

TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES
SUBTITLE A: EDUCATION
CHAPTER XIX: ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

PART 2749
NURSING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

SUBPART A: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section	
2749.10	Summary and Purpose
2749.15	Definitions
2749.20	Referenced Materials
2749.30	Administrative Hearings

SUBPART B: ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION

Section	
2749.100	Eligibility
2749.105	Notification (Repealed)
2749.110	Application
2749.115	Scholarship Renewal (Repealed)

SUBPART C: AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Section	
2749.200	Scholarship Description
2749.210	Determination of Financial Need (Repealed)
2749.220	Selection Criteria for Award of Scholarships
2749.230	Student Enrollment and Institutions' Obligations
2749.235	Continuous Attendance Requirement
2749.240	Waiver of Continuous Attendance Requirement (Repealed)

SUBPART D: TERMS OF PERFORMANCE

Section	
2749.300	Work Agreement (Repealed)
2749.310	Repayment of Scholarship
2749.320	Fulfillment of Nursing Education Scholarship Employment Obligation
2749.325	Request to Defer or Extend Time to Fulfill the Nursing Education Scholarship Continuous Employment Obligation
2749.330	Deferment of Nursing Employment Obligation or Nurse Educator Employment Obligation (Repealed)

2749.335 Discharge of Nursing Scholarship Employment Obligation

AUTHORITY: Implementing and authorized by the Nursing Education Scholarship Law [110 ILCS 975].

SOURCE: Recodified from 77 Ill. Adm. Code 597 (Department of Public Health) pursuant to P.A. 102-699, at 47 Ill. Reg. 7031; amended at 48 Ill. Reg. 12574, effective August 1, 2024; amended at 50 Ill. Reg. 9459, effective June 25, 2026.

SUBPART A: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 2749.10 Summary and Purpose

- a) Nursing Education Scholarships (NES) encourage those seeking degrees, certifications, and higher credentials in the nursing field to pursue education to increase both the number of nurses and nurse educators in Illinois, which is important to the health, welfare and security of this State and Nation. The scholarship helps ensure that financial considerations do not prevent qualified and potential nurses from pursuing nursing education.
- b) This Part establishes the rules which govern Nursing Education Scholarship Law [110 ILCS 975]. Additional rules and definitions are contained in General Provisions, 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.

(Source: Added at 48 Ill. Reg. 12574, effective August 1, 2024)

Section 2749.15 Definitions

"Accepted for admission" means a student has completed the requirements for entry into an associate degree in nursing program, associate degree in applied sciences in nursing program, hospital-based diploma in nursing program, baccalaureate degree in nursing program, graduate degree in nursing program, or certificate in practical nursing program at an approved institution, as documented by the institution. (Section 3(10) of the Law)

"Advanced practice registered nurse" or "APRN" means a person who has met the qualifications for a certified nurse midwife (CNM), certified nurse practitioner (CNP); certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA); or clinical nurse specialist (CNS) and has been licensed by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. (Section 50-10 of the Nurse Practice Act [225 ILCS 65])

"Approved institution" means a public community college, private junior college,

hospital-based diploma in nursing program, or public or private college or university, or online institution, with a pre-licensure nursing education program that is physically located in this State that has approval by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation for an associate degree in nursing program, associate degree in applied sciences in nursing program, hospital-based diploma in nursing program, baccalaureate degree in nursing program, graduate degree in nursing program, or certificate in a practical nursing program or a post-licensure nursing education program approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education or any successor agency with similar authority. (Section 3(3) of the Law)

"Associate degree in nursing program" or "hospital-based diploma in nursing program" means a program offered by an approved institution and leading to an associate degree in nursing, associate degree in applied sciences in nursing, or hospital-based diploma in nursing. (Section 3(7) of the Law)

"Baccalaureate degree in nursing program" means a program offered by an approved institution and leading to a bachelor of science degree in nursing. (Section 3(4) of the Law)

"Continuous attendance" means enrollment in an approved institution's nursing program (as a full-time or part-time student), for an entire academic year and for the total duration of time it takes the student to complete the nursing degree or certificate up to the maximum number of years the recipient is eligible to receive the scholarship. Continuous attendance need not be maintained for the summer term. Continuous attendance shall be deemed to have been broken if the student goes more than one semester, quarter or trimester without successfully completing a nursing-related course.

