

## Ohio Nurses Foundation Scholarships Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Ohio Nurses Foundation (ONF)? ONF is the Foundation of the Ohio Nurses Association; it exists to provide the funding to advance nursing as a learned profession through education, research and scholarships. Since it was founded in 2002, nearly \$145,000 in scholarships and research grants have been awarded to nurses and future nurses.

What type of scholarships are available? There are several scholarships available for students in various stages of their education – from first time students pursuing a registered nursing degree to RNs who want to continue their education, graduate nursing students, future nurse educators, and non-RNs who have been in the workforce for a while and have decided to return to school to become a registered nurse. Learn all about available scholarships on the Ohio Nurses Foundation website, ONF Scholarships.

What is the scholarship award? Each scholarship award is currently \$1,000 per academic year.

ARE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO THOSE PURSUING LICENSURE AS AN LPN (LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE)? ONF Scholarships focus on individuals who want to pursue licensure as a registered nurse or an advanced nursing degree. Funding support for LPN licensure may be available through your state or national professional association; i.e., the Licensed Practical Nurse Association of Ohio: <a href="http://www.lpnao.org/">http://www.lpnao.org/</a> or the National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses: <a href="http://www.nflpn.org/">http://www.nflpn.org/</a>.

How do I apply for an ONF Scholarship? Applications and eligibility criteria for each scholarship can be printed/down loaded from the ONF website, <a href="http://ohionursesfoundation.org">http://ohionursesfoundation.org</a>. Please provide all required documentation in order to be considered.

Can I APPLY FOR MORE THAN ONE SCHOLARSHIP? Yes, you may apply for any scholarship in which you meet the criteria. Visit the ONF website for details. <a href="http://ohionursesfoundation.org">http://ohionursesfoundation.org</a>.

How often can I apply? Scholarships are awarded once per year in the spring. You may apply every academic year. If you are awarded a scholarship in one year, you still have to re-apply the next academic year to be considered again.

CAN PART-TIME STUDENTS APPLY? Yes. ONF Scholarships are available to full-time or part-time students.

When is the Deadline? Applications and required documentation must be received at ONF (or postmarked) by January 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. If January 15 falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline is the next business week day following the weekend/holiday).

IS THERE ANY FLEXIBILITY WITH THE DEADLINE? WHAT IF MY SCHOOL IS CLOSED [DUE TO WEATHER, HOLIDAYS, ETC.] AND I AM UNABLE TO GET MY TRANSCRIPTS OR MY ADVISOR'S SIGNATURE? To be fair to all applicants, we have to stick to the set deadline. The only time we may extend is if the deadline falls on a Sunday or holiday, which would be announced on the website. Official transcripts and the signature of your advisor or guidance counselor are required. You may want to plan ahead to be sure you have all of your paperwork prior to the holiday break to avoid any unforeseen delays.

WHEN WILL I HEAR IF I WILL RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP? How WILL I BE NOTIFIED? WILL I BE NOTIFIED EITHER WAY? All applicants will be notified of the Scholarship Committee's decision via letter by March/April. If you are awarded a scholarship, you will be invited to the Nurses Choice Award Luncheon to accept your scholarship.

What if I only have one semester/quarter remaining before I graduate – am I still eligible to apply? You are eligible as long as you are in school at the time the scholarship is awarded.

What is meant by "official." Transcript? An official transcript is provided by the school. It must bear the embossed or raised school seal, date, and original signature of the registrar or school official. Official transcripts are provided by the school in a sealed envelope, typically with the registrar's signature stamped across the seal; it should remain in the sealed envelope until received by ONF. An electronic academic transcript sent via email from an official transcript website, such as Transcript Network<sup>TM</sup>, Credential Solutions, etc., is also acceptable. Transcripts received that do not meet these requirements will not be considered. A transcript that is emailed, faxed or copied by the applicant is considered unofficial and will not be considered. Online grade reports or course studies, etc. printed by the student is also not considered an official transcript.

WILL YOU ACCEPT AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF MY TRANSCRIPT(s)? We can accept an electronic version of your transcript provided it comes directly from an official online transcript service, such as Credentials Solutions or Transcripts Network™, which can be authenticated.

DO I NEED TO SUBMIT ALL OF MY COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS OR JUST THOSE FROM THE SCHOOL I AM CURRENTLY ATTENDING? All college transcripts are needed in order to review the scope of your academic achievements, even those that are not specifically related to nursing.

If I APPLY FOR MORE THAN ONE SCHOLARSHIP, DO I NEED TO PROVIDE AN OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT WITH EACH APPLICATION? One official transcript per school is sufficient to verify its authenticity; we will make copies on your behalf and include with your other applications.

IS IT OKAY TO HAVE MY SCHOOL(S) MAIL MY TRANSCRIPTS DIRECTLY TO ONF AND I WILL MAIL THE APPLICATION AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION SEPARATELY? Yes, that is acceptable. However, we ask that you put a note on the application stating that the transcripts are being mailed from the school so that we can look for the transcripts and attach to your file upon receipt.

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