
New Scholarship Application Dahiana Rivera Giraldo

1 message

Common Ninja <notifications@commoninja.com>
Reply-To: dayana3416@hotmail.com
To: Lisa Brotmann <scholarships@communitycenternw.org>

Sun, Feb 8, 2026 at 6:29 PM

New Scholarship Application Dahiana Rivera Giraldo

A new form submission has been received.

Form name: DOWLING EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION.

You can see more details in the editor:

<https://www.commoninja.com/job-application-form/editor/entries/adc3d31d-7558-41a5-b02e-533d20e3d8ff>.

HHID#:

16851

Name:

Dahiana Rivera Giraldo

Address:

[1446 main street peekskill New York 10566](#)

Phone:

9145028443

Email:

dayana3416@hotmail.com

Date of Birth:

01/03/2002

What type of college/school/coursework are you planning on pursuing with the help of this scholarship?:

College

Name of School::

Pace University

Are you currently employed?:

Yes

Name of Employer::

White Plains Hospital

Hours/Week::

20

ATTACH YOUR ESSAY:

[https://uploads.commoninja.com/1770593222271_Essay%20%20\(1\).pdf](https://uploads.commoninja.com/1770593222271_Essay%20%20(1).pdf)

UPLOAD YOUR MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES PAGE:

https://uploads.commoninja.com/1770593227867_MOST%20IMPORTANT%20ACTIVITIES.pdf

UPLOAD YOUR LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

https://uploads.commoninja.com/1770593240271_DRG%20Recommendation.pdf, https://uploads.commoninja.com/1770593244892_Rivera%20reccomendation.pdf

ARE YOU A CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE STUDENT::

Yes

UPLOAD YOUR TRANSCRIPT AND 2025 FALL GRADES:

https://uploads.commoninja.com/1770593259829_Transcript_DAHIANARIVERAGIRALDO.pdf

NAME OF SCHOOL YOU ARE CURRENTLY ATTENDING::

Pace University

Applicants Signature:

https://uploads.commoninja.com/1770593372747_signature.png

Parent Signature (if under age 18):

Today's Date:

02-08-2026

I CERTIFY THE ACCURACY OF THE STATEMENTS INCLUDED IN THIS APPLICATION. I AM AWARE THAT OMISSIONS OR INACCURACIES COULD RESULT IN THE CANCELLATION OF THIS SCHOLARSHIP.:

Please select to certify

I have reviewed the Check List and submitted all required items:

Yes

[View Widget](#)

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I never thought I would make it to graduate school because, three years ago, it felt impossible. I suffered two strokes that changed my life forever. With them came many emotions, as I realized I was different not only physically, but mentally as well. Physically, I lost movement in my right arm and developed a visual field cut in my eye. Mentally, however, the challenges were even greater. I had to relearn how to speak, write, and do math skills I once took for granted, but those became real struggles after my strokes.

Because I could not use my right hand, many everyday tasks felt impossible. One of the most difficult was eating. I vividly remember the first time I went out to eat with my mom. I could not cut my food because my right hand would not cooperate. I cried uncontrollably because I believed that would be my reality forever. I felt useless. I had the same feeling when I tried to drive again. I could not remember which pedal was the brake and which was the accelerator. At that moment, I felt completely lost. If I could not do basic tasks, how was I supposed to succeed in school? My entire world felt like it had collapsed.

My rehabilitation team gave me the tools I needed to make my recovery successful, so I did everything I could to return to what I once called normal to me, but soon I realized I wasn't ever going to be that person I was before the strokes, and it took some time to adjust and picture what my life would look like. This is where my mental challenges began because I wanted so desperately to go back to being the person who did everything without having to worry about my speech or their grammar.

I had to take a break from school, but during that time, I committed myself to recovery. I participated in occupational, physical, and speech therapy. On the days I did not have therapy sessions, I used an app designed for stroke patients to continue practicing. Progress was slow, but every day I could see improvement, and that gave me hope. Eventually, I decided to return to

school and finish my bachelor's degree after taking a semester off. I knew it would be difficult, but I was not ready to give up on my dreams. Returning to school was overwhelming because the strokes had significantly affected my mental health. I sought professional help because I constantly felt judged—for speaking differently or for needing more time to process information. Learning to rebuild my confidence was just as important as relearning academic skills.

My rehabilitation team gave me the tools I needed to make my recovery successful, so I did everything I could to return to what I once called normal to me, but soon I realized I wasn't ever going to be that person I was before the strokes, and it took some time to adjust and picture what my life would look like. This is where my mental challenges began because I wanted so desperately to go back to being the person who did everything without having to worry about my speech or their grammar.

