

Funding Graduate Nursing Education

Funding your advanced nursing education can be challenging. Advancing your education is, however, a good investment. Average RN wage in Arkansas (2015) is \$68,000; average nurse practitioner wage is \$98,000. Education can be funded with a combination of scholarships, grants, loans, and savings.

To be eligible for financial aid, most institutions require students to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA. Filling out the FAFSA is a must for anyone who hopes to receive financial help from federal or state programs, as well as need-based aid from colleges themselves. This form is available online: <http://fafsa.ed.gov>. The form is available every year on January 1. In Arkansas, the deadline for completion is June 1.

Another good place to start is at the University of Arkansas Check “Funding Your Education” website:

<http://www.uark.edu/admissions/index.php#funding-your-education>

Arkansas students are eligible for the following scholarships:

- [Arkansas Graduate Nursing Education Student Loan and Scholarship Program](#)
 - Fall and Spring deadlines
 - Must be willing to teach or practice in Arkansas
- [Arkansas State Board of Nursing: Faith A. Fields Nursing Scholarship](#)
 - Must be willing to teach or practice in the State of Arkansas

The [UA College of Education and Health Professions](#) offers several scholarships each year. The Online Application for Scholarships will be at <http://coehp.uark.edu/scholarships.php>. Graduate students are eligible for several of the scholarships. DNP students are also eligible for the Tonya Terry Endowed Doctor of Nursing Practice Scholarship. It was reconfigured from a scholarship previously awarded to MSN CNS students. You can read about the origin of the scholarship at the [Colleague](#).

Additional loan and scholarship links are available on the [EMSON website](#).

To fund your advanced nursing education there are additional scholarships, loans, loan repayment programs and grants available. Below is a sampling of opportunities:

- American Nurse Practitioner Foundation www.anp-foundation.org
 - Provides research and education funding
- Sigma Theta Tau
 - Evidence-based practice (EBP) Implementation Grant Program
- Nurses Education Funds, Inc.
 - Scholarships for masters and doctoral students. Applications open October-February
- The Campaign for Nursing’s Future: Johnson & Johnson
 - <https://www.discovernursing.com/scholarships#levels=doctorate>
 - Lists over 330 nursing scholarships
- NLN Foundation for Nursing Education Scholarship Resources
 - http://www.nlnfoundation.org/Scholarship_Resources.cfm
 - Multiple links to scholarship resources

- Health Resources and Services Administration
 - <http://www.hrsa.gov/loanscholarships/index.html>
 - Loans, loan repayment and scholarships including National Health Service Corps
- American Association of Nurse Practitioners
 - http://www.aanp.org/practice/grantsu_scholarships2
 - Grants and scholarships and a link to external funding suggestions
- College Scholarships.org
 - <http://www.collegescholarships.org/scholarships/nursing/practitioners.htm>
 - Multiple links to scholarship resources
- Nurse Practitioner Healthcare Foundation
 - <http://www.nphealthcarefoundation.org/>
 - Scholarships and fellowships. Award announcement in fall of each year.
- Nurse Practitioner Scholarship (added Fall 2018)
 - <https://www.rncareers.org/aprn/neonatal-nurse-practitioner/>
 - This scholarship recognizes an outstanding nursing student enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner (NP) program.