

(ii) That awards nursing degrees or diplomas.

(3) "Nursing shortage area" means a recognized area of nursing service or specialization determined by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to be an area where there exists a shortage of qualified nurses in eligible organizations.

(4) "Nursing student" means a student enrolled in a postsecondary nursing education degree or diploma program at an eligible institution.

(5) "Service obligation" means employment as a nurse in a nursing shortage area in an eligible organization.

(b) (1) Economic Development Student Assistance Grants may be awarded as scholarships for nursing students in nursing shortage areas.

(2) (i) The nursing scholarship awarded under this section shall be in the amount of tuition and fees not to exceed ~~[\$2,400]~~ ~~\$4,000~~ \$3,000 annually for a full-time student or a prorated award according to the number of credit hours taken by a part-time student.

(ii) Each award shall be renewable on an annual basis up to a maximum amount of ~~[\$9,600]~~ ~~\$16,000~~ \$12,000, if the recipient:

1. Remains a resident of this State;
2. Enrolls in an eligible institution;
3. Maintains a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent; and
4. Makes satisfactory progress toward the nursing degree or diploma according to the standards of the eligible institution attended.

(3) (I) FOR A NURSING STUDENT ENROLLED IN A NURSING PROGRAM, INCLUDING MANDATORY SUMMER ACADEMIC SESSIONS THAT ARE A REQUIRED PART OF THE APPROVED CURRICULUM, THE NURSING SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE IN THE AMOUNT OF TUITION AND FEES NOT TO EXCEED \$4,500 PER CALENDAR YEAR

(II) EACH AWARD SHALL BE RENEWABLE ON AN ANNUAL BASIS UP TO A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$12,000, IF THE RECIPIENT:

1. REMAINS A RESIDENT OF THE STATE;
2. ENROLLS IN A NURSING PROGRAM AT AN ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION;
3. MAINTAINS A GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF AT LEAST 3.0 ON A 4.0 SCALE OR ITS EQUIVALENT; AND
4. MAKES SATISFACTORY PROGRESS TOWARD THE NURSING DEGREE OR DIPLOMA ACCORDING TO THE STANDARDS OF THE ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION ATTENDED.