

TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES  
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CHAPTER XIX: ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

PART 2749  
NURSING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

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AUTHORITY: Implementing and authorized by the Nursing Education Scholarship Law [110 ILCS 975].

SOURCE: Recodified from 77 Ill. Adm. Code 597 (Department of Public Health) pursuant to P.A. 102-699, at 47 Ill. Reg. 7031.

#### SUBPART A: GENERAL PROVISIONS

##### **Section 2749.10 Definitions**

*"Academic year" means the period of time from September 1 of one year through August 31 of the next year or as otherwise defined by the academic institution. (Section 3(6) of the Law)*

*"Accepted for admission" means a student has completed the requirements for entry into an associate degree in nursing program, associate degree in applied sciences in nursing program, hospital-based diploma in nursing program, baccalaureate degree in nursing program, graduate degree in nursing program, or certificate in practical nursing program at an approved institution, as documented by the institution. (Section 3(10) of the Law)*

*"Advanced practice registered nurse" or "APRN" means a person who has met the qualifications for a certified nurse midwife (CNM), certified nurse practitioner (CNP); certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA); or clinical nurse specialist (CNS) and has been licensed by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. (Section 50-10 of the Nurse Practice Act [225 ILCS 65])*

*"Approved institution" means a public community college, private junior college, hospital-based diploma in nursing program, or public or private college or university, or online institution, with a pre-licensure nursing education program that is physically located in this State that has approval by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation for an associate degree in nursing program, associate degree in applied sciences in nursing program, hospital-based diploma in nursing program, baccalaureate degree in nursing program, graduate degree in nursing program, or certificate in a practical nursing program or a post-licensure nursing education program approved by the Illinois*

*Board of Higher Education or any successor agency with similar authority.*  
(Section 3(3) of the Law)

*"Associate degree in nursing program" or "hospital-based diploma in nursing program" means a program offered by an approved institution and leading to an associate degree in nursing, associate degree in applied sciences in nursing, or hospital-based diploma in nursing.* (Section 3(7) of the Law)

*"Baccalaureate degree in nursing program" means a program offered by an approved institution and leading to a bachelor of science degree in nursing.*  
(Section 3(4) of the Law)

"Business day" means any day, including Monday through Friday. It does not include a federal or State government declared holiday, Saturday or Sunday.

"Calendar day" means all days in a month or prescribed time frame. It includes weekends and federal or State government declared holidays.

"Certificate of Naturalization" means a document issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that demonstrates the person named in the certificate has obtained U.S. citizenship through naturalization.

"Class rank" is the measure of how a student's performance compares to other students in the same class.

"Continuous attendance" means enrollment in an approved institution's nursing program (as a full-time or part-time student), for an entire academic year and for the total duration of time it takes the student to complete the nursing degree or certificate up to the maximum number of years the recipient is eligible to receive the scholarship. Continuous attendance need not be maintained for the summer term. Continuous attendance shall be deemed to have been broken if the student goes more than one semester, quarter or trimester without successfully completing a nursing-related course.

"Default" means failure to meet the legal obligations or conditions of the scholarship. Default occurs when the recipient:

voluntarily withdraws from school;

is dismissed from school due to academic failure (as defined by the school);

does not maintain the Continuous Attendance requirement (see Sections 597.10, 597.235, or 597.240);

fails to become licensed in Illinois as a Practical Nurse, Registered Professional Nurse, or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (as applicable); or

fails to fulfill the nursing employment obligation or nurse educator employment obligation.

"Deferment" means the temporary delay or postponement of a recipient's continuous attendance requirement, nursing employment obligation, or nurse educator employment obligation.

*"Department" means the Illinois Department of Public Health. (Section 3(2) of the Law)*

"Direct patient care" means care of a patient provided by an advanced practice registered nurse, a registered nurse, or a licensed practical nurse. Direct patient care may involve any aspect of the health care of a patient, including treatment, counseling, in-service for self-care, education, and administration of medication.

*"Director" means the Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health. (Section 3(9) of the Law)*

*"Educational loan" means any loan guaranteed by the State Scholarship Commission under the Higher Education Student Assistance Law, any education loan made by an institution of higher education from the proceeds of a loan to the institution by the Illinois Finance Authority under the Higher Education Loan Act, or any other loan from public funds made for the purpose of financing an individual's attendance at an institution of higher education. (Section 1(a) of the Educational Loan Default Act [5 ILCS 385])*

*"Enrollment" means the establishment and maintenance of an individual's status as a nursing student in an approved institution, regardless of the terms used at the institution to describe such status. (Section 3(5) of the Law)*

"Expected Family Contribution" or "EFC" is an estimate of the student's (for a dependent student, their parent's or guardian's) ability to pay the costs of a year of post-secondary education. The EFC is also used to determine a student's eligibility for need-based federal student aid. The EFC is included on the Student Aid Report and Institutional Student Information Record, which are sent after a student files a Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

*"Fees" means those mandatory charges, in addition to tuition, that all students enrolled in a nursing program must pay, including required course or lab fees. (Section 3(11) of the Law)*

"Free Application for Federal Student Aid" or "FAFSA" means an application that helps students to determine eligibility for financial aid. Information on FAFSA can be obtained at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

"Full-time nursing employment" means providing direct patient care of at least 24 hours per week for those persons working weekend shifts, or 35 hours or more per week for those working weekday shifts.

