

RWJF New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program

The College of Nursing at the University of Missouri - St. Louis is pleased to be among the first institutions in the nation to receive funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) through the *RWJF New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program*. Grants provided through this competitive program will be used for scholarships to increase the number of bachelor prepared students enrolled in College of Nursing at UMSL Accelerated track of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program. This groundbreaking national initiative, launched by RWJF and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), aims to help alleviate the nation's nursing shortage by dramatically expanding the pipeline of students in accelerated nursing programs. To Assist the College of Nursing at the University of Missouri St. Louis in increasing the enrollment of bachelor prepared students in the Accelerated BSN track, the RWJF awarded eight (8) \$10,000 scholarships to be distributed to Accelerated students entering in May 2009. Scholarships will be awarded based on the criteria listed below.

Through the *RWJF New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program*, scholarships in the amount of \$10,000 each will be distributed to entry-level nursing students in accelerated programs during the 2008-2009 academic year. Award preference is given to students from groups underrepresented in nursing or from disadvantaged backgrounds. Grant funding also will be used by the school of nursing to help leverage new faculty resources and provide mentoring and leadership development resources to ensure successful program completion by scholarship recipients. "This program aims to safeguard the health of the nation by helping to ease the nurse and nurse faculty shortage," said RWJF President Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, M.D., M.B.A. "This new initiative also will advance our strategic goal of promoting leadership in the health professions."

The *RWJF New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program* supports accelerated programs, which offer the most efficient route to licensure as a registered nurse for adults who have already completed a baccalaureate or graduate degree in a discipline other than nursing. Although enrollment in these programs has steadily increased over the past few years, many potential students are unable to enroll since already having a college degree disqualifies them for receiving most federal financial aid programs for entry-level students. The New Careers in Nursing scholarships address this problem, and will also address the overall nursing shortage, by enabling hundreds of students to launch their nursing careers through accelerated education.

The eight (8) New Careers in Nursing scholarships will assist bachelor's prepared 8 students enrolled in the fifteen month May 2009 Accelerated Track. The College's Accelerated Track is open to students who hold earned bachelor's degrees in other disciplines and students with 62 or more transferable credit hours. Please see [admission criteria](#) for additional information.

By bringing more nurses into the profession at the baccalaureate and master's degree levels, the new scholarship program also helps to address the nation's nurse faculty shortage. Data from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration show that nurses entering the profession at the baccalaureate level are four times more likely than other nurses to pursue a graduate degree in nursing, which is the required credential to teach.

Additionally, the program targets the need to recruit students from groups underrepresented in nursing or disadvantaged backgrounds. According to the National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice, diversifying the nursing profession is essential to meeting the health care needs of the nation and reducing health disparities that exist among many underserved populations.

Criteria for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) New Careers in Nursing \$10, 000 Scholarship Program for Accelerated Students entering May 2009.

Up to 8 scholarships will be awarded on the following criteria:

Applicants must be admitted to the May 2009 Accelerated Track of the College's BSN program having met the criteria for admission to the accelerated Track, including all [prerequisite courses](#).

Applicants must hold an earned Bachelor's degree in a discipline other than nursing.

Applicants must be from groups underrepresented in Nursing as defined by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing* or from disadvantaged backgrounds verified by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States.

Applicants must have a current FAFSA on file with the University's Financial Aid Office.

Application materials will be available at the College's Website or through the Colleges Office of Student Services on March 1, 2009. The application deadline is March 31, 2009

* AACN description of underrepresented groups in nursing: "men and individuals from African American, Hispanic, Asian, American Indian, and Alaskan native backgrounds." www.aacn.nche.edu/Media/FactSheets/diversity.htm.