

BCRS Scholarship Programs for Nurses



Nurse practitioner students can reduce their educational debt through the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Program (SP) or the Nursing Scholarship Program (NSP). Administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, these scholarship programs support nurse practitioner students committed to working in communities with limited access to care. Students can apply to one program—or both—but may only accept a scholarship from one.

What are the similarities and differences between the programs? Take a look.

	NHSC Scholarship Program	Nursing Scholarship Program
<p>Program Description</p> <p>Both the NHSC SP and the NSP award scholarships to nurse practitioner students in return for a commitment to provide health care in a community with limited access to care upon graduation and completion of training. But where you serve varies.</p>	<p>Minimum of two years of full-time service at an NHSC-approved site in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) of greatest need (areas of greatest need are determined annually). The total number of years of service that scholars fulfill will depend on the number of years of scholarship support that was received.</p> <p>Site types may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) ▪ FQHC Look-Alike ▪ Rural Health Clinic ▪ Hospital-affiliated Primary Care Out Patient Clinic ▪ Indian Health Service, Tribal Clinic, and Urban Indian Health Clinic ▪ State or Federal Correctional Facility ▪ Private Practice (Solo/Group) ▪ Other Health Facilities 	<p>Minimum two-year service commitment (or part-time equivalent) at an eligible health care facility with a critical shortage of nurses, in a primary care or mental health federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area.</p> <p>Site types may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ambulatory Surgical Center ▪ Critical Access Hospital ▪ Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) ▪ Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and FQHC "Look-Alikes" ▪ Home Health Agency ▪ Hospice Program ▪ Indian Health Service Health Centers ▪ Native Hawaiian Health Center ▪ Nonprofit, Non-Disproportionate Share Hospital ▪ Nursing Home ▪ Public Hospital ▪ Rural Health Clinic ▪ Skilled Nursing Facility ▪ State or Local Public Health or Human Services Department

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Nursing Scholarship Program Comparison

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	NHSC Scholarship Program	Nursing Scholarship Program
Financial Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuition and fees • An annual payment for other reasonable costs to cover expenses for books, clinical supplies, and instruments • A monthly stipend to cover living expenses • Only the monthly stipend is taxed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuition and fees • An annual payment for other reasonable costs to cover expenses for books, clinical supplies, and instruments • A monthly stipend to cover living expenses • The full scholarship award is taxable
<p>Program Eligibility Requirements and Funding Preferences</p> <p>Both scholarship programs accept applications from nurse practitioner students. The NHSC SP also accepts applications from other health profession students. The eligibility requirements and funding preferences vary by program.</p>	<p>Applicants must be accepted or enrolled as a full-time student in a degree program at a U.S.-accredited school in one of the following primary care disciplines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurse practitioner • Medicine (MD or DO) • Dentistry (DDS or DMD) • Certified nurse-midwife • Physician assistant <p>If there are more qualified applicants than available funding, the NHSC SP will prioritize new applicants based upon those who have an Exceptional Financial Need status and/or are from a disadvantaged background and are dedicated to continuing to serve communities of need after their commitment to the NHSC is complete.</p>	<p>Applicants must be accepted or enrolled as a full or part-time student in a U.S.-accredited nursing degree program.</p> <p>The NSP reserves up to half of its funding for nurse practitioner students.</p> <p>If there are more qualified applicants than available funding, NSP will prioritize applications based upon the level of financial need of the applicant. Applicants with an Expected Family Contribution of between \$0 and \$5,550 will be considered as having the greatest financial need. Among qualified applicants with the greatest financial need, funding preference will be given to full-time students.</p>
Program Web sites	www.nhsc.hrsa.gov/scholarships/index.html	www.hrsa.gov/loanscholarships/scholarships/Nursing/index.html

For questions about the Nursing Scholarship Program and NHSC Scholarship Program, contact the Customer Care Center at 1-800-221-9393 or GetHelp@hrsa.gov.