*"Full-time nursing student" means a student who is enrolled in a nursing program for at least 12 credit hours per term or as otherwise determined as full-time by the academic institution. (Section 3(12) of the Law)*

"General Education Development" or "GED" means tests which, when passed, provide certification that an individual has U.S. high school-level academic skills.

"GED Passing Score" means an individual earned a score that demonstrated skills equivalent to high school graduates. Individuals who earn a GED passing score are eligible to earn a high school equivalency credential.

"Grade point average" or "GPA" means a measure of a student's academic achievement, calculated by dividing the total number of grade points received by the total number of grade points attempted.

*"Graduate degree in nursing program" means a program offered by an approved institution and leading to a master of science degree in nursing or a doctorate of philosophy in nursing, doctorate of nursing, doctorate of nursing practice, doctorate of nursing science, doctorate of nursing education, or doctorate of nurse anesthesia practice. (Section 3(8) of the Law)*

"Grant Agreement" means the written instrument defining a legal relationship entered into between the Department and a grantee.

"Grantee" means a person which may use scholarship funds from this program.

"Health care facility" means a facility in Illinois where a scholarship recipient fulfills the recipient's nursing employment obligation and includes, but is not limited to, a health care professional's office, hospital or local health department.

"Illinois Nursing Workforce Center Advisory Board" shall have the meaning ascribed in the Nurse Practice Act. (Section 75-15 of the Nurse Practice Act)

"Illinois resident" means a person who has been *a resident of Illinois for at least one year prior to applying for a scholarship and is a citizen or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States.* (Section 5(1) of the Law)

"Law" means the *Nursing Education Scholarship Law* [110 ILCS 975]. (Section 3(13) of the Law)

"Lawful permanent resident alien" means a person who is not a citizen of the United States but who resides in the United States under legally recognized requirements and has lawfully recorded permanent residence as an immigrant.

"Licensed practical nurse" means *a person who is currently licensed as a licensed practical nurse by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation under the Nurse Practice Act.* (Section 3(18) of the Law)

"Living expenses" means room and board, miscellaneous fees, books, transportation and commuting costs. This amount is adjusted annually based upon the *uniform living allowance reported in the weighted Monetary Award Program (MAP)* from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. (Section 7 of the Law)

"Mean-Weighted Average Tuition and Fees" means the tuition and mandatory fees used for the Illinois public universities and community colleges by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission for purposes of Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants.

"Monetary Award Program" or "MAP" means a grant awarded by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) that provides payment toward tuition and mandatory fees for Illinois residents to attend an Illinois college.

"Naturalization" means the process in which a person not born in the United States voluntarily becomes a U.S. citizen.

"Null and void" means that a scholarship application submitted to the Department has no legal force and is invalid.

*"Nurse educator" means a person who is currently licensed as a registered nurse by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation under the Nurse Practice Act, who has a graduate degree in nursing, and who is employed by an approved academic institution to educate registered nursing students, licensed practical nursing students, and registered nurses pursuing graduate degrees. (Section 3(23) of the Law)*

"Nurse educator employment" means employment by an approved academic institution in Illinois to educate nursing students.

*"Nurse educator employment obligation" means employment in this State as a nurse educator for at least two years for each year of scholarship assistance received under Section 6.5 of the Law. (Section 3(24) of the Law)*

*"Nursing employment obligation" means employment in this State as a registered professional nurse, licensed practical nurse, or advanced practice nurse in direct patient care for at least one year for each year of scholarship assistance received through the Nursing Education Scholarship Program. (Section 3(14) of the Law)*

"Official transcript" means transcripts that have been received directly from the institution (either through the mail or electronically) or have been issued to the applicant or recipient in a sealed envelope, which shall remain sealed until its arrival at the Department. The transcript shall include the institution's official seal, the date transcript was issued and the registrar's signature.

"Part-time nursing employment" means providing direct patient care for between 17.5 hours and 34 hours per week.

*"Part-time student" means a person who is enrolled for at least one-third of the number of hours required per term by a school for its full-time students. (Section 3(15) of the Law)*

"Permanent resident card" or "Green card" means the holder of this card has been granted authorization from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to live and work in the United States on a permanent basis.

*"Practical Nursing Program" means a program offered by an approved institution and leading to a certificate in practical nursing. (Section 3(16) of the Law)*

"Prerequisite course" means a course requirement (determined by the approved institution) that a student must meet to demonstrate readiness for enrollment in nursing education.

"Quarter" means a term within an academic year that marks the beginning and end of classes. Quarters are eight to ten weeks in duration and there are four quarters in an academic year.

*"Registered professional nurse" means a person who is currently licensed as a registered professional nurse by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation under the Nurse Practice Act. (Section 3(17) of the Law)*

"Renewal" or "Scholarship renewal" means a continuation of a past scholarship in reference to the same degree or certificate sought. Renewal does not apply to a prior scholarship recipient who wishes to pursue a higher nursing degree after receiving assistance on a previous nursing degree or certificate.

*"School term" means an academic term, such as a semester, quarter, or trimester, or number of clock hours, as defined by an approved institution. (Section 3(19) of the Law)*

"Semester" means a term within an academic year that marks the beginning and end of classes. Semesters are 15 to 16 weeks in duration and there are two semesters in an academic year.

"Student Aid Report" or "SAR" is a summary of the student's FAFSA responses and includes the student's Expected Family Contribution.



