



**National Academy of  
Recreational Therapists**

## **NART Future Scholars Program Application instructions and program information**

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Dear Future Scholars Program Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the National Academy of Recreational Therapists (NART) Future Scholars Program sponsored by NART.

The purpose of the Future Scholars Program is to provide the opportunity to meet some of the leading scholars in the field to a person interested in pursuing a doctorate in an area related to therapeutic recreation/recreational therapy. Eligible applicants are either a currently enrolled master's degree student or a professional with an earned master's degree. Future Scholar applicants should have the intention of entering academia as a faculty member in therapeutic recreation/recreational therapy in the future. The applicant should articulate plans for entering a doctoral program within the next two years.

The selected applicant will be required to attend the ATRA Annual Conference as a guest of NART. The Future Scholar may claim up to \$1,000 for conference-related expenses. Please note that reimbursement is contingent upon the submission of receipts to the NART Treasurer. The Future Scholar must register for the ATRA conference. While NART Future Scholars may also be Peg Connolly or Martha Judge Scholarship recipients in the given conference year, award funds can only be used for expenses not covered by other awards. Expenses (up to the amount of the award) will be reimbursed with documented receipts (e.g., flights, hotels, food).

At the ATRA conference, the Future Scholar will be introduced to a mentor and have an opportunity to interact with scholars in the field. In addition, the Future Scholar will attend meetings and socials hosted by NART and ATRA, including the ATRA research institute, ATRA educational sessions, the NART recognition ceremony, and other conference events and social functions. This will be an excellent opportunity for the Future Scholar to ask questions about the field and inquire about doctoral program opportunities. During the year following the ATRA conference, the Future Scholar recipient will work with their assigned mentor to develop and submit an ATRA Webinar on a topic aligned with their background and expertise.

Applications should be submitted on the NART webpage: <https://www.nartfellows.org/>

Best wishes, and thank you for your interest in the Future Scholars program!

# NART Future Scholars Program Overview

The purpose of the NART Future Scholars Program is to provide the opportunity to meet some of the leading scholars in the field by attending the American Therapeutic Recreation Association Annual Conference. The NART Future Scholars Program honors a person holding a master's degree or currently enrolled in a master's degree program who is interested in pursuing a doctorate within the next two years in an area related to therapeutic recreation/recreational therapy with the intention of entering academia as a faculty member in therapeutic recreation/recreational therapy.

## Eligibility

Individuals who meet all the following criteria are eligible to apply:

- Person holding a master's degree or currently enrolled in a master's degree program in therapeutic recreation or a related field
- Plans to initiate doctoral studies within the next two years
- Is interested in pursuing a doctoral degree in therapeutic recreation/recreational therapy or related discipline that will facilitate teaching and/or research in therapeutic recreation/recreational therapy in higher education
- Has earned the appropriate credentials for their state or province (CTRS and/or LRT) or is on track for application by the end of the master's degree. Evidence of credential(s), or progress toward credentialing, is expected
- Has a written letter of support from an individual best able to speak to the aptitude of the applicant to be successful in doctoral studies
- Can attend the ATRA Annual Conference and participate in all conference activities as indicated
- Is a member of ATRA (student or professional)

## Selection Criteria

Members of the NART Future Scholars Program Committee will review all applicants using the following criteria:

- Academic record (based on academic transcript)
- Professional credentials
- Indications of scholarly potential in the field (based on publications, presentations, research experience, applicant's cover letter, and/or support letter)
- Strength of intention to pursue and succeed in doctoral studies in a therapeutic recreation/recreational therapy or related subject (based on applicant's cover letter and support letter)
- General level of professionalism (based on format and depth of application materials, presentation of written materials, and professional involvement)

# Application Instructions

A complete NART application package consists of the following five components:

1. Application form (found on the NART Website: <https://www.nartfellows.org/application>)
2. Cover letter describing:
  - Major areas of interest in therapeutic recreation/recreational therapy or related field
  - Future academic and career plans
  - Reasons you intend to pursue a doctoral degree
  - Areas of research you might pursue within a doctoral program
  - How you will benefit from participating in the Future Scholars Program
3. Current resume/curriculum vita including your educational and occupational experiences
4. Academic transcript of most recently completed higher education degree plus current transcript for currently enrolled students
5. One letter of support from an individual who can speak to your academic strengths and potential for doctoral studies and as a therapeutic recreation/recreational therapy faculty member

Deadline: **11:59 pm (EDT), May 22nd**

Address questions to [nartboard@gmail.com](mailto:nartboard@gmail.com)

Thank you for your interest in the NART Future Scholars Program.

## Next Steps

1. **Review the application form** on the NART website.
2. **Prepare your cover letter**, resume/CV, and academic transcripts.
3. **Request a letter of support** from a qualified individual, sharing the provided Letter of Support Information.
4. **Submit your complete application package** by the deadline: May 22nd at 11:59 pm (EDT).
5. **Await notification** from the NART Future Scholars Program Committee.



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# Letter of Support Information

Give this to the person who has agreed to write a letter of support for your application for the NART Future Scholars Program.

Thank you for writing a letter of support for the Future Scholars Program sponsored by the National Academy of Recreational Therapists (NART) and the American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA). Selection criteria include: academic ability (based on transcript and letter of support); indications of scholarly potential in the field (based on publications, presentations, research experience, applicant's cover letter, and/or letter of support); strength of intention to pursue doctoral studies in a therapeutic recreation/recreational therapy or a related subject (based on applicant's cover letter and letter of support); and general level of professionalism (based on format and depth of application materials, presentation of written materials, and professional involvement).

Your letter of support is extremely important in helping us select from among the many qualified applications we receive. We are particularly interested in your perception of the applicant's academic abilities relative to other therapeutic recreation/recreation therapy professionals or students with whom you have worked; their scholarly interests and potential for doctoral studies; and the strength of their intention to pursue doctoral studies in therapeutic recreation/recreation therapy or a closely related field and pursue a faculty position in therapeutic recreation/recreation therapy.

The applicant's materials must be submitted by **11:59 pm (EDT) on May 22nd** to be considered in this year's review process. If you are comfortable giving your letter directly to the applicant, please do so prior to that date so it can be included in their application packet. The applicant must submit all other materials in one document. If you prefer to submit your letter directly, please save it in either .docx or .pdf format and submit it on the NART website: <https://www.nartfellows.org/application>

Thank you for supporting this applicant and the NART Future Scholars Program.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact [nartboard@gmail.com](mailto:nartboard@gmail.com)

