

(5) The cost of educating a physician assistant or nurse practitioner is more than the tuition received and although less than the cost of educating a physician, it is still expensive; and

(6) The number of physician assistants and nurse practitioners trained in primary care should be increased.]

~~{(c)}--(B)--(1)--THERE--IS--A--PROGRAM--OF--SCHOLARSHIPS--FOR NURSING-STUDENTS-IN-NURSING-SHORTAGE-AREAS--ADMINISTERED--BY--THE STATE-SCHOLARSHIP-ADMINISTRATION;~~

{2} (B) (1) There is a Maryland Physician Assistant-Nurse Practitioner Training Program that provides financial support to institutions with training programs for physician assistants and nurse practitioners in primary care in this State ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE--SCHOLARSHIP--ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION ADMINISTRATION. An institution may participate if its program:

[(1)] (I) Is accredited by the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, or the National League of Nursing;

[(2)] (II) Produces graduates eligible to take:

[(i)] 1. The primary care physician assistant certifying examination of the National Commission on the Certification of Physician Assistants; or

[(ii)] 2. The primary care in adult and family nursing practice certifying examination or any other examination required by the State Board of Examiners of Nurses;

[(3)] (III) Is part of, or has a formal arrangement with, a medical education center;

[(4)] (IV) Focuses on developing primary care skills and includes substantial clinical experience in primary care; and

[(5)] (V) Is not a specialty program in a discipline other than primary care.

~~{(d)}--(c)--(1)--(1)--THE-NURSING-SCHOLARSHIP-AWARD-SHALL-BE-IN THE--AMOUNT--OF--\$2,400--ANNUALLY--FOR--A--FULL-TIME-STUDENT-OR-A PRORATED-AWARD-ACCORDING-TO-THE-NUMBER-OF-CREDIT-HOURS-TAKEN-BY-A PART-TIME-STUDENT;~~

~~{(1)}--EACH-AWARD-SHALL-BE-RENEWABLE-ON-AN-ANNUAL BASIS-UP-TO-A-MAXIMUM-AMOUNT-OF-\$9,600;-IF-THE-RECIPIENT;~~

~~1;-REMAINS-A-RESIDENT-OF-THIS-STATE;~~