*"Student in good standing" means a student enrolled in a nursing program is maintaining a cumulative grade point average equivalent to at least an academic grade of "C". (Section 3(20) of the Law)*

"Submission of application" means a nursing education scholarship application has been received by the Department by the established deadline set forth in Section 597.110(b). Submission does not mean that the application is postmarked by the established submission deadline but arrives at the Department on a later date.

"Summer term" means a term within an academic year that marks the beginning and end of classes. The term is approximately four to nine weeks in duration and is typically offered during June, July and August of an academic year.

"Toll" or "Tolling" means to postpone or suspend the running of a specific time period.

*"Total and permanent disability" means a physical or mental impairment, disease, or loss of a permanent nature that prevents nursing employment with or without reasonable accommodation. Proof of disability shall be a declaration from the social security administration, Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission, Department of Defense, or an insurer authorized to transact business in Illinois who is providing disability insurance coverage to a contractor. (Section 3(21) of the Law)*

"Trimester" means a term within an academic year that marks the beginning and end of classes. Trimesters are 12 to 15 weeks in duration and there are three trimesters in an academic year.

*"Tuition" means the established charges of an institution of higher learning for instruction at that institution. (Section 3(22) of the Law)*

"United States citizen" means an individual born in the United States; Puerto Rico (on or after April 11, 1899); the Canal Zone or the Republic of Panama (on or after February 26, 1904); the Virgin Islands (on or after January 17, 1917); Guam (after April 11, 1899); or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (on or after November 4, 1986); foreign-born children, under age 18, residing in the U.S. with their birth or adoptive parents, at least one of whom is a U.S. citizen by birth or naturalization; and individuals granted citizenship status by the U.S.

Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Immigration Service. (See <https://www.uscis.gov/policy-manual/volume-12-part-a-chapter-2#footnote-6>)

"Waiver" means to permanently relieve a recipient's continuous attendance requirement, nursing employment obligation, or nurse educator employment obligation.

(Source: Recodified from 77 Ill. Adm. Code 597.10 (Department of Public Health) pursuant to P.A. 102-699, at 47 Ill. Reg. 7031)

### **Section 2749.20 Referenced Materials**

The following materials are referenced in this Part:

- a) Illinois statutes:
  - 1) Nursing Education Scholarship Law [110 ILCS 975]
  - 2) Nurse Practice Act [225 ILCS 65]
  - 3) Board of Higher Education Act [110 ILCS 205]
  - 4) Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law [20 ILCS 2310/2310-200]
  - 5) State Comptroller Act [15 ILCS 405]
  - 6) Educational Loan Default Act [5 ILCS 385]
  - 7) Higher Education Loan Act [110 ILCS 945]
- b) Illinois Administrative Rules:
  - 1) Nursing and Advanced Practice Nursing Act – Advanced Practice Nurse (68 Ill. Adm. Code 1305)
  - 2) Practice and Procedure in Administrative Hearings (77 Ill. Adm. Code 100)

(Source: Recodified from 77 Ill. Adm. Code 597.20 (Department of Public Health) pursuant to P.A. 102-699, at 47 Ill. Reg. 7031)

### **Section 2749.30 Administrative Hearings**

Administrative hearings conducted concerning the provisions of this Part shall be governed by the Department's Practice and Procedure in Administrative Hearings.

(Source: Recodified from 77 Ill. Adm. Code 597.30 (Department of Public Health) pursuant to P.A. 102-699, at 47 Ill. Reg. 7031)

## **SUBPART B: ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION**

### **Section 2749.100 Eligibility**

- a) To qualify for consideration, an applicant shall meet the eligibility criteria outlined in Section 5 or 6.5 of the Law showing that the applicant:
  - 1) For Nursing Scholarships
    - A) *Has been a resident of this State for at least one year prior to application, and is a citizen or a lawful permanent resident alien of the United States* (Section 5(1) of the Law); and
    - B) *Is enrolled in or accepted for admission to an Illinois school in an associate degree in nursing program, hospital-based diploma in nursing program, baccalaureate degree in nursing program, graduate degree in nursing program or certificate in practical nursing program at an approved institution* (Section 5(2) of the Law); and
    - C) *Agrees to meet the nursing employment obligation* (Section 5(3) of the Law);
  - 2) For Nurse Educator Scholarships
    - A) *Has been a resident of this State for at least one year prior to application and is a citizen or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States* (Section 6.5(a)(1) of the Law); and

- B) *Is enrolled in or accepted for admission to a graduate degree in nursing program at an approved institution (Section 6.5(a)(2) of the Law); and*
  - C) *Agrees to meet the nurse educator employment obligation (Section 6.5(a)(3) of the Law).*
- b) An individual is ineligible to receive the scholarship if the individual:
- 1) Cannot meet the eligibility requirements in subsections (a)(1) or (a)(2);
  - 2) Pursues nursing education at a school that is not an approved institution in Illinois;
  - 3) Defaulted on an educational loan;
  - 4) Previously received a scholarship under this Part and was granted a waiver of the continuous attendance requirement (see Section 597.240) or a waiver of the nursing employment obligation or nurse educator employment obligation (see Section 597.335); or
  - 5) Receives monies from other scholarship or loan funds requiring service commitments that would prevent the applicant from meeting the nursing employment obligation or nurse educator employment requirements of this Part.