"Deferment" means the temporary postponement, for a limited amount of time, of a recipient's repayment obligation after the repayment period begins. Approved reasons for deferment are limited to specific circumstances.

"Direct patient care" means care of a patient provided by an advanced practice registered nurse, a registered nurse, or a licensed practical nurse. Direct patient care may involve any aspect of the health care of a patient, including treatment, counseling, in-service for self-care, education, and administration of medication.

"Educational loan" means any loan guaranteed by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission under the Higher Education Student Assistance Law, any education loan made by an institution of higher education from the proceeds of a loan to the institution by the Illinois Finance Authority under the Higher Education Loan Act, or any other loan from public funds made for the purpose of financing an

individual's attendance at an institution of higher education. (Section 1(a) of the Educational Loan Default Act [5 ILCS 385])

"Enrollment" means the establishment and maintenance of an individual's status as a nursing student in an approved institution, regardless of the terms used at the institution to describe such status. (Section 3(5) of the Law)

"Extension" means extending, for a limited amount of time, the period of time within which the employment obligation must be fulfilled. Approved reasons for an extension are limited to specific circumstances.

"Fees" means those mandatory charges, in addition to tuition, that all students enrolled in a nursing program must pay, including required course or lab fees. (Section 3(11) of the Law)

"Full-time nursing employment" means providing direct patient care of at least 24 hours per week for those persons working weekend shifts, or 35 hours or more per week for those working weekday shifts.

"Full-time nursing student" means a student who is enrolled in a nursing program for at least 12 credit hours per term or as otherwise determined as full-time by the academic institution. (Section 3(12) of the Law)

"Graduate degree in nursing program" means a program offered by an approved institution and leading to a master of science degree in nursing or a doctorate of philosophy in nursing, doctorate of nursing, doctorate of nursing practice, doctorate of nursing science, doctorate of nursing education, or doctorate of nurse anesthesia practice. (Section 3(8) of the Law)

"Health care facility" means a facility in Illinois where a scholarship recipient fulfills the recipient's nursing employment obligation and includes, but is not limited to, a health care professional's office, hospital or local health department.

"Illinois Nursing Workforce Center Advisory Board" shall have the meaning ascribed in the Nurse Practice Act. (Section 75-15 of the Nurse Practice Act)

"Illinois resident" means a person who has been *a resident* of Illinois *for at least one year prior to applying for a scholarship and is a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States.* (Section 5(1) of the Law)

"Law" means the Nursing Education Scholarship Law [110 ILCS 975]. (Section 3(13) of the Law)

"Lawful permanent resident" has the same meaning as "eligible noncitizen" as defined in 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.20.

"Licensed practical nurse" means a person who is currently licensed as a licensed practical nurse by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation under the Nurse Practice Act. (Section 3(18) of the Law)

"Living expenses" means room and board, miscellaneous fees, books, transportation and commuting costs. This amount is adjusted annually based upon the *uniform living allowance reported in the weighted Monetary Award Program (MAP)* from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. (Section 7 of the Law)

"Mean-Weighted Average Tuition and Fees" means the tuition and mandatory fees used for the Illinois public universities and community colleges by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission for purposes of Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants.

"Nurse educator" means a person who is currently licensed as a registered nurse by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation under the Nurse Practice Act, who has a graduate degree in nursing, and who is employed by an approved academic institution to educate registered nursing students, licensed practical nursing students, and registered nurses pursuing graduate degrees. (Section 3(23) of the Law)

"Nurse educator employment" means employment by an approved academic institution in Illinois to educate nursing students.

"Nurse educator employment obligation" means employment in this State as a nurse educator for at least two years for each year of scholarship assistance received under Section 6.5 of the Law. (Section 3(24) of the Law)

"Nursing employment obligation" means employment in this State as a registered professional nurse, licensed practical nurse, or advanced practice nurse in direct patient care for at least one year for each year of scholarship assistance received through the Nursing Education Scholarship Program. (Section 3(14) of the Law)

"Part-time nursing employment" means providing direct patient care for between 17.5 hours and 34 hours per week.

