

**ABN Statement on Changes to
Administrative Code Chapter 610-x-11
“Graduate Nursing Scholarships”
And Establishment of New Chapter 610-x-12
“Loan Repayment Program for Advanced Practice Nursing”**

During the 2016 Regular Session, the Legislature passed Alabama Act No. 2016-353, which establishes an education loan repayment program for CRNPs, CNMs, and CRNAs who agree to work in areas of critical need for providers in Alabama. Because this is a new program and because the Legislature charged the Board with administering it, ABN is required to promulgate a new chapter to the ABN Administrative Code codifying qualifications and the application process for awarding loans. These rules are contained in proposed new Chapter 610-x-12.

In conjunction with writing the new loan repayment rules and in keeping with Board policy mandating review of all existing rules on a regular basis, the Board also elected to propose revisions to Chapter 610-x-11, “Graduate Nursing Scholarships.” The revisions are primarily of the “house-keeping” variety, but nurses and students may be interested in changes allowing scholarship payments to be made once per year (rather than splitting the total scholarship between academic terms) and giving the Board more flexibility to consider a student’s particular academic track when determining compliance with scholarship requirements.

Please review the proposals and feel free to provide comments. The Board will be accepting comments until 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 5, 2016.

ALABAMA BOARD OF NURSING
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 610-X-11
GRADUATE NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS

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610-X-11-.01 Candidate Qualifications.

(1) Applicants for graduate nursing scholarships shall:

(a) Be a resident of the State of Alabama for at least one year preceding the time of making application for the graduate nursing scholarship.

(b) Have an active, unencumbered license as a professional nurse in Alabama.

(c) Be a person of good moral character.

(d) Be accepted for an Alabama graduate program conducted by an accredited college or university.

(e) Agree to practice professional nursing or become a nursing instructor in the State of Alabama for at least two years immediately after completing the graduate degree. For purposes of this section, the term "immediately" shall be defined as commencing within six months (180 days) following completion of the graduate degree and continuing for two consecutive full years thereafter.

(2) The Board may grant a waiver of any of these provisions to any recipient upon receipt of evidence of extenuating circumstances beyond the recipient's control.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, Act 2012-262.

History: Filed September 27, 1982. **Amended:** Filed

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December 7, 1984; effective January 11, 1985. **Amended:** Filed September 20, 2002; effective October 25, 2002. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed February 25, 2013; effective April 1, 2013.

Ed. Note: Original Rule 610-X-11-.01, Implementation Of Act, was repealed and Rule 610-X-11-.02 was renumbered to Rule 610-X-11-.01, as per certification filed September 20, 2002; effective October 25, 2002.

610-X-11-.02 Scholarship Conditions.

(1) Scholarships may be awarded for multiple years of graduate study.

(2) The Board shall give preference to applicants pursuing a career in nursing education.

(3) Each scholarship is limited to a maximum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

(4) Scholarship recipients shall be selected from the State of Alabama at large and, to the extent practicable, distributed throughout the State.

(5) The number of scholarships shall equal five percent of the total enrollment in graduate nursing programs in Alabama.

(a) Each June Board staff will contact deans of Alabama graduate nursing programs to determine the total number of Alabama residents enrolled in graduate nursing programs.

(b) The Board shall use the number of Alabama residents enrolled in graduate nursing programs to determine the number of scholarships to be awarded.

~~(6) Scholarship recipients are required to attend the specified graduate program for a minimum of six (6) academic hours for at least two consecutive semesters during the year of scholarship funding.~~

(7) Scholarship recipients shall notify the Board if any of the following conditions apply:

(a) Failure to complete the graduate nursing program when anticipated.

(b) Relocation.

(c) Employment following graduation from graduate nursing program.

~~(d) Failure to attend a minimum of six academic hours for at least two consecutive semesters during the year of scholarship funding.~~

(e) Withdrawal from graduate nursing program.

~~(f) Failure to maintain a "C" average in nursing courses.~~

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, Act 2012-262.

History: Filed September 29, 1982. **Amended:** Filed December 7, 1984; effective January 11, 1985. **Amended:** Filed September 20, 2002; effective October 25, 2002. **Repealed and New**

Rule: Filed February 25, 2013; effective April 1, 2013.

Ed. Note: Original 610-X-11-.03 was renumbered to Rule 610-X-11-.02, as per certification filed September 20, 2002; effective October 25, 2002.

610-X-11-.03 Application For Scholarship.