(Source: Recodified from 77 Ill. Adm. Code 597.100 (Department of Public Health) pursuant to P.A. 102-699, at 47 Ill. Reg. 7031)

#### **Section 2749.105 Notification**

- a) Notification of the opportunity to apply for the scholarship is available at the Department's website (<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/life-stages-populations/rural-underserved-populations/nursing-education-scholarship-program>).
- b) Notification to prospective students and the public shall be considered to have been provided by publication of this notice.

(Source: Recodified from 77 Ill. Adm. Code 597.105 (Department of Public Health) pursuant to P.A. 102-699, at 47 Ill. Reg. 7031)

**Section 2749.110 Application**

- a) Individuals can apply for the scholarship at:  
<https://idph.illinois.gov/nepmis/tblApplicationInformation/Show-TblApplicationInformation.aspx?TblApplicationInformation=3PFT7naGpupBtZ9GdAquFw%3d%3d>.
- b) The Department will accept applications March 1 through April 30 of each year. Applications received after April 30 will not be considered.
- c) In addition to the application, applicants shall submit the following documents to the Department:
  - 1) A copy of the applicant's acceptance letter to an approved institution's nursing program in Illinois. This letter is not required if the applicant's official transcripts demonstrate the applicant is taking nursing courses at an approved institution in Illinois;
  - 2) A copy of the applicant's Illinois driver's license or State-issued identification card documenting that the applicant has been an Illinois resident at least one year prior to applying for the scholarship;
  - 3) A copy of the applicant's: birth certificate, U.S. passport, Certificate of Naturalization, or permanent resident card;
  - 4) A copy of the applicant's SAR;
  - 5) The applicant's official transcripts. If the applicant has a GED, the applicant shall furnish the GED certificate and GED passing score. Applicants who furnish a GED certificate will have their GED passing score converted to a GPA. The Department will use the following methodology to calculate the GPA: divide the GED passing score by the number of sections taken on the GED test to obtain an average, divide the average by the highest possible score available on the GED test to obtain a percentage, then multiply the percentage by the 4.0 grading scale;
  - 6) A copy of any previously earned nursing degree;

- 7) A copy of the applicant's Illinois nursing license (if applicable); and
  - 8) A statement that the applicant has not defaulted on an educational loan.
- d) When received, the Department will determine if the application is complete. A review will determine whether all applicable requirements have been addressed and whether all required materials and documentation have been submitted.
- 1) If the application is complete, the applicant will be considered for a scholarship (see Section 597.220).
  - 2) If the application is incomplete, the Department will notify the applicant in writing. The applicant will have until May 31 to submit requested information or materials. If the applicant does not, within the time prescribed by the Department, provide all requested materials and information, the application will be null and void.
- e) *Each person applying for a scholarship shall be provided with a copy of Section 6 or 6.5(e) of the Law at the time of application.* (Sections 6 and 6.5(e) of the Law)

(Source: Recodified from 77 Ill. Adm. Code 597.110 (Department of Public Health) pursuant to P.A. 102-699, at 47 Ill. Reg. 7031)

#### **Section 2749.115 Scholarship Renewal (Repealed)**

(Source: Recodified from 77 Ill. Adm. Code 597.115 (Department of Public Health) pursuant to P.A. 102-699, at 47 Ill. Reg. 7031)

### SUBPART C: AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIPS

#### **Section 2749.200 Scholarship Description**

- a) Scholarships shall be awarded to recipients at approved institutions in Illinois for the following time frames:
  - 1) A student in good standing pursuing *an associate degree in nursing* may receive a scholarship for *up to 2 academic years*. (Section 5 of the Law)
  - 2) A student in good standing pursuing *a hospital-based diploma in nursing*

- may receive a scholarship for *up to 3 academic years*. (Section 5 of the Law)
- 3) A student in good standing pursuing a *baccalaureate degree in nursing* may receive a scholarship for *up to 4 academic years*. (Section 5 of the Law)
  - 4) A student in good standing pursuing a *graduate degree in nursing* may receive a scholarship for *up to 5 academic years*. (Section 5 of the Law)
  - 5) A student in good standing pursuing a *certificate in practical nursing* may receive a scholarship for *up to one academic year*. (Section 5 of the Law)
  - 6) A student in good standing pursuing a *graduate degree in nursing* to become a nurse educator may receive a scholarship for *up to 3 academic years*. (Section 6.5(c) of the Law)
- b) Awards for students at approved private institutions shall not exceed the tuition and fee charges at *community colleges and universities statewide and the uniform living allowance reported in the weighted MAP budget* for the academic year in which the scholarship is made. (Section 7 of the Law)
  - c) *Part-time awards shall be determined by applying the proportion represented by the part-time enrollment to full-time enrollment ratio to the average per term scholarship amount for a student in the same nursing degree category*. (Section 7 of the Law)
  - d) *Using information provided annually by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, 75% of the weighted tuition and fees charged by community colleges in Illinois shall be added to the uniform living allowance reported in the weighted Monetary Award Program (MAP) budget to determine the full-time scholarship amount for students pursuing an associate degree in nursing or a hospital-based diploma in nursing at an Illinois community college*. (Section 7 of the Law)
  - e) *Scholarship amounts for students pursuing associate, baccalaureate or graduate degrees in nursing at a college or university shall include 75% of the weighted tuition and fees charged by public universities in Illinois plus the uniform living allowance reported in the weighted MAP budget*. (Section 7 of the Law)
  - f) *Scholarship amounts for students in practical nursing programs shall include*

*75% of the average tuition and fee charges at all practical nursing programs plus the uniform living allowance reported in the weighted MAP budget. (Section 7 of the Law)*

- g) Scholarship funds shall not be used for expenses incurred when the recipient must complete a prerequisite course or courses (as determined by the approved institution).
- h) Scholarship funds shall not be used for expenses incurred when the recipient must repeat an academic course or courses, if the repetition is necessary because the recipient has an academic performance below an acceptable level (as determined by the approved institution).
- i) Under the provisions of the State Comptroller Act [15 ILCS 405/10.05], recipients may have their scholarship funds offset to fulfill a delinquent State debt. The offset of funds shall not reduce, waive, defer or suspend a recipient's continuous attendance requirement, nursing employment obligation, or nurse educator employment obligation under this Part.