"Part-time student" means a person who is enrolled for at least one-third of the number of hours required per term by a school for its full-time students. (Section 3(15) of the Law)

"Practical Nursing Program" means a program offered by an approved institution and leading to a certificate in practical nursing. (Section 3(16) of the Law)

"Prerequisite course" means a course requirement (determined by the approved institution) that a student must meet to demonstrate readiness for enrollment in nursing education.

"Registered professional nurse" means a person who is currently licensed as a registered professional nurse by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation under the Nurse Practice Act. (Section 3(17) of the Law)

"Student in good standing" means a student enrolled in a nursing program is maintaining a cumulative grade point average equivalent to at least an academic grade of "C". (Section 3(20) of the Law)

"Summer term" means a term within an academic year that marks the beginning and end of classes. The term is approximately four to nine weeks in duration and is typically offered during June, July and August of an academic year.

"Total and permanent disability" means a physical or mental impairment, disease, or loss of a permanent nature that prevents nursing employment with or without reasonable accommodation. Proof of disability shall be a declaration from the social security administration, Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission, Department of Defense, or an insurer authorized to transact business in Illinois who is providing disability insurance coverage to a contractor. (Section 3(21) of the Law)

(Source: Section 2749.15 renumbered from 2749.10 and amended at 48 Ill. Reg. 12574, effective August 1, 2024)

Section 2749.20 Referenced Materials

The following materials are referenced in this Part:

- a) Illinois statutes:
 - 1) Nursing Education Scholarship Law [110 ILCS 975]
 - 2) Nurse Practice Act [225 ILCS 65]
 - 3) Board of Higher Education Act [110 ILCS 205]

- 4) State Comptroller Act [15 ILCS 405]
- 5) Educational Loan Default Act [5 ILCS 385]
- 6) Higher Education Loan Act [110 ILCS 945]
- b) Illinois Administrative Rules:
 - 1) Nurse Practice Act (68 Ill. Adm. Code 1300)
 - 2) General Provisions (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700)

(Source: Amended at 48 Ill. Reg. 12574, effective August 1, 2024)

Section 2749.30 Administrative Hearings

Hearings conducted concerning the provisions of this Part shall be conducted in accordance with 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2700.70.

(Source: Amended at 48 Ill. Reg. 12574, effective August 1, 2024)

SUBPART B: ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION

Section 2749.100 Eligibility

- a) Two forms of scholarship are available under the Nursing Education Scholarship Law; a scholarship in nursing (Section 5 of the Law) and a scholarship as a nurse educator (Section 6.5 of the Law). These scholarships are referred to as the Scholarship.
- b) To qualify for Scholarship consideration, an applicant shall meet the eligibility criteria for either scholarship outlined in Section 5 or 6.5 of the Law showing that the applicant:
 - 1) *is a citizen or a lawful permanent resident of the United States* [110 ILCS 975/5 and 110 ILCS 975/6.5].
 - 2) *has been a resident of this State for at least one year prior to application* [110 ILCS 975/5 and 110 ILCS 975/6.5];
 - 3) is enrolled in or accepted for admission in one of the following programs at an approved institution in Illinois:

- A) *associate degree in nursing program;*
 - B) *associate degree in applied sciences in nursing program;*
 - C) *hospital-based diploma in nursing program;*
 - D) *baccalaureate degree in nursing program;*
 - E) *graduate degree in nursing program;*
 - F) *certificate in a practical nursing program; or*
 - G) *post-licensure nursing education program approved by the Board of Higher Education or successor agency. [110 ILCS 975/3]*
- 4) *Agrees to meet the employment obligation to work in Illinois as a nurse, if receiving a scholarship to pursue nursing education, or as a nurse educator, if receiving a scholarship to pursue nurse educator education. (Section 5(3) and Section 6.5(a)(3) of the Law)*
- c) An individual is ineligible to receive the scholarship if the individual:
- 1) Defaulted on an educational loan;
 - 2) Previously received a scholarship under this Part and was granted a discharge of the employment obligation (see Section 2749.335); or
 - 3) Receives monies from other scholarship or loan funds requiring service commitments that would prevent the applicant from meeting the nursing employment obligation or nurse educator employment requirements of this Part.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. 9459, effective June 25, 2026)

