

Medical Society Nursing Scholars Program

Vision:

Support advanced education and research internships of registered nurses enhancing expert care for patients. RNs who hold advanced degrees, or are involved in research, are more readily prepared to engage in positive inter-professional relationships, which ultimately benefits patient care. This scholarship will enhance Roper Saint Francis Healthcare (RSFH) system's ability in filling critical work force needs by advancing excellence in nursing.

Purpose:

Financially support exemplary nursing staff who are compassionate, competent and self-motivated to obtain advanced education, or complete nursing research internships..

Eligibility

Nurses applying for Medical Society Nursing Scholars Program must be:

- 1) General eligibility (for all scholar candidates) criteria
 - a. Exemplary employee
 - b. Endorsed by VP of Nursing
 - c. Employed for at least 2 years as a nurse at RSFH (greater than 64 hours per pay period)
 - d. Enrolled in a career track that meets the strategic nursing need identified by senior nurse leaders and medical society
 - e. Submission of all required documents requested by deadline (see specific tracks)
 - f. Demonstrated commitment to remain at RSFH following completion of program
 - g. Deadline for applications are bi-annual:
 - i. Spring: April deadline, May selection, June allocation of funds
 - ii. Fall: November deadline, December selection, January allocation of funds
- 2) Academic Career Track (Administrative or Clinical Nursing Degree)
 - a. Submit completed demographic and application form
 - b. Provide proof of acceptance into an accredited nursing program that meets the strategic nursing need
- 3) Research Track
 - a. Submit completed demographic and application form
 - b. Submit completed nursing research internship application (Nurses Portal)
 - c. Submit endorsement by Director of Nursing Research and VP of Nursing

Selection

Nurses are selected based on their applications and potential interviews.

- 1) Application for Academic (Clinical or Administrative)Track:
 - a. Three letters of recommendation/endorsement (one from a physician colleague and one from senior nurse leader (VP) and one from direct supervisor)

- b. Proof of academic enrollment (letter of acceptance) or proof of research intern award
 - c. Personal one page description of how support will foster collaborative inter professional environment and candidate's professional goals.
 - d. Completed demographic form and general application documents (see Appendix A)
 - e. Additional interview as requested with a Medical Society representative/s and/or designated nursing leader/s.
- 2) Application for Research Track
- a. Four letters of recommendation (one from a physician colleague and one from senior nurse leader (VP) and one from director of nursing research and one from direct supervisor)
 - b. Completed research internship application available on Nurses Portal
 - c. Personal one page description of how support will foster research goals of the candidate.
 - d. Completed demographic form and general application documents (see Appendix A)
 - e. Additional interview as requested with a Medical Society representative/s and/or designated nursing leader/s

Awards

Annual awards totaling up to \$120,000 will be available for the following scholarships:

- 1) Two (2) awards of up to \$40,000 for advance practice degree (MSN, NP or DNP)
- 2) Two (2) awards of up to \$20,000 for research internship

The program will be evaluated annually by the Medical Society of South Carolina Board of Directors for continuance, with the number of awards dependent on availability of funds and the number of requests for funding.

Allocation of Funds:

Allocation amounts will be dependent upon the available funding and the number of requests for funding.

Academic Track funds: Funds are to be used for tuition reimbursement. Funds will be distributed via standard check request mechanism through professional development established process with RSFH foundation, directly to academic institution (not to student)

Research Track Funds: Funds for research internship are paid to the unit budget of the staff nurse awarded to free RN from clinical staffing duties. Funds will be distributed via standard transfer mechanism through professional development established process with RSFH foundation, directly to manager's cost center (cost center to be identified by nursing leadership) for hours worked directly on the funded research project

Monitoring of Progress:

- 1) Candidates will provide to MSSC contact quarterly reports of progress in their program

- 2) Candidates may be asked to present at MSSC board meetings, their experiences and successes.
- 3) Research candidates will be required to present findings at RSFH Nursing Research Conference and submit their findings for publication.
- 4) RSFH Professional Development will maintain a current record of all funding allocated and provide quarterly reports to the designated MSSC contact

Default Terms

In the event of the student default, the amount owed will be due in full. The student will make payment in full or establish a re-payment plan within 30-days of default

It is understood that employment at Roper-St. Francis Healthcare is at-will in nature and this agreement does nothing to change the basis of an employment relationship.

Appendix A: Demographic & Application Form:

**Medical Society of South Carolina (MSSC)
Nursing Scholars Program
Demographic & Application Guidelines Form**

Date: _____

Identify Scholarship Track:

- Clinical Track (e.g. Nurse Practitioner for the Intensive Care Unit)
- Administrative Track (e.g. MSN in administration for manager's)
- Research Internship

Student Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Employee number: _____ Date of Hire _____

RSFH nursing unit currently employed: _____

Expected Date of Graduation: NA for research

Month/Year: _____

Degree: _____

Nurses are selected by submitting COMPLETED applications and are potentially interviewed by a Medical Society representative/s and/or designated nursing leader/s.

- I. For those nurses that selected Academic Track:
 - a. Submit completed application to: Clinical Technician, Professional Development, Roper Hospital, 316 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC, 29401

Application components for Academic (Clinical or Administrative) Track are:

- a. Three letters of recommendation/endorsement (one from a physician colleague and one from senior nurse leader (VP) and one from direct supervisor)
- b. Proof of academic enrollment (letter of acceptance) or proof of research intern award
- c. Personal one page description of how support will foster collaborative inter professional environment and candidate professional goals.
- d. This Demographic Application form – completed

- II. For those that selected Research (internship) Track:

- a. Submit completed application to: Clinical Technician, Professional Development, Roper Hospital, 316 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC, 29401

Application Components for Research Track are:

- a. Four letters of recommendation (one from a physician colleague and one from senior nurse leader (VP) and one from director of nursing research and one from direct supervisor)
- b. Completed Research internship application available on Nurses Portal
- c. Personal one page description of how support will foster research goals of the candidate.
- d. This Demographic Application form – completed

Student Comments: _____

For Office Use:

Amount Awarded: _____

Time Period of Award: _____

Appendix B



SAMPLE ONLY!!!!
INFORMATION ONLY

Acceptance agreement letter will be sent to candidate IF awarded

**Medical Society of South Carolina (MSSC)
Nursing Scholar Program Acceptance Agreement**

I, _____, have accepted a nursing scholarship from Roper St. Francis Healthcare in the amount of \$_____. I understand that I must maintain at least a 3.0 average in the nursing program in which I am currently enrolled. I agree to accept/continue employment at Roper Saint Francis Healthcare following successful completion of the program. I understand a year of full-time, continuous employment at Roper Saint Francis Healthcare is expected for each year of educational funding, not to exceed two years. I understand that in the event of default, I repay the total amount of the scholarship award.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____