(Source: Recodified from 77 Ill. Adm. Code 597.200 (Department of Public Health) pursuant to P.A. 102-699, at 47 Ill. Reg. 7031)

#### **Section 2749.210 Determination of Financial Need**

Financial need will be documented by means of a current Student Aid Report (SAR) supplied by the applicant.

(Source: Recodified from 77 Ill. Adm. Code 597.210 (Department of Public Health) pursuant to P.A. 102-699, at 47 Ill. Reg. 7031)

#### **Section 2749.220 Selection Criteria for Award of Scholarships**

- a) Nursing scholarship recipients will be selected based on the following:
  - 1) Recipients continuing with their nursing education (for the same nursing degree sought) from the previous academic year will receive preference over other applicants;
  - 2) *If in any year the number of qualified applicants exceeds the number of scholarships to be awarded, the Department shall, in consultation with the*



*Illinois Nursing Workforce Center Advisory Board, consider the following factors in granting priority in awarding scholarships:*

- A) *Financial need, as shown on a current SAR, of students who will pursue their education on a full-time or close to full-time basis and who already have a certificate in practical nursing, a diploma in nursing, or an associate degree in nursing and are pursuing a higher degree. (Section 5(3)(A) of the Law)*
  - B) *A student's merit, as shown through the student's grade point average, class rank, and other academic and extracurricular activities (Section 5(3)(C) of the Law), including, but not limited to:*
    - i) A cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale; or
    - ii) Class rank in the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher.
  - C) In the event of a tie, applicants having the fewest number of credit hours remaining to complete the certificate, diploma or degree will be awarded scholarships.
- b) Nurse educator scholarship recipients will be selected based on the following:
- 1) Recipients continuing with their nursing education (for the same nursing degree sought) from the previous academic year will receive preference over other applicants;
  - 2) *If in any year the number of qualified applicants exceeds the number of scholarships to be awarded, the Department shall, in consultation with the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center Advisory Board, consider the following factors in granting priority in awarding scholarships:*
    - A) *Financial need, as shown on a current SAR, of students who will pursue their education on a full-time or close to full-time basis and who already have a baccalaureate degree in nursing and are pursuing a higher degree. (Section 6.5(b)(1) of the Law)*
    - B) *A student's status as a registered nurse who is pursuing a graduate degree in nursing to pursue employment in an approved institution*

*that educates licensed practical nurses and that educates registered nurses in undergraduate and graduate nursing programs. (Section 6.5(b)(2) of the Law)*

- C) *A student's merit, as shown through the student's grade point average, class rank, experience as a nurse, including supervisory experience, experience as a nurse in the United States military, and other academic and extracurricular activities (Section 6.5(b)(3) of the Law), including, but not limited to:*
    - i) A cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale; or
    - ii) Class rank in the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher.
  - D) In the event of a tie, applicants having the fewest number of credit hours remaining to complete the degree will be awarded scholarships.
- c) Scholarship awards shall be distributed as follows:
- 1) *At least 40% of the scholarships awarded shall be for recipients who are pursuing baccalaureate degrees in nursing;*
  - 2) *At least 30% of the scholarships awarded shall be for recipients who are pursuing associate degrees in nursing or a hospital-based diploma in nursing;*
  - 3) *At least 20% of the scholarships awarded shall be for recipients who are pursuing a graduate degree in nursing; and*
  - 4) *At least 10% of the scholarships awarded shall be for recipients who are pursuing a certificate in practical nursing. (Section 5 of the Law)*

(Source: Recodified from 77 Ill. Adm. Code 597.220 (Department of Public Health) pursuant to P.A. 102-699, at 47 Ill. Reg. 7031)

### **Section 2749.230 Student Enrollment and Institutions' Obligations**

- a) An approved institution may accept a student into its nursing education program based on its own admission requirements, standards and policies. (Section 9(a) of the Law)
- b) The Department shall disburse available scholarship funds for tuition and fees to the approved institution directly for the payment of tuition and other necessary fees or for credit against the student's obligation for tuition and fees. If the Department disburses scholarship funds directly to an approved institution, *the approved institution shall be contractually obligated to provide facilities and instruction to the student on the same terms as to other students.* (Section 9(a) of the Law)
- c) An approved institution shall provide written notice to the Department if any scholarship recipient who is enrolled in the approved institution ceases to be a student in good standing. The notice shall be sent to the Department within ten business days after the institution determines that the student ceases to be in good standing. After the notification is received, the Department will terminate the Grant Agreement and the recipient shall repay all previously awarded scholarship funds (see Section 597.310).

(Source: Recodified from 77 Ill. Adm. Code 597.230 (Department of Public Health) pursuant to P.A. 102-699, at 47 Ill. Reg. 7031)

#### **Section 2749.235 Deferment of Continuous Attendance Requirement**

A request to defer a recipient's continuous attendance requirement shall be submitted in writing to the Department. The request shall detail the reasons for the deferment and be accompanied and supported by the documentation described in this Section. The Department may grant one deferment per recipient.