One piece of advice from my neuropsychologist has stayed with me throughout the years: *I am more than my stroke*. The stroke is only a small portion of who I am. There are many things that make me who I am beyond my medical history. Now, three years later, I am a confident person. My strokes did not weaken me; they made me stronger and motivated me to continue pursuing my dream of becoming an occupational therapist.

Occupational therapy has given my life purpose. If I had not experienced my strokes, my path would have been very different. I originally planned to become a physician assistant, largely because of the financial stability. However, that path did not fulfill me. What is the value of a profession if it does not align with your heart? It took brain surgery, two strokes, and months of therapy for me to realize that fulfillment matters more than income. As an occupational therapy student, I am now training to help individuals recovering from strokes, traumatic brain injuries,

spinal cord injuries, and many other conditions. I will be treating people who are walking a journey similar to the one I once walked.

I am deeply grateful to have received this scholarship in the past, as it helped cover a significant portion of my undergraduate education and continues to support me in graduate school. Your support has played a meaningful role in helping me reach this point, and I am committed to using my education to give back to my community and make a lasting impact on others' lives.

The most important activities I am involved in are school and work. I am currently studying to become an occupational therapist, which requires a great deal of dedication, and school has always been my number one priority. Maintaining strong grades makes it difficult to participate in many extracurricular activities. In addition to school, I work at White Plains Hospital as a physical therapist technician, where I assist therapists in mobilizing patients during their hospital stay to prevent deconditioning. Through this role, I have gained valuable hands-on experience that will be useful as I continue pursuing my career as an occupational therapist. Lastly, working out is essential to me, and even when school becomes demanding, I make an effort to prioritize it.

February 8, 2026

Dear Scholarship Committee,

It is my absolute pleasure to recommend Dahiana Rivera Giraldo for the renewal of the Dowling Educational Scholarship. As her instructor in the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program at Pace University, I have had the opportunity to observe her strong academic performance, professionalism, and genuine commitment to developing as a clinician.

Dahiana is an exceptionally dedicated student. She approaches her coursework with focus, reliability, and a thoughtful curiosity that enhances the classroom environment and inspires those around her. Her work and positive energy reflect strong clinical reasoning and a clear investment in mastering the skills required of an emerging occupational therapy practitioner.

Her resilience and determination are equally notable. After experiencing two strokes, she worked diligently through months of rehabilitation to regain speech, strength, and much more. Pursuing graduate study after such a life-altering event required significant perseverance and emotional strength. These experiences inform her career goals and provide her with a rare level of insight into the physical, cognitive, and emotional aspects of recovery.

Her previous and current volunteer and employment experiences at White Plains Hospital further demonstrate her commitment to the profession. She has shown initiative in learning from occupational and physical therapists in the hospital setting, integrating these experiences into her academic work with maturity and purpose.

Maintaining this scholarship will meaningfully support her continued progress in the program and her path toward becoming a compassionate, well-prepared, and impactful clinician. She is a student who uses every opportunity to grow and contribute, and she wholly exemplifies the qualities this scholarship seeks to support.

I highly recommend Dahiana with confidence and without reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Siobhan Walsh, OTD, OTR/L". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Siobhan Walsh, OTD, OTR/L, BCPR

Erica L. Gollub, DrPH MPH
Professor
Health Science Program
861 Bedford Road
Pleasantville, NY 10570

PHONE: (914)773-3773
FAX: (914)773-3357

1-18-26

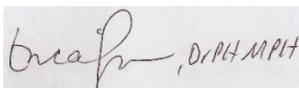
To Whom It May Concern:

I am so pleased to be able to write a recommendation letter for Dahiana Rivera to support her application for a Dowling Scholarship. Dahiana was my student in multiple classes in her upper undergraduate years, studying Epidemiology and Global Primary Health Care with me, and then again in senior Capstone class. The student earned top marks (A) in all 3 of my classes.

I cannot say enough good things about Dahiana. She had some very serious health challenges to overcome during her undergraduate career; her fortitude and determination to overcome these *as well as* perform at a high academic level – not only in my class but overall, as judged by her GPA of 3.76 - was both moving and extremely impressive. Dahiana was laser-focused on her work towards her Bachelors of Science, engaged fully in class as well as with the community of her classmates. She was a student eager to learn and think deeply about the substance of new material she was learning - a pleasure for a professor and bringing great value to classroom discussions and in interactions with her fellow students.