Section 2749.105 Notification (Repealed)

(Source: Repealed at 48 Ill. Reg. 12574, effective August 1, 2024)

Section 2749.110 Application

- a) An application for the scholarship must be submitted annually, and an applicant must also complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) or the Alternative Application to receive a valid Student Aid Index (SAI). The

application is available on ISAC's website. In order to receive priority consideration for an award, both applications, including all required documentation, must be completed and received by a priority date established each year by the Commission that will precede the academic year for which the scholarship is being offered.

- b) If the Scholarship application is incomplete, ISAC will notify the applicant. The applicant will then have an opportunity to furnish the missing information; however, the application will only be considered for processing as of the date the application is complete and received by ISAC.
- c) *Each person applying for a scholarship shall be provided as part of the Terms and Conditions included with the application, details of the employment obligations in Section 6 or 6.5(e) of the Law.*
- d) Prior to receiving scholarship funding for any academic year, the qualified applicant must sign an Employment Agreement/Promissory Note and submit it to ISAC. The Employment Agreement/Promissory Note shall include a pledge that any recipient agrees to meet the nursing employment obligation and contains details on the employment obligations for both nurses and nurse educators.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. 9459, effective June 25, 2026)

Section 2749.115 Scholarship Renewal (Repealed)

(Source: Recodified from 77 Ill. Adm. Code 597.115 (Department of Public Health) pursuant to P.A. 102-699, at 47 Ill. Reg. 7031)

SUBPART C: AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Section 2749.200 Scholarship Description

- a) Scholarships shall be awarded to students in good standing, meaning a cumulative grade point average equivalent to least the academic grade of a "C" at approved institutions in Illinois for the following time frames based on the recipient's academic program:
 - 1) *Up to one year if the recipient is enrolled in a certificate in practical nursing program;*
 - 2) *Up to 2 years if the recipient is enrolled in an associate degree in nursing program;*

- 3) *Up to 3 years if the recipient is enrolled in a hospital-based diploma in nursing program;*
- 4) *Up to 4 years if the recipient is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree in nursing program;*
- 5) *Up to 5 years if the recipient is enrolled in a graduate degree in nursing program and up to 3 years if the recipient is enrolled in a graduate degree leading to employment as a nurse educator. [110 ILCS 975/3 and 110 ILCS 975/5]*
- b) Awards for students at approved private institutions shall not exceed the tuition and fee charges at community colleges and universities statewide and the uniform living allowance reported in the weighted MAP budget for the academic year in which the scholarship is made. (Section 7 of the Law)
- c) *Part-time awards shall be determined by applying the proportion represented by the part-time enrollment to full-time enrollment ratio to the average per term scholarship amount for a student in the same nursing degree category. (Section 7 of the Law)*
- d) Full-time awards for students pursuing an associate degree in nursing or a hospital-based diploma in nursing at an Illinois community college shall be determined by adding 75% of the weighted tuition and fees charged by community colleges in Illinois to the uniform living allowance reported in the weighted MAP budget. (Section 7 of the Law)
- e) *Scholarship amounts for students pursuing associate, baccalaureate or graduate degrees in nursing at a college or university shall include 75% of the weighted tuition and fees charged by public universities in Illinois plus the uniform living allowance reported in the weighted MAP budget. (Section 7 of the Law)*
- f) *Scholarship amounts for students in practical nursing programs shall include 75% of the average tuition and fee charges at all practical nursing programs plus the uniform living allowance reported in the weighted MAP budget. (Section 7 of the Law)*
- g) Scholarship funds shall not be used for expenses incurred when the recipient must complete a prerequisite course or courses (as determined by the approved institution).
- h) Scholarship funds shall not be used for expenses incurred when the recipient must repeat an academic course or courses, if the repetition is necessary because the

recipient has an academic performance below an acceptable level (as determined by the approved institution).

