

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

Chancellor's Scholarship Program

Rules and Eligibility Requirements

**UAMS College of Nursing
Scholarship**

Effective Date: _____

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Purpose of the Program

The UAMS Chancellor's Scholarship Program ("Program") is a merit-based scholarship initiative intended to:

- Recruit and retain exceptional nursing and advanced practice nursing students;
- Strengthen the nursing workforce of the State of Arkansas; and
- Encourage professional nursing practice within Arkansas following completion of nursing or advanced practice nursing education.

Scholarship funds are awarded as forgivable educational loans, which convert to full scholarship grants upon completion of qualifying post-training nursing service in Arkansas, as documented in the accompanying Forgivable Loan Agreement and Promissory Note ("Loan Agreement").

Administration

The Program is administered by UAMS, acting through the Office of the Chancellor, the Dean of the College of Nursing, and such other committees and offices as UAMS may designate.

UAMS retains sole authority to interpret these Rules; determine eligibility and compliance; approve service arrangements, deferrals, and waivers; and enforce the Loan Agreement. All administrative determinations under these Rules are final.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the Program, an applicant must:

1. Be admitted to the UAMS College of Nursing;
2. Be an Arkansas resident at the time of matriculation (undergraduate residency outside Arkansas is permitted);
3. Be selected on merit by the UAMS College of Nursing Scholarship Committee (or its successor);
4. Execute the required Loan Agreement and Promissory Note prior to receipt of funds; and
5. Remain in good academic standing while enrolled.

Scholarship Award Structure

Annual Award

Scholarships are awarded on an annual basis. The maximum award period is three (3) academic years, corresponding to a maximum three-year post-training service obligation.

Disbursement

Disbursement mechanics (timing, payee, and application to tuition/fees) are administered by UAMS consistent with institutional practice and the Loan Agreement.

Continued Participation

Continued participation is contingent upon satisfactory academic progress and good standing, continued eligibility under these Rules, and availability of Program funds. UAMS reserves the right to adjust award amounts prospectively.

Renewal and Continued Eligibility Standards

Continued receipt of scholarship funding in Year 2-3 is conditioned on maintaining satisfactory academic progress and good standing, including:

- On-time promotion each academic year;
- Meeting the academic standards applicable to all UAMS College of Nursing students; and
- Meeting the professionalism standards applicable to all UAMS College of Nursing students.

UAMS may decline renewal for failure to satisfy these requirements.

Service Obligation Overview

General Requirement

For each academic year of scholarship assistance disbursed to a recipient, the recipient incurs a one (1) year obligation to engage in qualifying nursing practice in the State of Arkansas. The total required service obligation shall not exceed three (3) years.

Timing of Service Obligation

The service obligation begins after completion of nursing education. The recipient shall commence qualifying Arkansas nursing practice as soon as reasonably practicable following completion of training and in any event no later than six (6) months after completion of training, unless UAMS College of Nursing approves a different start date in writing.

Qualifying Arkansas Nursing Practice

Qualifying service must meet all of the following criteria:

- The recipient is licensed to practice nursing or advanced practice nursing in Arkansas;
- The recipient practices nursing or advanced practice nursing physically within the State of Arkansas; and

- Practice may occur in any specialty and in any clinical setting (academic, hospital-employed, private practice, FQHC, VA facilities, etc. located in Arkansas).

For purposes of Program messaging and compliance, the requirement to "live and practice" in Arkansas is satisfied if the recipient (a) maintains an Arkansas license and (b) engages in qualifying nursing practice physically located in Arkansas. UAMS may require reasonable documentation of Arkansas practice location(s) and primary professional address.

Full-Time and Part-Time Service

Full-Time Service

Full-time service generally means 1.0 FTE clinical practice, as defined by the employing entity. One year of full-time service satisfies one year of obligation.

Part-Time Service and Equity Considerations

Part-time service may be permitted in special circumstances only with written approval by the Dean of the UAMS College of Nursing (or designee). Service credit shall be applied on a pro-rata basis (e.g., 0.5 FTE = 0.5 year credit), and the service obligation shall be extended accordingly.

Any recipient approved for part-time service must complete the full two (2) to three (3) years of service credit within four (4) to six (6) years following completion of nursing or advanced practice nursing education, unless UAMS approves an extension in writing based on exigent circumstances.

Leave and Interruptions in Service

Reasonable interruptions in service do not constitute a breach, including parental leave, medical leave, military service, CNE, jury duty, and other approved absences. Such absences and interruptions must be reported to the UAMS College of Nursing for prior approval.

Failure to Complete Nursing Education

Withdrawal or Dismissal Prior to Degree Completion

If a participant fails to complete the Bachelor of Nursing or Advanced Practice Nursing degree at the UAMS College of Nursing for any reason other than an approved temporary leave of absence (including voluntary withdrawal or academic dismissal):

- The participant becomes ineligible for continued participation in the Program;
- No service-based forgiveness is available; and
- All disbursed scholarship funds are governed exclusively by the repayment and default provisions of the Loan Agreement.

Approved Leave of Absence

An approved leave of absence does not constitute failure to complete nursing education, provided the participant returns and completes degree requirements within the approved timeframe.

No Partial Forgiveness

No forgiveness or service credit is granted based on partial enrollment, coursework completion, or time spent in nursing education absent completion of qualifying post-training service.

Service Verification and Reporting

Recipients must submit annual service verification in the form required by UAMS, including employer certification and recipient attestation. Failure to timely verify service may result in suspension of service credit and may constitute a default if not cured within the timeframe specified by UAMS.

Default and Consequences

Failure to comply with the Loan Agreement or these Rules may result in loss of forgiveness eligibility, acceleration of repayment obligations, and collection of principal, interest, and permitted costs. The Program does not impose nursing or advanced practice nursing license suspension or reporting to licensing boards.

Deferrals, Modifications, and Waivers

Recipients may request written approval for temporary deferrals, modified service arrangements, or hardship-based waivers. All approvals are discretionary and must be in writing from the Dean of the UAMS College of Nursing.

Tracking and Reporting

Recipients agree to maintain current contact information and cooperate with UAMS tracking and reporting requirements during the obligation period.

Amendments

UAMS may amend these Rules prospectively. Material amendments shall not impair accrued obligations without recipient consent.

No Contractual Rights Created

These Rules do not, standing alone, create contractual rights. Binding obligations arise solely under the executed Loan Agreement and Promissory Note.

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