored or co-authored by the applicant (three maximum) – *optional/suggested*

You will be asked to provide essay responses to the following prompts:

1. Provide a description of the proposed research that includes the following:

- Introduction
- Purpose and significance
- Literature review
- Research design
- Plan for evaluation of results

If you are a re-applicant for this award, describe what is different in this proposal and/or how you have progressed in your research since your previous application.

Response should not exceed 1,000 words.

2. Explain your personal commitment to research on or about the PA profession and outline your career plans for the next five years.

Response should not exceed 500 words.

Application Deadline

The application deadline is March 2, 2026. Please apply online via link provided. Do not include information or documents that are not requested. Any such additional information will not be provided to the selection committee.

Questions? Contact Allie Rivera at arivera@aapa.org or 571.319.4551.