- i) Under the provisions of the State Comptroller Act [15 ILCS 405/10.05], recipients may have their scholarship funds offset to fulfill a delinquent State debt. The offset of funds shall not reduce, waive, defer or suspend a recipient's continuous attendance requirement, nursing employment obligation, or nurse educator employment obligation under this Part.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. 9459, effective June 25, 2026)

Section 2749.210 Determination of Financial Need (Repealed)

(Source: Repealed at 48 Ill. Reg. 12574, effective August 1, 2024)

Section 2749.220 Selection Criteria for Award of Scholarships

- a) Nursing education scholarship recipients will be selected based on the following criteria outlined in Sections 5 and 6.5(b) of the Law:
 - 1) Recipients continuing with their nursing education (for the same nursing degree sought) from the previous academic year will receive preference over other applicants;
 - 2) *If in any year the number of qualified applicants exceeds the number of scholarships to be awarded, ISAC shall, in consultation with the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center Advisory Board, consider the following factors in granting priority in awarding scholarships:*
 - A) The financial need, as determined by information submitted by the applicant on the FAFSA, of students who are seeking higher degree attainment;
 - i) For students seeking to become nurses, those *who will pursue their education on a full-time basis or close to full-time basis and who already have a certificate in practical nursing, a diploma in nursing, or an associate degree in nursing and are pursuing a higher degree* (Section 5(A) of the Law); or
 - ii) For students seeking to become nurse educators, those *who will pursue their education on a full-time or close to full-time basis and who already have a baccalaureate degree in*

nursing and are pursuing a higher degree to become a nurse educator, *or registered nurses who are pursuing a graduate degree in nursing to obtain employment in an approved institution that educates licensed practical nurses and that educates registered nurses in undergraduate and graduate nursing programs* (Sections 6.5(b)(1) and 6.5(b)(2) of the Law;

- B) *A student's merit, as shown through the following* (Section 5(3)(c) and Section 6.5(b)(3) of the Law:
- i) a student's cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale;
 - ii) class rank in the 50th percentile or higher; and
 - iii) other academic and extracurricular activities.
- C) For students seeking to become nurse educators, *experience as a nurse, including supervisory experience, experience as a nurse in the United States military, and other academic and extracurricular activities.*

b) Scholarship awards shall be distributed as follows:

- 1) *At least 40% of the scholarships awarded shall be for recipients who are pursuing baccalaureate degrees in nursing;*
- 2) *At least 30% of the scholarships awarded shall be for recipients who are pursuing associate degrees in nursing or a hospital-based diploma in nursing;*
- 3) *At least 20% of the scholarships awarded shall be for recipients who are pursuing a graduate degree in nursing to become a nurse or nurse educator; and*
- 4) *At least 10% of the scholarships awarded shall be for recipients who are pursuing a certificate in practical nursing.* (Section 5 of the Law)

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. 9459, effective June 25, 2026)

Section 2749.230 Student Enrollment and Institutions' Obligations

An approved institution may accept a student into its nursing education program based on its own admission requirements, standards and policies. (Section 9(a) of the Law)

- a) The total amount of NES awarded to a qualified recipient in a given academic year, when added to other financial aid available to the qualified recipient for that year, shall not exceed the cost of attendance.
- b) If the recipient receives other assistance targeted specifically for tuition, fees, and living expenses, the combined assistance shall not exceed the total tuition, fees and living expenses incurred by the recipient, and if it does, the institution shall reduce one of the awards accordingly.
- c) If the recipient is eligible for assistance under MAP, the recipient may not be eligible for a full NES award because MAP must be factored into the financial aid package prior to receiving NES assistance. The institution, however, may request an NES award to finance tuition and fees not paid by MAP.
- d) ISAC shall disburse available scholarship funds for tuition and fees and living allowance to the approved institution.
- e) Upon receipt of the scholarship funds, the institution shall verify the recipient's enrollment status for the term for which the award was intended. If enrolled, the institution shall credit the scholarship funds to the recipient's account for expenses due and payable. The balance of the disbursement shall be released to the recipient. If the recipient has withdrawn from enrollment for the terms for which the award was intended, the institution shall return the amount of the scholarship payment to ISAC.