(1) An applicant for the graduate nursing scholarship shall submit an on-line application by the deadline established by the Board.

(2) Incomplete applications may not be considered.

(3) The applicant for graduate nursing scholarship shall submit proof of:

(a) Residency.

(b) Acceptance in graduate nursing program in Alabama.

(4) Once awarded a scholarship, the applicant shall sign a promissory note for the total amount awarded.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, Act 2012-262.

History: Filed September 29, 1982. **Amended:** Filed December 7, 1984; effective January 11, 1985. **Amended:** Filed September 20, 2002; effective October 25, 2002. **Repealed and New**

Rule: Filed February 25, 2013; effective April 1, 2013.

Ed. Note: Original 610-X-11-.04 was renumbered to Rule 610-X-11-.03, as per certification filed September 20, 2002; effective October 25, 2002.

610-X-11-.04 Failure To Satisfy Conditions Of Scholarship.

(1) A scholarship recipient who fails to meet the conditions of the scholarship shall immediately repay the State Treasury in full any amount received.

(2) In the event of the scholarship recipient's death, any obligation to repay funds shall be cancelled.

(3) Should the scholarship recipient becomes physically or mentally impaired and unable to complete a graduate degree in nursing or fulfill the post-scholarship service requirement, the obligation to repay funds shall be cancelled.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, Act 2012-262.

History: Filed September 29, 1982. **Amended:** Filed December 7, 1984; effective January 11, 1985. **Amended:** Filed September 20, 2002; effective October 25, 2002. **Repealed and New**

Rule: Filed February 25, 2013; effective April 1, 2013.

Ed. Note: Original 610-X-11-.05 was renumbered to Rule 610-X-11-.04, as per certification filed September 20, 2002; effective October 25, 2002.

610-X-11-.05 Payment Of Scholarship Funds.

(1) Payments to the scholarship recipient shall be made ~~semi~~-annually.

~~(2) The first payment shall be after January 1 of the year of funding, provided the recipient submitted documentation to prove six hours of academic and a minimum of a "C" average.~~

~~(3) The second payment shall be made after July 1 of the year of funding, provided the recipient submitted documentation to prove six hours of academic study in two consecutive semesters and a minimum of a "C" average.~~

Author: The Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, Act 2012-262.

History: Filed September 29, 1982. **Amended:** Filed December 7, 1984; effective January 11, 1985. **Amended:** Filed February 5, 1998; effective March 12, 1998. **Amended:** Filed September 20, 2002; effective October 25, 2002. **Repealed and New**

Rule: Filed February 25, 2013; effective April 1, 2013.

Ed. Note: Original 610-X-11-.06 was renumbered to Rule 610-X-11-.05, as per certification filed September 20, 2002; effective October 25, 2002.

610-X-11-.06 Disciplinary Action. (REPEALED)

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-21-2(1), 34-21-62.

History: New Rule: Filed September 20, 2002; effective October 25, 2002. **Repealed:** Filed February 25, 2013; effective April 1, 2013.

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CHAPTER 610-X-12

Loan Repayment Program for Advanced Practice Nursing

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610-X-12-.01 Definitions

(1) Participant: Any person who applies for and is awarded a loan, as provided in Article 6 of Title 34, Chapter 21, Code of Alabama (1975).

(2) Eligible people: Students in accredited nursing education programs approved by the Board who are pursuing a graduate degree to become a certified registered nurse practitioner (CRNP), a certified nurse midwife (CNM), or a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA); or CRNPs, CNMs, and CRNAs applying for loans for any previously completed scholastic year.

(3) Full-Time: 36-40 hours per week

(4) Immediate: Within three months (90 days) of graduation or receipt of loan.

(5) Area of Critical Need: An area of critical need shall be an area in Alabama with a critical need, as determined by the Board, for advanced practice nurses and shall not be a part of, or within five miles of, an urbanized area, as defined most recently by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing
 Statutory Authority: Alabama Act No. 2016-353

610-X-11-.02 Participant Qualifications.
 An applicant for a graduate loan shall:

(1) Be a resident of the state of Alabama for at least one year preceding the time of making application for the loan.

(2) Have an active, unencumbered license as a registered nurse (RN) in Alabama.

(3) Be a person of good moral character.

(4) Either:

(a) Be accepted for an accredited graduate program on a track to become a certified registered nurse practitioner (CRNP), certified nurse midwife (CNM), or certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA); or

(b) Hold a degree from such a graduate program and be eligible for approval as a CRNP, CNM, or CRNA in the state of Alabama.

