

OPPI Opportunity Scholarship Evaluation Rubric

This assessment rubric supports a clear, fair, and accessible review of applications for the OPPI Opportunity Scholarship. The scholarship recognizes undergraduate and graduate planning students who face systemic barriers to education and who are actively contributing to their communities.

This rubric is grounded in OPPI's Statement of Action on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Reconciliation, and Social Justice (DEI-RSJ). It reflects OPPI's commitment to creating diverse and accessible pathways into the planning profession, supporting future planners, and fostering respectful, reciprocal relationships with communities impacted by planning.

Assessors are expected to apply this rubric with care, cultural humility, and an understanding of varied lived experiences.

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a student member of OPPI
- Must be enrolled in a full-time, undergraduate or graduate planning program for the upcoming academic year
- Must self-identify as Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit, or Métis) and/or as a member of one or more equity-deserving groups

Level	1- Emerging	2- Developing	3- Established	4- Outstanding
Community-Based Involvement and Relationship Building <i>Considers involvement in local, cultural, or community-based activities, including volunteer and informal contributions, with attention to respect, reciprocity, and relationship-building</i>	Limited or informal community involvement is described, with minimal connection to relationship-building or community needs.	Some community-based involvement is demonstrated, with emerging awareness of community context or needs.	Ongoing involvement that reflects respect, reciprocity, and a clear positive contribution to community.	Meaningful, sustained involvement demonstrating trust-building, initiative, or strong community impact grounded in community priorities.
Commitment to the Planning Profession <i>Considers interest in, and engagement with, the planning profession</i>	Limited evidence of engagement with planning beyond program enrollment.	Some engagement with planning-related activities, learning, or emerging professional interests.	Clear and consistent engagement demonstrating commitment to planning	Strong commitment demonstrated through leadership, advocacy, or applied planning-related contributions aligned



<i>appropriate to the applicant's stage of study, including how planning education is understood as a tool for positive change</i>			values and community-focused practice.	with equity and public interest outcomes.
Educational Journey and Financial Context <i>Considers the applicant's educational pathway, financial barriers, and how the scholarship would support continued participation and success in planning education</i>	Limited explanation of educational or financial context.	Some explanation of financial barriers and how the scholarship may assist.	Clear articulation of financial need and how the scholarship would meaningfully support educational goals or persistence.	Compelling, thoughtful explanation of systemic or financial barriers and the significance of the scholarship in creating an accessible pathway into the profession.
Alignment with DEI-RSJ Principles and OPPI's Path Forward <i>Considers how the applicant's experiences, values, or contributions align with OPPI's commitments to diversity, equity, inclusion, reconciliation, and social justice, as well as respectful engagement with communities impacted by planning</i>	Limited or implicit connection to DEI-RSJ principles or community impact.	Some reflection on equity, inclusion, reconciliation, or social justice in personal, academic, or community contexts.	Clear alignment between lived experience, community involvement, and DEI-RSJ principles, including respect for self-determination and community voice.	Strong, reflective alignment demonstrating insight, advocacy, or leadership consistent with OPPI's Path Forward and commitment to inclusive, accountable planning practice.
References <i>Considers how effectively references support the applicant's</i>	References provide limited detail or specificity.	References speak positively to the applicant's engagement and character.	References clearly support the applicant's community involvement	References provide strong, specific examples demonstrating impact,



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<i>community involvement, character, resilience, and potential</i>			and commitment to planning education.	integrity, and potential to contribute to a more inclusive planning profession.
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Total score: /20