



NISF ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a scholarship, applicants must:

- Submit an NISF application via their nurse portal account no later than **May 1st**;
- Be a resident of Kentucky;
- Not be listed on the Nurse Aide Abuse Registry with a substantiated finding;
- Be admitted to a nursing program;
- Not be in default for a prior NISF; and
- *Initial Year* – Obtain a successful point ranking as defined in 201 KAR 20:390.

NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION

- Official verification of admission in a nursing program
- Proof of Kentucky Residency (driver's license, voter registration card, federal tax return, W2, or military form 2058); and
- *Initial Year* - Official transcript for the educational institution where you most recently earned a degree, credits, or a GED. The transcript must be marked as official and include the cumulative GPA.

OPTIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Initial Year - You may submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Submission Summary, including the Student Aid Calculation, if you wish for financial need to be considered when your application is scored.

Nursing Incentive Scholarship Fund (NISF)



The Kentucky Board of Nursing administers the Nursing Incentive Scholarship Fund (NISF), which is established by KRS 314.025 and regulated under 201 KAR 20:390. It provides scholarships to Kentucky residents attending an approved prelicensure or graduate nursing program. The NISF scholarship was created to address the nursing workforce needs throughout the Commonwealth and to give preferential assistance to financially needy Kentucky residents, and licensed nurses pursuing further nursing education.

The application period is from January 1st to May 1st. To receive an award payment, an NISF scholarship recipient must be admitted to a nursing program with anticipated enrollment in nursing courses during the academic year immediately following the May 1 application deadline. The academic year is a 12-month period beginning with a fall session. Each NISF scholarship award period runs concurrently with the academic year.

- \$3,000 annually
- Does not have to be applied to tuition or books – use the scholarship for cost of living expenses, such as gas, childcare, or food.
- Apply between January 1st and May 1st for the upcoming academic year.
- May attend any nursing program in any state, not just Kentucky.
- Direct-deposited straight into your bank account.

NISF recipients are selected annually by the Board using criteria specified in 201 KAR 20:390. Scholarship awards of **\$3,000 per academic year are issued each fall.**

After graduation, each NISF scholarship recipient is required to work as a nurse in Kentucky for one year for every academic year funded by the scholarship.

If a recipient graduates from a nursing program and chooses to continue their nursing education, they are eligible to apply for a new NISF scholarship. They may apply for a new NISF scholarship during the submission period for the academic year in which they will be enrolled in the new program.

However, work requirements or repayment for the prior award are not deferred when a recipient continues their education in a different degree program. Part-time nursing work in Kentucky will satisfy the work requirement arising from a prior NISF.





NURSING DEMAND

The Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts an increase in demand for nurses from 2024 to 2034:

- LPN: 3% growth in demand
- RN: 5% growth in demand
- APRN: 35% growth in demand

RESOURCES

Kentucky Nursing Programs:
<https://kbn.ky.gov/education/Pages/Kentucky-Programs-of-Nursing.aspx>

KBN Nurse Portal:
<https://kybn.boardsofnursing.org/kybn>

Nurse Portal Instructions:
<https://kbn.ky.gov/Licensure/Pages/nursing-portal.aspx>

KBN NISF Page:
<https://kbn.ky.gov/education/Pages/nursing-incentive-scholarship-fund.aspx>

Order a GED Transcript:
<https://parchment.my.site.com/GED/s/article/Order-your-GED-credentials-transcript-diploma-certificate>

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Submission Summary:
<https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/review-and-correct/fafsa-submission-summary>

Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA):
<https://www.kheaa.com/web/home.faces>

Kentucky Board of Nursing
312 Whittington Pkwy, Suite 300
Louisville, KY 40222
502-380-6023
kbn-distnif@ky.gov
<https://kbn.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx>



Submitting an Application

Applications may be submitted beginning **January 1st** through **May 1st** of each year. To submit an NISF application, you must first have a KBN nurse portal account. You do not have to be a nurse to create an account. You must have a valid email address that you are able to access. To create your nurse portal account, go to the [KBN Nurse Portal](#) and click the blue Create an Account button. Follow the prompts for creating an account, and you will receive an email with an activation link. Click on the activation link to finish the account creation process. More instructions on creating a nurse portal account, including an instructional video, can be found on the [Nurse Portal Instructions](#) page.

After creating and logging into your nurse portal account, you will see several boxes. Scroll to the last box titled *Other Applications* and press the Apply button. You will be redirected to the page of “Other Applications.” Click on NURSING INCENTIVE SCHOLARSHIP FUND to begin the application. Once the application has been started, you may save and finish the application at a later time, as long as the application is submitted on or before **May 1st**. If you have additional questions on this process, contact KBN staff via the message center in the portal, selecting topic “NISF”.

Scholarship Recipient Requirements

Students selected for an NISF scholarship must sign a Nursing Incentive Scholarship Fund Contract and Promissory Note.

Students who receive an NISF scholarship are required to:

- Maintain Kentucky residency throughout nursing school;
- Maintain a current address and contact information on file with the Kentucky Board of Nursing;
- Submit verification of continued enrollment with the nursing program, and notify KBN NISF staff of all changes in enrollment status;
- Successfully complete/graduate from the nursing program within the time established by the program of nursing;
- Successfully obtain nursing licensure at the level of the nursing education funded within two years of graduation;
- Obtain nursing employment in Kentucky within six months of graduation, if already licensed as a nurse at the time of program completion;
- Obtain nursing employment in Kentucky within six months of issuance of licensure, if not licensed as a nurse at the time of program completion;
- Work as a nurse in Kentucky for one year for each academic year funded;
- Not be listed on the nurse aide abuse registry with a substantiated finding of abuse, neglect, or theft; and
- Not receive any disciplinary action from any nursing regulatory agency until all work requirements have been fulfilled



Scholarship recipients who fail to meet the above requirements may be required to repay the award amount received plus interest at the simple annualized rate of eight percent. If a work requirement is partially unsatisfied, the repayable amount may be prorated based on the portion of the work requirement fulfilled. Repayment deferral may be requested in the case of disability, major illness, or accident that prevents a recipient from completing the program of nursing or being employed as a nurse in Kentucky.