(5) Meet eligibility requirements.

(6) Agree to work immediately following graduation or loan approval in full-time practice as a CRNA, CRNP, or CNM in an area of critical need, as determined by the Board, for eighteen (18) months for each year he or she received a loan under the Program, subject to the requirements of Code of Alabama (1975), § 34-21-96.

(7) Agree to designate the area of critical need where the participant will work at the time specified by the Board.

(a) For participants currently enrolled in the graduate program for which the loan is being awarded, the participant shall designate the area of critical need where the participant will work within three months (90 days) of graduation.

(b) For participants who are CRNPs, CNMs, and CRNAs applying for loans for any previously completed scholastic year, the participant shall designate the area of critical need where the participant will work in the loan agreement.

(c) Once the participant designates the area of critical need where the participant will work, the participant may change the area of critical need where the participant will work only if approved by the Board and subject to the additional service requirements established in Code of Alabama (1975), § 34-21-96(c).

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing

Statutory Authority: Alabama Act No. 2016-353

610-X-12-.03 Loan Conditions.

- (1) Loans may be awarded for multiple years of graduate study, as specified in statute.
- (2) Each loan is limited to a maximum of twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000).
- (3) Participants shall be selected from the state of Alabama at large and, to the extent practicable, distributed throughout the State.
- (4) Participants shall agree to provide verification of employment when requested by the Board.
- (5) Participants shall sign a contract to repay the amount of the loan by working following graduation in full-time practice as a CRNA, CRNP, or CNM in an area of critical need for the time required in Code of Alabama (1975) § 34-21-96.
- (6) Participants shall notify the Board if any of the following conditions apply:
 - (a) Failure to complete the graduate nursing program when anticipated.
 - (b) Relocation.
 - (c) Employment following graduation from the graduate nursing program, as provided in this chapter.
 - (d) Failure to complete the minimum number of academic hours required by the loan repayment agreement.
 - (e) Withdrawal from the graduate nursing program.
- (7) The Board shall develop and prescribe such forms of application, agreements, or other documents as may be necessary to implement this chapter.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing
Statutory Authority: Alabama Act No. 2016-353

610-X-12-.04 Application for Loan.

- (1) An applicant for the program shall submit an online application by the deadline established by the Board.
- (2) Incomplete applications may not be considered.

(3) The applicant shall submit proof of:

(a) Residency in Alabama for one year prior to the date of application.

(b) Acceptance in or completion of an accredited graduate nursing program approved by the Board on a track to become a CRNP, CNM, or CRNA.

(4) Once selected, the applicant shall sign a loan repayment agreement for the total amount awarded.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing
Statutory Authority: Alabama Act No. 2016-353

610-X-12-.05 Failure to Satisfy Conditions of Loan Repayment Agreement.

(1) In the event that the participant defaults on or otherwise fails to honor the loan repayment agreement with the Board for any reason, the individual shall be liable for immediate repayment of the total principal loan amount plus interest and penalties, as specified in Code of Alabama (1975) § 34-21-98.

(2) The Board may excuse repayment of a loan, in whole or part, upon the death of a participant, or upon the participant's becoming disabled to the extent that he or she is no longer able to engage in the practice of nursing, or upon some other extreme hardship not the fault of the participant.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing
Statutory Authority: Alabama Act No. 2016-353

610-X-12-.06 Disbursement of Loan Funds.

Payments to participants shall be made annually.

Author: The Alabama Board of Nursing
Statutory Authority: HB228

610-X-12-.07 Identification of Areas of Critical Need

(1) The Board shall meet annually to determine the areas of critical need for advanced practice nurses.

(2) Criteria for identification of areas of critical need shall include, but are not limited to:

(a) Availability of primary care providers in an area.

(b) Location in a non-urbanized area, as determined by

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the US census Bureau.

(3) In determining compliance with the service requirements as defined in this chapter, the Board shall consider only the primary practice site of a CRNP, CNM, and CRNA.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing
Statutory Authority: Alabama Act No. 2016-353

610-X-12-.08 Disciplinary Action.

Failure to comply with the provisions of any contract or loan repayment agreement as provided in this Chapter shall constitute grounds for discipline up to and including revocation of the Participant's nursing license.

Author: Alabama Board of Nursing
Statutory Authority: Alabama Act No. 2016-353