- a) A deferment will be granted for up to one academic quarter, trimester or semester (except as otherwise allowed by this Section) if the recipient provides documentation of a physical or mental health disability that results in the recipient's temporary inability to fulfill the continuous attendance requirement. Documentation shall include an explanation from a licensed health care professional attesting to the recipient's temporary inability to fulfill the continuous attendance requirement. If the recipient's leave will exceed an academic quarter, trimester or semester, an extension of the deferment will be granted based on documented medical need. In no circumstance, however, would a deferment exceed 12 months.

- b) Recipients who are military reservists and are called to active duty will be granted a deferment beginning on the activation date in the active duty order. The recipient shall submit a copy of the order to active duty with the written request for deferment. The duration of the deferment shall equal the recipient's period of active military duty.
- c) Recipients who receive a deferment shall have their continuous attendance, scholarship assistance and service obligation requirements tolled. The tolling of these requirements shall equal the recipient's period of deferment.
- d) A recipient who does not request a deferment and who does not maintain the continuous attendance requirement shall have his or her scholarship award voided. The recipient shall be required to repay to the Department all scholarship monies received (see Section 597.310).

(Source: Recodified from 77 Ill. Adm. Code 597.235 (Department of Public Health) pursuant to P.A. 102-699, at 47 Ill. Reg. 7031)

#### **Section 2749.240 Waiver of Continuous Attendance Requirement**

A request to waive a recipient's continuous attendance requirement shall be submitted in writing to the Department. The request shall detail the reasons for the waiver and be accompanied and supported by documentation as described in this Section.

- a) Reasons for the waiver can include the recipient's:
  - 1) Total and permanent disability;
  - 2) Incompetency; or
  - 3) Death.
- b) If a waiver is due to total and permanent disability, a formal request from a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician's assistant (who is licensed to practice in the United States) is required. Accompanying this formal request, *proof of disability shall be*:
  - 1) *A declaration from the Social Security Administration;*

- 2) From the *Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission*;
  - 3) From the U.S. *Department of Defense*; or
  - 4) From *an insurer authorized to transact business in Illinois who is providing permanent disability insurance coverage to a contractor.* (Section 3(21) of the Law)
- c) If a waiver is requested because the recipient is incompetent, the request shall be supported by a certified copy of the adjudication from a State or federal court of law. *No claim for repayment may be filed against the estate of an individual deemed incompetent.* (Sections 6 and 6.5(d) of the Law)
- d) If the waiver is requested because of the recipient's death, the request shall be supported by a certified copy of the recipient's death certificate. *No claim for repayment may be filed against the estate of a decedent.* (Sections 6 and 6.5(d) of the Law)

(Source: Recodified from 77 Ill. Adm. Code 597.240 (Department of Public Health) pursuant to P.A. 102-699, at 47 Ill. Reg. 7031)

#### SUBPART D: TERMS OF PERFORMANCE

##### **Section 597.300 Grant Agreement**

- a) Prior to receiving scholarship funding for any academic year, the recipient shall enter into a binding Grant Agreement with the State of Illinois agreeing to the provisions of the Law and this Part.
- b) *The Department may require a recipient to reimburse the State for expenses, including but not limited to legal fees, incurred by the Department or other agent of the State for a successful legal action against the recipient for a breach of any provision of the Grant Agreement* (Section 4 of the Law).
- c) The scholarship award will not be final until the recipient and the Department have executed a Grant Agreement setting forth the terms and conditions of the grant, using the form prescribed by the Department. The Department will withdraw the scholarship award if a consensus cannot be reached on the terms of the Grant Agreement.

(Source: Recodified from 77 Ill. Adm. Code 597.300 (Department of Public Health) pursuant to P.A. 102-699, at 47 Ill. Reg. 7031)

**Section 2749.310 Repayment of Scholarship**

- a) *Any recipient who defaults on the terms of the Grant Agreement shall pay to the Department an amount equal to the amount of scholarship funds received per year for each unfulfilled year of the nursing employment obligation or nurse educator employment obligation, together with interest at 7% per year on the unpaid balance. (Sections 6 and 6.5(d) of the Law)*
- b) A default of the scholarship shall include, but not be limited to:
  - 1) Misstatements in reporting information to the Department;
  - 2) Misrepresentation to the Department for the purpose of obtaining a scholarship;
  - 3) Failure to maintain the continuous attendance requirement;
  - 4) Failure to complete nursing school, voluntary withdrawal from school or dismissal from school due to academic failure (as defined by the school);
  - 5) Failure to become a licensed nurse in Illinois; and
  - 6) Failure to fulfill the nursing employment obligation or nurse educator employment obligation.
- c) *Repayment must begin within 6 months following the date of the default action initiating the repayment. (Sections 6 and 6.5(d) of the Law)*
- d) Recipients in default shall enter into a Contract for Repayment with the Department as soon as the reason for default has been established. The Contract for Repayment shall specify the amount due, the repayment schedule and all other terms of the cash repayment. Interest charges shall be completely waived if the recipient repays the total scholarship amount prior to the first payment due date.
- e) *If a recipient fails to pay monies owed to the Department, the Department may require a recipient to reimburse the State for expenses, legal fees and costs, incurred by the Department or other agent of the State for a successful legal*

