

MHN Nursing Tuition Assistance Program

Frequently Asked Questions

We have attempted to provide information and answers to questions we anticipate you may have regarding the SMMC Student RN tuition Assistance Program. If, however, you should still have questions after reading this document, please do not hesitate to contact **Chris Mokas** at christopher.mokas@st-marys.org or **Dr. Joey Trader** at Joseph.Trader@st-marys.org.

1. What colleges qualify for the RN Student Educational Assistance?

This assistance is intended to provide money for nursing students that have been accepted in a nursing degree program at an approved accredited college/university. Currently, schools approved for the program are: St. Mary's School of Nursing (Associates Program), Marshall University (Bachelors Program) and Ohio University Southern (Associates and Bachelors Programs).

2. Does this program cover an Associate Degree in nursing or a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing?

This program covers either an A.D.N. or a B.S.N. degree.

3. Does this include LPN school?

Currently, no, however it does include LPN to RN Bridge programs (if available at any of the above colleges).

4. Is this only for current college enrollees?

Yes, candidates must be actively accepted into a qualifying nursing program.

5. Will payments be made directly to the college/university each semester?

Yes.

6. What is the amount of the award tuition assistance award?

Please see your college's scholarship application website for exact amount of the award
Generally, MHN will pay awarded recipients under the MHN Tuition Assistance Program as follows:

- To incoming juniors for BSN programs or incoming 1st/2nd semester students for ADN programs: up to \$5,000 per semester for each of the final four semesters in their nursing program at an approved accredited post-secondary educational institution in return for a five (5) year commitment to full-time employment as a registered nurse at a Mountain Health Network (MHN) tertiary care facility (total \$20,000 award).
- To incoming seniors for BSN or incoming 3rd/4th semester students for ADN programs: \$5,000 per semester for each of the final two semesters in their nursing program at an approved accredited post-secondary educational institution in return

for a three (3) year commitment to full-time employment as a registered nurse at a Mountain Health Network (MHN) tertiary care facility (total \$10,000 award).

7. What expenses will be covered?

Covered expenses include tuition, textbooks, and academic fees. Please see your college's scholarship application website for covered expenses.

8. Is the money paid by SMMC on my behalf considered taxable income?

Each recipient should seek their own tax advice. Generally speaking, per IRS guidelines, any educational expenses over \$5,250 in a calendar year are considered taxable income.

9. Will I need to apply each semester for payment?

- No, once you have accepted the awarded monies and signed into an agreement, upon completion of each semester, the student must provide MHN with a copy of unofficial transcripts on college/university letterhead showing that courses were successfully completed and student remains in good academic standing. A class schedule for the next semester must also be submitted so that payment may be made directly to the school.
- Upon signing a contract for Tuition Assistance through MHN, you must maintain the minimum academic requirements as set forth by the accredited college/university throughout your degree/program; allow MHN to inspect records or other information to ensure compliance with the regarding any/all scholarships, grants or other sources of educational assistance; remain a student until completion of the degree/program; and obtain and maintain licensure to practice as a registered nurse in the state of West Virginia.

10. In exchange for the tuition assistance award, I must work as a registered nurse at MHN. How does this work?

Prior to receiving educational assistance you will be required to sign a contract, also referred to as an Agreement to Accept Employment (Agreement) as a registered nurse at a MHN hospital (Cabell Huntington Hospital or St. Mary's Medical Center) in a full-time nursing position (at least 72 hours in a bi-weekly pay period).

11. How soon must I begin working after I graduate?

Per the agreement, you must be employed within three (3) months of your graduation date.

12. If I am unable to finish nursing school, do I have to repay the monies that I have received?

Yes. You will be required to pay back the full amount of monies. Our Accounting Department can work with you individually on a repayment plan.

13. What happens if I do not accept employment as a full-time registered nurse after I graduate?

Any money that has been paid on your behalf must be repaid in full to SMMC within thirty (30) days from the date of default.

14. If for some reason I was unable to pass a semester could the assistance be granted an extension?

Yes, we will waive only 1 unsuccessful semester.

15. What if I am not offered a full-time nursing job upon graduation by a MHN hospital?

In the unlikely event that you are not offered a job, you will not be obligated to repay the tuition assistance.

16. Who should I call if I have further questions about the program?

If you should have questions after reading this document, please do not hesitate to contact **Chris Mocas** at christopher.mocas@st-marys.org.