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What is the Ascension Texas Nurse Scholarship Endowment?

The Ascension Texas Nurse Scholarship Endowment was established in 2005 through the generosity of many community supporters to provide educational support to Ascension Texas associates and help Ascension Texas recruit and retain nurses. As of 2022, 719 scholarships worth $3,025,500 have been awarded to outstanding Ascension Texas nurses.

This year, the Ascension Texas Nurse Scholarship Program will award scholarships of up to $6,000 for applicants seeking an associate's or bachelor's degree or up to $6,000 for nurse applicants seeking an advanced nursing degree (MSN or DNP/PhD).

Who is eligible to apply?

Applicants must meet **all** the following criteria to be eligible for this scholarship:

1. You must be an Ascension Texas (full-time or part-time) Associate or an Ascension MOSTL associate, working full-time or part-time at an Ascension Texas facility.
2. FT and PT associates must have been hired on or before March 31, 2023, and have had at least one annual performance evaluation.
3. PRN employees are not eligible to apply.
4. Students must be enrolled in an accredited Nursing program for the Fall 2024 semester. (Note: If you are currently finishing your nursing prerequisite courses you are NOT eligible for this scholarship program.)
5. A completed application and two letters of recommendation must be submitted by the deadline to be considered. One letter of recommendation MUST be from your current supervisor. A completed application and two letters of recommendation must be submitted by the deadline to be considered. One letter of recommendation MUST be from your current supervisor.
6. Past recipients and applicants are welcome to apply.

When does the application open?

May 6th, 2024

When is the recommendation letter deadline?

June 4th, 2024

When is the application deadline?

June 5th, 2024

Should I submit all my information before I request a recommendation?

No. You should request your recommendation letters as early as possible to ensure there is enough time for the recommendation to be submitted by the deadline. Applicants will not be able to complete their scholarship application until their recommendation letters have been submitted.

What is the Program estimated timeline?

- **Application Opens**: May 6th, 2024
- **Recommendation Deadline**: June 4th, 2024

- **Application Deadline**: June 5th, 2024
- **Scholarship Recipients Notified**: July 1st – 15th, 2024
- **Scholarship Checks Issued to Recipients School**: July end, 2024

What are the selection criteria?

An Edcor independent selection committee will evaluate the applications and select the recipients considering:

- Academic achievement record
- Community Involvement/Impact (outside of school)
- Honors and Awards
- Participation and leadership in extra-curricular/co-curricular activities
- Personal Goals Statement (career and educational goals/objectives)
- Recommendation Letters
- Work Experience

Selection will be merit-based and take the above-mentioned criterion into account.

Decisions of the selection committees are final and are not subject to appeal. No application feedback will be given.

What are the details of the award?

This year, the Ascension Texas Nurse Scholarship Program will award scholarships of up to $6,000 for applicants seeking an associate's or bachelor's degree in nursing or up to $6,000 for nurse applicants seeking an advanced nursing degree (MSN or DNP/PhD).

What do the scholarships cover?

The scholarships are intended to cover costs for tuition and fees. Any additional funds can be utilized for books and other school-related expenses.

Is this scholarship renewable?

Scholarships are not renewable. However, past recipients and applicants are welcome to apply.

How is the Ascension Texas Nurse Scholarship treated for tax purposes?

Ascension Texas Nurse Scholarship funds used to pay for tuition, fees, books, supplies, and equipment required for enrollment, attendance or instruction at an educational institution are generally non-taxable for federal income tax purposes. Any portion of the funds used for other purposes, such as to pay for room, board, travel, and miscellaneous expenses are generally taxable. Recipients are encouraged to review IRS Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education, and consult with their tax adviser as to their particular circumstances.

Is the award of an Ascension Texas Nurse Scholarship conditioned upon the performance of services to Ascension Texas after the scholarship is awarded?

No. There is no requirement for recipients to continue employment with Ascension Texas after the scholarship is awarded.

Does everything have to be submitted online?

Yes. Your application and letters of recommendation must be submitted online via the Edcor Scholarship portal. The URL is: https://edcor.smapply.us/prog/ascension_texas_nurse_scholarship/

Does my reference have to submit his/her letter of recommendation online?

Yes. All letters of recommendation must be submitted online via the Edcor Scholarship portal. The recommenders will receive email guidelines and a link to register and provide recommendation on this portal.

Please note that you are able to send/resend/withdraw recommendations through your applicant portal. It's the applicant's responsibility to track if the recommendation is complete or not. After a recommendation is submitted, the applicant must 'Mark the section as Complete' and submit the application.

Who may write my letters of recommendation?

One letter of recommendation must be from your current supervisor at Ascension Texas. The other may be from a peer, teacher, community member, or other individual who is not a family member.

What exactly are the special designated scholarships for qualified candidates, and how do I know if I qualify and can be considered for one?

There are scholarship funds available that are designated for individuals who are pursuing certain areas of nursing (geriatric, pediatric, oncology, OB/GYN, emergency services, neurosciences and psychiatric); who live in Burnet or Llano County; associates at Dell Children's Medical Center, Ascension Seton Hays, Ascension Seton Northwest, Ascension Seton Williamson, Dell Seton Medical Center, Ascension Seton Medical Center Austin, Emergency Department at Dell Children's, Ascension Seton Medical Center Austin NICU; Ascension Providence; are pursuing a doctoral degree; and/or who attend University of Texas at Austin.