*action against the recipient for a breach of any provision of the Grant Agreement and refer the recipient to the Illinois Attorney General or to a collection agency. The total 6-year interest shall be due if the recipient fails to fulfill the repayment requirements and the case is settled through authorized agencies outside the Department. (Section 4 of the Law)*

- f) *All cash repayments must be completed within 6 years from the date of the first annual cash payment. (Sections 6 and 6.5(d) of the Law)*
- g) *The Department may allow a nurse educator employment obligation fulfillment alternative if the nurse educator scholarship recipient is unsuccessful in finding work as a nurse educator. The Department shall maintain a database of all available nurse educator positions in this State. (Section 6.5(d) of the Law) The Department shall utilize the following Internet address to ascertain all available nurse educator positions in Illinois: <http://nursing.illinois.gov/ads.asp>.*

(Source: Recodified from 77 Ill. Adm. Code 597.310 (Department of Public Health) pursuant to P.A. 102-699, at 47 Ill. Reg. 7031)

### **Section 2749.320 Fulfillment of Nursing Employment Obligation or Nurse Educator Employment Obligation**

- a) A recipient must graduate from the nursing program funded and provide a copy of the certificate, diploma or degree that indicates the graduation date as soon as the document is available.
- b) A recipient must be licensed as a registered professional nurse, an advanced practice registered nurse, or a licensed practical nurse in the State of Illinois and must provide a copy of the license as soon as it is available.
- c) Except as provided in Sections 597.330 and 597.335, *within 12 months after graduation from an associate degree in nursing program, hospital-based diploma in nursing program, baccalaureate degree in nursing program, graduate degree in nursing program, or certificate in practical nursing program, any recipient who accepted a scholarship shall begin meeting the required nursing employment obligation. (Section 6 of the Law)*
  - 1) To complete the nursing employment obligation, the recipient must work full time or part time (as applicable) at a medical facility in Illinois providing direct patient care.

- 2) Fulfillment of the nursing employment obligation may be achieved as follows:
  - A) For each full-time semester completed, the obligation is six months of full-time employment or 12 months of part-time employment;
  - B) For each part-time semester completed, the obligation is three months of full-time employment or six months of part-time employment;
  - C) For each full-time quarter or trimester completed, the obligation is four months of full-time employment or eight months of part-time employment;
  - D) For each part-time quarter or trimester completed, the obligation is two months of full-time employment or four months of part-time employment;
  - E) For each full-time summer term completed, the obligation is three months of full-time employment or six months of part-time employment;
  - F) For each part-time summer term completed, the obligation is one and one-half months of full-time employment or three months of part-time employment.
- d) Except as provided in Sections 597.330 and 597.335, *within 12 months after graduation from a graduate degree in nursing program for nurse educators, any recipient who accepted a scholarship shall begin meeting the required nurse educator employment obligation* by teaching nursing students at an approved institution in Illinois. (Section 6.5(d) of the Law)
  - 1) A recipient must graduate from the nursing program funded and provide a copy of the degree that indicates the graduation date as soon as the document is available.
  - 2) To complete the nurse educator employment obligation, the recipient shall be employed full time or part time (as applicable) at an approved institution in Illinois to educate nursing students. The nurse educator



employment obligation is *2 years for each year of scholarship assistance received.* (Section 3(24) of the Law)

- 3) Fulfillment of the nurse educator employment obligation may be achieved as follows:
  - A) For each full-time semester completed, the obligation is 12 months of employment;
  - B) For each part-time semester completed, the obligation is six months of employment;
  - C) For each full-time quarter or trimester completed, the obligation is eight months of employment;
  - D) For each part-time quarter or trimester completed, the obligation is four months of employment;
  - E) For each full-time summer term completed, the obligation is six months of employment;
  - F) For each part-time summer term completed, the obligation is three months of employment.
- e) Forms to document nursing employment or nurse educator employment shall be sent to the recipient following graduation and licensure. Documentation forms will be forwarded periodically until the nursing employment obligation or nurse educator employment obligation is completed, at which time the recipient will be notified and the scholarship record closed.

(Source: Recodified from 77 Ill. Adm. Code 597.320 (Department of Public Health) pursuant to P.A. 102-699, at 47 Ill. Reg. 7031)

### **Section 2749.330 Deferment of Nursing Employment Obligation or Nurse Educator Employment Obligation**

A request to defer the recipient's nursing employment obligation or nurse educator employment obligation shall be submitted in writing to the Department. The request shall detail the reasons for the deferment and shall be accompanied and supported by documentation as described in this Section.

