

WesternU

College of Health Sciences



Meet Hanna

2022 Recipient of the
WesternU Board of Trustees Scholarship



Dear WesternU Trustees,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of the WesternU Board of Trustees Scholarship. As the first cohort recipient of the Board of Trustees Scholarship, I wish to express my thanks to you for your generosity and for looking out for health professions students, such as myself, who rely on financial aid, grants, and student loans to help finance our education.

As a female, first-generation immigrant, and first-generation college student who learned English later in life, my experiences through witnessing my parent's struggles with language-based inequity in medicine have motivated me to pursue a career in physician assistant studies and empower those who feel powerless. I am now ready to succeed in the MSPA courses not only because of these experiences below but also because of your scholarship which will help reduce my financial burdens and provide assistance for me as I continue pursuing my education.

At UCLA, I studied linguistics and psychology in hopes of becoming an effective communicator for my future patients. Outside of academics, I worked in a nursing home and was attentive to patients' needs and their primary spoken language. If it was not Korean or English, I tried my best to communicate using basic vocabulary and hand gestures. I studied ASL to communicate with stroke patients and volunteered to interpret when needed. My involvement in college further confirmed my interest in caring for underserved populations. For the next two years at WesternU, I am committed to volunteering and demonstrating community commitment to improve the health and well-being of our medically underserved neighbors.

After graduation, I plan to serve in the military or U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and pursue a career in health care to further assist people in underrepresented areas. Growing up in a family that moved around a lot, I find the excitement of traveling as a military-trained PA and the ability to switch specialties with ease the perfect fit for me. My commitment to serving the country that shaped me, my unique perspective as an immigrant, and my dedication to lifelong learning will allow me to provide my future patients with the high-quality and compassionate patient-centered care that they deserve.

Once again, thank you for supporting the students of WesternU. This scholarship will contribute significantly to my tuition and allow me to focus more on my studies.

Hye "Hanna" Chu
MSPA Class of 2024

Learn More About
Hye “Hanna” Chu, MSPA 2024
Trustee Scholarship Recipient



Hometown:	Torrance, CA
Undergrad:	UCLA
Degrees:	Linguistics and Psychology
Hobbies/Interests:	Hiking and volunteering
Previous Career/Job:	Patient Care Assistant/Medical Assistant

What is your proudest accomplishment? At El Camino College, I initiated a Policy and Advocacy Meeting to propose the Shower Access Bill (AB 1995), which allows any student enrolled in a California community college to shower in the facility's locker rooms. I attended the Student Senate for California Community General Assembly to advocate for and present this bill which led to it being passed in both houses and signed by Governor Brown in 2015.

What inspired you to pursue your health sciences career path? PAs are responsible for treating patients of all ages, which while incredibly rewarding, can undoubtedly be a stressful position. With flexibility in choosing specialties, I find that I can combat stress and burnout associated with work in health care while cultivating my passion for medicine.

Why did you choose to attend WesternU? I decided to come to WesternU because of the interprofessional education (IPE) among nine distinct health professional programs that will foster the value of collaborative patient-centered care as a PA graduate. The location was another drawing point because it is close enough to home.

What are your future career plans/goals? I plan to join the military or U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps as a PA to further assist people in underrepresented areas. My commitment to serving the country that shaped me, my unique perspective as an immigrant, and my dedication to lifelong learning will allow me to provide my future patients with high-quality care.

How will the Trustee Scholarship impact you? This scholarship will help deter the costs and financial burdens associated with my educational pursuits as I continue to engage in ways to help dismantle health disparities for economically disadvantaged students like myself.

What impact are you hoping to make on the community you serve? I hope to advocate for good policy decisions and improve the lives of patients by reducing health disparities. Beyond donating my skills and services as a PA, I hope to provide scholarship opportunities for students to learn about current issues facing the PA profession through the AAPA summit. I am dedicated to addressing social and racial inequalities and increasing access to mental health services to be a voice for social justice.