Personally, Dahiana is highly approachable, warm, empathic, and respectful. I had mixed feelings when she left the program – both proud of her for graduating and of course, for her acceptance into the OT graduate program at Pace, and sorry to see her go. This student has so much to bring to the profession she is now studying, both personally and academically. Her resume cannot fill in the full picture of the value this young woman brings to her future patients and health professions community. I have every confidence in her success and fully support her for this scholarship which will mitigate some of the financial pressures of graduate school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature reads "Erica L. Gollub, DrPH MPH" in a cursive script.

Erica L. Gollub, DrPH MPH

Record of: Dahiana Rivera Giraldo
1446 Main St
Peekskill, NY 10566-3113

Date Issued: 25-JAN-2026

Social Security: *****0332

Issued To: DAHIANA RIVERA GIRALDO

Student ID: U01703987

Level: Undergraduate

Campus: Pleasantville

Date of Birth: 03-JAN-2002

Course Level: Undergraduate
First Admit: Spring 2022
Last Admit: Spring 2023

Current Program

College : College of Health Professions
Campus : Pleasantville
Major : Health Science
Maj/Concentration : Pre-Physician Assistant

Degree Awarded Bachelor of Science 12-MAY-2025
Primary Degree

Major : Health Science
Maj/Concentration : Pre-Physician Assistant
Inst. Honors: Cum Laude

SUBJ NO.	COURSE TITLE	CRED GRD	PTS R
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TRANSFER CREDIT ACCEPTED BY THE INSTITUTION:

SUBJ NO.	COURSE TITLE	CRED GRD	PTS R
****	Westchester Community College		
ANT 296P	Topic: Culture & Religion	3.00 T	
ART 350	Topics in Advncd Photogrphy	3.00 T	
BIO 101	General Biology I	4.00 T	
BIO 102	General Biology II	4.00 T	
CHE 111	General Chemistry I	4.00 T	
CIS 101	Introduction to Computing	3.00 T	
COM 200	Public Speaking	3.00 T	
ECO 105	Prin of Econ: Macro	3.00 T	
ENG 110	Composition	3.00 T	
ENG 120	Critical Writing	3.00 T	
GEN 000	General/Open Elective	1.00 T	
GEN 000A	General/Open Elective	1.00 T	
GEN 000B	General/Open Elective	2.00 T	
HIS 112	US Civ since 1877	3.00 T	
INE MAT	Inq & Explor: Math	1.00 T	
MAT 102	Mathematics for Life	3.00 T	
MAT 134	Intro to Prbably & Statistics	3.00 T	
PSY 112	Introduction to Psychology	3.00 T	
PSY 304	Social Psychology	3.00 T	
PSY 320	Abnormal Psychology I	3.00 T	
SOC 102	Introduction to Sociology	3.00 T	

***** CONTINUED ON NEXT COLUMN *****

SUBJ NO.	COURSE TITLE	CRED GRD	PTS R
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Transfer Information continued:
Ehrs: 59.00 GPA-Hrs: 0.00 QPts: 0.00 GPA: 0.00

**** Syracuse University

CHE 107	Forensic Chemistry I	3.00 T	
GEN 000C	General/Open Elective	1.00 T	
Ehrs: 4.00	GPA-Hrs: 0.00	QPts: 0.00	GPA: 0.00

**** SUNY Albany

LIT 211D	The Individual and Society	3.00 T	
SPA 263	Spanish for Native Speakers	3.00 T	
SPA 264	Spanish for Native Speakers II	3.00 T	
Ehrs: 9.00	GPA-Hrs: 0.00	QPts: 0.00	GPA: 0.00

INSTITUTION CREDIT:

Spring 2023

HSC 100	Health Care Ethics	3.00 A	12.00
HSC 205	Hlth Informatics & Telehealth	3.00 A	12.00
PSY 233	Psychology of Civic Engagement	3.00 A	12.00
PSY 241	Psy-Alcoholism/Substance Abuse	3.00 A	12.00
Ehrs: 12.00	GPA-Hrs: 12.00	QPts: 48.00	GPA: 4.00

Dean's List First Honors

Fall 2023

BIO 251	Principles of Human Anatomy	4.00 A-	14.80
HSC 110	Intro to Hlt Prmtn & Dis Prvtn	3.00 A	12.00
HSC 200	Health Care for Diverse Pops	3.00 A	12.00
HSC 210	Health Care Policy	3.00 A	12.00
Ehrs: 13.00	GPA-Hrs: 13.00	QPts: 50.80	GPA: 3.91