- a) Deferment of the nursing employment obligation may include the recipient:
- 1) Spending *up to four years in military service before or after graduation*. The recipient shall notify the Department *within 30 days* after enlisting in military service. (Section 6 of the Law)
  - 2) Being called to active duty (for recipients who are military reservists) by the armed forces of the United States. The recipient shall submit a copy of the order to active duty with the written request for deferment. The duration of the deferment shall equal the recipient's period of active military duty.
  - 3) Enrolling in *an academic program leading to a higher degree or a graduate degree in nursing*. If the recipient receives funding through the Nursing Education Scholarship Program for a higher degree, the nursing employment obligation shall be deferred until the recipient is no longer enrolled or has graduated. The recipient shall notify the Department *within 30 days* if the recipient is enrolled in an academic program leading to a graduate degree in nursing. (Section 6 of the Law)
  - 4) Failing to fulfill the nursing employment obligation by involuntarily leaving the profession due to a decrease in the number of nurses employed in the State. When requesting a deferral, the recipient shall provide documentation to the Department demonstrating that nursing positions do not exist in the recipient's area. The following website shall be used to provide documentation:  
[https://illinoisjoblink.illinois.gov/ada/r/job\\_seeker](https://illinoisjoblink.illinois.gov/ada/r/job_seeker). If a deferment is granted, it will be *re-evaluated every 6 months*. (Section 6 of the Law)
  - 5) Providing documentation of a physical or mental health disability that results in the recipient's temporary inability to fulfill the obligation. Documentation shall include an explanation from a licensed health care professional attesting to the recipient's temporary inability to fulfill the obligation. This deferment may be granted for up to one year.
  - 6) Requesting up to 12 weeks leave for maternity, paternity or adoption leave. If the recipient's leave will exceed 12 weeks, a deferment may be granted based on documented medical need.

- 7) *The recipient must begin meeting the required nursing employment obligations no later than 6 months after the end of the deferments. (Section 6 of the Law)*
- b) Deferment of the nurse educator employment obligation may include the recipient:
- 1) *Spending up to four years in military service before or after graduation. The recipient shall receive a deferment if he or she notifies the Department, within 30 days after enlisting, that he or she is spending up to 4 years in military service. (Section 6.5(d) of the Law)*
  - 2) Being called to active duty (for recipients who are military reservists) by the armed forces of the United States. The recipient shall submit a copy of the order to active duty with the written request for deferment. The duration of the deferment shall equal the recipient's period of active military duty.
  - 3) *Enrolling in an academic program leading to a graduate degree in nursing. A recipient shall receive a deferment if he or she notifies the Department, within 30 days after enrolling, that he or she is enrolled in an academic program leading to a graduate degree in nursing. (Section 6.5(d) of the Law)*
  - 4) Providing documentation of a physical or mental health disability that results in the recipient's temporary inability to fulfill the recipient nurse educator employment obligation. Documentation shall include an explanation from a licensed health care professional attesting to the recipient's temporary inability to fulfill the nurse educator employment obligation. This deferment may be granted for up to one year.
  - 5) Requesting up to 12 weeks for maternity, paternity or adoption leave. If the recipient's leave will exceed 12 weeks, a deferment may be granted based on documented medical need.
  - 6) *The nurse educator employment obligation may be deferred and re-evaluated every 6 months when the failure to fulfill the nurse educator employment obligation results from involuntarily leaving the profession due to a decrease in the number of nurses employed in this State. (Section 6.5(d) of the Law)* When requesting this deferral, the recipient shall

provide documentation to the Department that nurse educator positions do not exist in the recipients' area. The following website will be used to provide documentation: <http://nursing.illinois.gov/ads.asp>.

- 7) *The Department may allow a nurse educator employment obligation fulfillment alternative if the nurse educator scholarship recipient is unsuccessful in finding work as a nurse educator. (Section 6.5(d) of the Law) Prior to the Department approving an alternative to the nurse educator employment obligation, the recipient shall provide documentation that nurse educator positions do not exist in the recipient area. The following website will be used to provide documentation: <http://nursing.illinois.gov/ads.asp>. If the recipient demonstrates that no nurse educator positions exists, the Department will allow the recipient to fulfill the service obligation by working as a nurse in a medical facility in Illinois providing direct patient care.*
- 8) *The recipient must begin meeting the required nurse educator employment obligation no later than 6 months after the end of the deferment or deferments. (Section 6.5(d) of the Law)*
- c) Recipients who receive a deferment shall have their nursing employment obligation or nurse educator employment obligation tolled. The tolling of these requirements shall equal the recipient's period of deferment.

(Source: Recodified from 77 Ill. Adm. Code 597.330 (Department of Public Health) pursuant to P.A. 102-699, at 47 Ill. Reg. 7031)

### **Section 2749.335 Waiver of Nursing Employment Obligation or Nurse Educator Employment Obligation**

A waiver request of a recipient's nursing employment obligation or nurse educator employment obligation shall be submitted in writing to the Department. The request shall detail the reasons for the waiver and be accompanied and supported by documentation as described in this Section.

- a) Reasons for a waiver request may include the recipient's:
  - 1) Total and permanent disability;
  - 2) Incompetency; or

- 3) Death.
- b) If the waiver is due to total and permanent disability, a formal request from a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician's assistant (who is licensed to practice in the United States) is required. Accompanying this formal request, *proof of disability shall be:*
  - 1) *A declaration from the Social Security Administration;*
  - 2) *From the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission;*
  - 3) *From the U.S. Department of Defense; or*
  - 4) *From an insurer authorized to transact business in Illinois who is providing disability insurance coverage to a contractor. (Section 3(21) of the Law)*
- c) If a waiver is requested because the recipient is incompetent, the request shall be supported by a certified copy of the adjudication from a State or federal court of law. *No claim for repayment may be filed against the estate of an individual deemed incompetent. (Sections 6 and 6.5(d) of the Law)*
- d) If the waiver is requested because of the recipient's death, the request shall be supported by a certified copy of the recipient's death certificate. *No claim for repayment may be filed against the estate of a decedent. (Sections 6 and 6.5(d) of the Law)*

(Source: Recodified from 77 Ill. Adm. Code 597.335 (Department of Public Health) pursuant to P.A. 102-699, at 47 Ill. Reg. 7031)