(Source: Amended at 48 Ill. Reg. 12574, effective August 1, 2024)

Section 2749.235 Continuous Attendance Requirement

- a) A recipient must remain enrolled on a continuous basis during the regular school year for the total duration of the time it takes the student to complete the nursing degree or certificate, up to the maximum number of years the recipient is eligible to receive the scholarship, unless granted a leave of absence.
- b) A recipient may be granted a leave of absence for the following reasons:
 - 1) physical or mental health disability that results in the recipient's temporary inability to remain continuously enrolled, as established by the sworn statement of a licensed health care professional; or

- 2) military service.

(Source: Amended at 48 Ill. Reg. 12574, effective August 1, 2024)

Section 2749.240 Waiver of Continuous Attendance Requirement (Repealed)

(Source: Repealed at 48 Ill. Reg. 12574, effective August 1, 2024)

SUBPART D: TERMS OF PERFORMANCE

Section 2749.300 Work Agreement (Repealed)

(Source: Repealed at 50 Ill. Reg. 9459, effective June 25, 2026)

Section 2749.310 Repayment of Scholarship

- a) *Any recipient who fails to fulfill the terms of the employment obligation outlined in the Employment Agreement/Promissory Note shall pay to ISAC an amount equal to the amount of scholarship funds received per year for each unfulfilled year of the nursing employment obligation or nurse educator employment obligation, together with interest at 7% per year on the unpaid balance.*
(Sections 6 and 6.5(d) of the Law)
- b) Failure to fulfill the employment obligation shall include, but not be limited to:
 - 1) Misstatements in reporting information to ISAC;
 - 2) Misrepresentation to ISAC for the purpose of obtaining a scholarship;
 - 3) Failure to maintain the continuous attendance requirement;
 - 4) Failure to complete nursing school, voluntary withdrawal from school or dismissal from school due to academic failure (as defined by the school);
 - 5) Failure to become a licensed nurse in Illinois; and
 - 6) Failure to fulfill the employment obligation.
- c) *Repayment must begin within 6 months following the date of the default action initiating the repayment.* (Sections 6 and 6.5(d) of the Law)
- d) Recipients who fail to fulfill their employment obligation shall enter repayment status on the earliest of the following dates:

- 1) the first day of the calendar month after the recipient has ceased to pursue a course of study leading to an associate degree in nursing program, hospital-based diploma in nursing program, baccalaureate degree in nursing program, graduate degree in nursing program or certificate in practical nursing program, but not before six months have elapsed after the cessation of at least part-time enrollment in such a course of study;
 - 2) the date the recipient informs ISAC that the recipient does not plan to fulfill the employment obligation; or
 - 3) the day after the latest date upon which the recipient is required to begin working after completing the postsecondary education for which the scholarship was awarded.
- e) If a recipient fails to pay monies owed to ISAC, *ISAC may require a recipient to reimburse the State for expenses, legal fees and costs, incurred by ISAC or other agent of the State for a successful legal action against the recipient for a breach of any provision of the Employment Agreement/Promissory Note.*
- f) *All repayments must be completed within 6 years from the date of the first annual payment. (Sections 6 and 6.5(d) of the Law)*
- g) *ISAC may allow a nurse educator employment obligation fulfillment alternative if the nurse educator scholarship recipient is unsuccessful in finding work as a nurse educator. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) shall maintain a database of all available nurse educator positions in this State. (Section 6.5(d) of the Law)*

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. 9459, effective June 25, 2026)

Section 2749.320 Fulfillment of Nursing Education Scholarship Employment Obligation

- a) Scholarship recipients must begin *employment in this State as a registered professional nurse, licensed practical nurse, advanced practice registered nurse in direct patient care*, or as a nurse educator, for a period equivalent to the educational time supported by the scholarship. [110 ILCS 975/3]
- b) Within 12 months after graduation from the nursing program, except as provided in Sections 2749.325, 2749.330 and 2749.335 of this Part:
 - 1) Scholarship recipients must provide evidence of employment *in this State as a registered professional nurse, licensed practical nurse, advanced practice registered nurse in direct patient care* for a period equivalent to

the educational time supported by the statute, set forth as *at least one year for each year of scholarship assistance received* [110 ILCS 975/3]; or