If you are eligible for one or more of these designated scholarships please select those for which you would like to be considered in the "Please select additional criteria that may apply to your Specialty Service Line" sections. By selecting one or more, you verify that you meet the corresponding designation associated with that scholarship. Checking one of the boxes does not eliminate you from consideration for a general Ascension Texas Nurse Scholarship.

Which school should I list on the application if I have not made a final decision?

List the school that you are most likely to enroll in.

How do I change my college choice?

This information can be updated on the application before you submit it.

How do I know if my application is complete?

Once you complete all the tasks and Mark them as Complete, the task bar on the left hand side corner of your application portal will show check marks. Review your application, and submit. When you submit your application, you'll see the Status of your application updated to Complete.

I uploaded a document that no longer displays on my application. Do I need to submit it again?

Previously uploaded documents that are no longer displayed with a status on the home page have been ***rejected***.
The most common reasons for a rejected document are as follows:

- The document uploaded is not one of the accepted file types: **.pdf, .tif, .png, .gif, .jpeg, .jpg, .bmp and .xps.**
- The document uploaded was not the document requested.
- Not all pages of the document were contained in the file.
- We cannot open the file. The file may be corrupted, or password protected.

Refer to the upload section of your application for the details of the required documents and upload a new file that meets the criteria stated.

How do I upload more than one file at a time?

You may create a .zip file containing more than one file if everything included is in an acceptable format (i.e. .Pdf, .tif, .png, .gif, .jpeg, .jpg, .bmp and .xps.**)**

How do I create a .zip file?

To use this format, follow the steps outlined below:

1. Create a new folder on your Desktop - name it the document type you will be uploading. For example, Test Scores, Transcript, or Financial Documentation.
2. Move all the pages you wish to upload into the new folder.
3. Right click on the document from your Desktop, select “Send to,” followed by “Compressed (zipped) folder.”
4. Your new **.zip** file will be located on your Desktop ready to upload.

What is the difference between Official and Unofficial Transcripts?

Official transcripts must be obtained through your school administration office, or your college registrar office. These transcripts are normally printed on official letterhead and/or state that they are official. These may contain a signature.

Note: Your official transcript may come to you in a sealed envelope, stating it will become unofficial if opened. When scanning or copying your official transcripts, a watermark may appear noting they are now unofficial. ***Despite any watermarks or sealed envelopes, you may open the envelope if needed to upload the document. These documents will still be considered official for our purposes.*** *When scanning or copying, you do not need to include a copy of the sealed envelope.*

Unofficial transcripts may be accessed through your school’s online student portal. These pages must still be converted to one of the acceptable file formats. There are free tools available that will allow you to save various documents (including web pages) as a PDF. Unofficial transcripts must contain your name and the school name and contact information.

What are the DO’s and DON’Ts of uploading documents to my application?

DO

- Upload in the correct file format.
- Only upload the requested documents.
- Black out any Social Security numbers on the documents you are uploading. This is not required but advised.

- Return to your Home page below to verify your documents have been accepted.
  https://edcor.smapply.us/prog/ascension_texas_nurse_scholarship/

- Submit your application in full by the June 5th, 2024 deadline

DON'T

- Upload a Microsoft Word™ document (.doc, .docx).
- Upload more than the requested documentation
- Use your high-school-provided email address
- Assume your documents are correct and accepted once you have uploaded them.
- Upload a document stating you are mailing your documents.
- Assume the required document does not pertain to you. If the application states the document is required, your application will remain incomplete if you do not provide that document.
- Password-protect your uploaded documents. Password protected documents will be rejected

Where and when should I send my supporting documents?

The required supporting documents must be uploaded to your online application by the application deadline. If you do not follow the upload instructions exactly, your application may not be considered. Documents that meet the criteria required for the scholarship application and are uploaded by the deadline will be processed and considered on time.

How and when will I receive notification?

- For recipients, an **Acceptance** link will be sent with the notification **via email.**

- Notifications are also sent to recipients and applicants not selected to receive an award **via email.**

- Add Edcor Scholarship noreply@mail.smapply.net to your email address book or "safe senders list" to ensure these important emails are not sent to your junk mail folder.

- Do not 'opt out' of any email sent from Edcor Scholarship noreply@mail.smapply.net. You may not receive vital information regarding your scholarship applications.

What are my responsibilities if I am chosen as a recipient?

You must enroll as a full-time undergraduate student at a two- or four-year university in the fall of the year in which the scholarships are awarded and continue the entire academic year without interruption unless approved by the scholarship sponsor.

How and when are checks issued?

Checks will be issued in August to the recipient's school address and made payable to the institution on the profile page.

Please contact Edcor Scholarshipsupport@edcor.com should your check not arrive within 30 days of the issue date.

Who is the Program Administrator?

To ensure complete impartiality in selection of recipients and to maintain a high level of professionalism, the program

is administered by Edcor, a firm that specializes in managing sponsored scholarship programs.

Thank You Note Information

Scholarship recipients will receive contact information so they may send a thank you note to the donor of their scholarship.

Additional Information or Questions

For additional information regarding the scholarship program:

Visit: https://edcor.smapply.us/prog/ascension_texas_nurse_scholarship/

Email: scholarshipsupport@edcor.com or,

Call: 1-855-950-6301

Our offices are open Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM EST