Dean's List First Honors

Spring 2024

BIO 264	Microbiology	4.00 B	12.00
BIO 334	General Physiology	4.00 B	12.00
HSC 305	Introduction to Epidemiology	3.00 A-	11.10

***** CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 *****

Record of: Dahiana Rivera Giraldo

Date Issued: 25-JAN-2026

Social Security: *****0332

Student ID: U01703987

Level: Undergraduate

Campus: Pleasantville

Date of Birth: 03-JAN-2002

SUBJ NO.	COURSE TITLE	CRED	GRD	PTS	R
Institution Information continued:					
HSC 315	Global Health IT & Innovations	3.00	A	12.00	
HSC 330	Global Environmental Health	3.00	A	12.00	
Ehrs: 17.00 GPA-Hrs: 17.00		QPts: 59.10	GPA: 3.48		
Fall 2024					
HSC 300	Genetics in Health Care	3.00	C	6.00	
HSC 320	Intro to Global Primary HC	3.00	A-	11.10	
HSC 400	Leadership & Mgt in Hlth Care	3.00	A	12.00	
HSC 480	Capstone Project 1	3.00	A	12.00	
PHY 111	General Physics I	4.00	B-	10.80	
Ehrs: 16.00 GPA-Hrs: 16.00		QPts: 51.90	GPA: 3.24		
Spring 2025					
ENG 201	Writing in the Disciplines	3.00	A-	11.10	
HSC 405	Global Health: A Field Exprnc	3.00	A	12.00	
HSC 410	Global Health Care Systems	3.00	B-	8.10	
HSC 481	Capstone Project 1l	3.00	A	12.00	
PSY 375	Lifespan Dvlpmnt Psychology	4.00	B+	13.20	
Ehrs: 16.00 GPA-Hrs: 16.00		QPts: 56.40	GPA: 3.53		
Dean's Third Honors					
***** TRANSCRIPT TOTALS *****					
	Earned Hrs	GPA Hrs	Points	GPA	
TOTAL INSTITUTION	74.00	74.00	266.20	3.60	
TOTAL TRANSFER	72.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
OVERALL	146.00	74.00	266.20	3.60	
***** END OF TRANSCRIPT *****					

Margaret Jones
Senior Associate Registrar

Record of: Dahiana Rivera Giraldo
1446 Main St
Peekskill, NY 10566-3113

Date Issued: 25-JAN-2026

Social Security: *****0332

Issued To: DAHIANA RIVERA GIRALDO

Student ID: U01703987

Level: Graduate

Campus: Pleasantville

Date of Birth: 03-JAN-2002

Course Level: Graduate
Only Admit: Fall 2025

Current Program

College : College of Health Professions
Campus : Pleasantville
Major : Occupational Therapy

SUBJ NO.	COURSE TITLE	CRED GRD	PTS R
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INSTITUTION CREDIT:

Fall 2025

OTH 500	OTH Thry & Occeptn Anlyss	5.00 B+	16.50
OTH 505	Occeptn Enggmt Acrss Life Span	3.00 B+	9.90
OTH 510	Appld Neurosci Occeptnl Thrpy	3.00 A-	11.10
OTH 515	Fncntnl Antm Kinslgy Ocptnl Thr	5.00 B	15.00
Ehrs: 16.00 GPA-Hrs: 16.00 QPts: 52.50 GPA: 3.28			

Spring 2026

IN PROGRESS WORK

OTH 525	Prfslnsm I: Comm Skill Intpfnl	1.00 IN PROGRESS	
OTH 530	Occeptnl Thrpy Prctc Mntl Hlth	4.00 IN PROGRESS	
OTH 535	Clncl RsnngI: Fieldwork lvl I	1.00 IN PROGRESS	
OTH 550	Occeptnl Thrpy in Prdctve Aging	3.00 IN PROGRESS	
OTH 555	Orthopedics & Neuro-Rehab	3.00 IN PROGRESS	
OTH 560	Rsrch Mthds in Occeptnl Thrpy	3.00 IN PROGRESS	
In Progress Credits 15.00			

******* TRANSCRIPT TOTALS *******

	Earned Hrs	GPA Hrs	Points	GPA
TOTAL INSTITUTION	16.00	16.00	52.50	3.28

TOTAL TRANSFER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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OVERALL	16.00	16.00	52.50	3.28
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******* END OF TRANSCRIPT *******