- 2) Scholarship recipients must provide evidence of employment as a nurse educator teaching nursing students at *an approved institution in Illinois that educates licensed practical nurses and that educates registered nurses in undergraduate and graduate nursing programs* for a period equivalent to the educational time supported by the scholarship, set forth as *at least 2 years for each year of scholarship assistance*. [110 ILCS 975/6.5(d)]
- c) Forms to document employment shall be sent to the scholarship recipient following graduation which must be completed and returned to ISAC. Documentation forms will be forwarded periodically until the employment obligation is completed, at which time the recipient will be notified and the scholarship record closed.
- d) Scholarship recipients must furnish upon request a copy of the certificate, diploma or degree that indicates the graduation date and a copy of their licensure as a registered professional nurse, an advanced practice registered nurse, or a licensed practical nurse.
- e) Any scholarship recipient who terminates their studies or fails to become employed will be required to repay the full scholarship amount, plus 7% interest per year.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. 9459, effective June 25, 2026)

Section 2749.325 Request to Defer or Extend Time to Fulfill the Nursing Education Scholarship Continuous Employment Obligation

A request to defer the start of the employment obligation or to extend the period of time within which the scholarship recipient's employment obligation must be fulfilled shall be submitted in writing to ISAC. The request shall be accompanied and supported by documentation as requested by ISAC.

- a) Reasons for deferring the start of the employment obligation or extending the period of time within which the recipient's employment obligation must be fulfilled include:
 - 1) serving as a member of the United States Armed Forces, including as a military reservist, for not more than four years;

- 2) being called to active duty (for recipients who are military reservists) by the armed forces of the United States for the period of active duty;
 - 3) enrolling in an academic program leading to a higher degree or a graduate degree in nursing until no longer enrolled or graduation;
 - 4) experiencing temporary, total disability, as established by the sworn affidavit of a licensed qualified physician, for not more than three years; and
 - 5) involuntarily leaving the profession due to a decrease in the number of nurses employed in the State.
- b) A scholarship recipient who receives a deferment or an extension of the employment obligation must begin fulfilling the required employment obligation no later than six months after the end of the approved deferment or extension period, unless ISAC approves additional time. Additional deferments and extensions are not automatically granted and require a separate request.

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. 9459, effective June 25, 2026)

Section 2749.330 Deferment of Nursing Employment Obligation or Nurse Educator Employment Obligation (Repealed)

(Source: Repealed at 50 Ill. Reg. 9459, effective June 25, 2026)

Section 2749.335 Discharge of Nursing Scholarship Employment Obligation

A discharge request of a scholarship recipient's employment obligation shall be submitted in writing to ISAC. The request shall detail the reasons for the discharge and be accompanied and supported by documentation as described in this Section.

- a) Reasons for a discharge request will include the recipient's:
 - 1) Total and permanent disability;
 - 2) Incompetency; or
 - 3) Death.
- b) If the discharge is due to total and permanent disability, a formal request from a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician's assistant (who is

licensed to practice in the United States) is required. Accompanying this formal request, *proof of disability shall be* a declaration from:

- 1) The *Social Security Administration*;
 - 2) The *Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission*;
 - 3) The U.S. *Department of Defense*; or
 - 4) *An insurer authorized to transact business in Illinois who is providing disability insurance coverage to a contractor.* (Section 3(21) of the Law)
- c) If a discharge is requested because the recipient is incompetent, the request shall be supported by a certified copy of the adjudication from a State or federal court of law. *No claim for repayment may be filed against the estate of an individual deemed incompetent.* (Sections 6 and 6.5(d) of the Law)
- d) If the discharge is requested because of the recipient's death, the request shall be supported by a certified copy of the recipient's death certificate. *No claim for repayment may be filed against the estate of a decedent.* (Sections 6 and 6.5(d) of the Law)

(Source: Amended at 50 Ill. Reg. 9459, effective June 25, 2026)