

## **Family-Centered Nursing Science Predoctoral Scholarship Program**

### **Application Overview**

The OU College of Nursing seeks applicants for its Family-Centered Nursing Science Predoctoral Scholarship Program. This 2-year scholarship program supports full time PhD education for nurses committed to careers in academic family-centered nursing. Through generous funding from a donor, the College of Nursing will award a total of \$100,000 (\$50,000 per year for two years) to each selected Predoctoral Scholar awardee. Scholarship Awards begin in August of the award year. Awardees are designated Family-Centered Nursing Science Predoctoral Scholars.

### **Eligibility**

Applicants must:

- be registered nurses,
- hold degree(s) in nursing,
- be United States citizens,
- plan an academic and research career, AND
- be committed to and demonstrate potential for long-term contributions to family-centered nursing.

Scholarship applicants must meet all requirements for admission to the University of Oklahoma College of Nursing PhD program and be accepted to the program prior to the official start of the Family-Centered Nursing Science Predoctoral Scholarship award term. Selected Scholars are required to be enrolled full-time, and engage in scholarly work addressing a topic relevant to improving the health of women or children within a family-centered context. Upon completion of their program, Scholars are required to work in an academic faculty position in baccalaureate or graduate nursing programs within the state of Oklahoma for a minimum of two years upon graduation.

The program is committed to advancing well-qualified applicants from underrepresented minority groups to improve the state and nation's ability to provide culturally competent care to its diverse population of women and children.

Mentorship is the cornerstone of the Family-Centered Nursing Science Scholarship Program. Applicants will work with PhD faculty to identify a mentor within the OU College of Nursing whose program of research is a good match with the applicant's research interest area and who will be the primary mentor for the grant term.

Persons interested in applying should contact the Sponsored Program Specialist in the PhD Program Office ([jenny-droscher@ouhsc.edu](mailto:jenny-droscher@ouhsc.edu) or 405-325-1491 x49176).

### **Program Description**

*Overview.* The goal of the Family-Centered Nursing Science Scholarship program is to increase academic family-centered nursing capacity in Oklahoma. Scholars, in collaboration with their mentor, will design and implement a tailored professional development plan, to be completed during the two year award. This plan will be designed to support the attainment of competencies to ensure academic leadership in family-centered nursing through:

- strong mentorship in the components of academic family-centered nursing (research, teaching and service),
- involvement in a national network of scholars, fellows and academic family-centered nurses, and
- opportunities to collaborate on scholarly research projects that bring together a wide range of experts in women's health, pediatrics and family-centered care.

*Support.* Each year the Family-Centered Nursing Science Predoctoral Scholarship Award offers each candidate up to a total of \$50,000 to support tuition, academic fees, books and supplies necessary for doctoral study, membership

in professional organizations and attendance at national conferences and institutes relevant to academic family-centered nursing, and a stipend (the stipend may not exceed \$30,000 per year). Each grant year total may not exceed \$50,000.

## Requirements

### If Selected, Scholars must:

- Assume and maintain full-time student status in the OU CON PhD in Nursing program throughout the award period; eliminate or reduce paid work commitments to .5FTE (half-time) or less.
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress.
- Participate in the mentored curricular enhancement in family-centered nursing science, including the New Scholars orientation program and monthly research interest groups.
- Identify a research topic and focus research and dissertation within the broad area of family-centered nursing science. If the applicant is a newly entering doctoral student, the research project to be undertaken as the doctoral dissertation must be identified by the beginning of the second year of funding.
- Attend national/regional research conferences along with their mentor[s].
- Work in an academic faculty position in baccalaureate or graduate nursing programs within the state of Oklahoma for at least two years upon graduation.

## Criteria Considered in Selection of Scholars

*Strong applications will demonstrate all of the following.*

### Applicant

- Evidence of commitment to a career in academic family-centered nursing
- Potential to contribute to the knowledge base in family-centered nursing in significant ways over time
- Prior leadership experience through involvement in educational, research and professional activities

### Proposed Professional Development Plan and Research Area

- The clarity and thoroughness of the proposed professional development plan tailored to meet the goals of the potential scholar within the 24 month award timeline
- Significance of the study area and proposed research to improving the health and well-being of women, children and/or families

### Commitment to Full-time Study

- The ability of the Scholar to devote full time (minimum of 40 hours/week) to their professional development plan and research.
- If the applicant is employed and plans to continue employment during the scholarship period, a letter from their employer indicating how the applicant's workload will be reduced to .5FTE or less to permit full time study.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

The PhD Program Office provides ongoing administrative support as well as oversight. The following policies will be distributed to Family-Centered Nursing Science Scholars awardees:

- Program Policies and Reporting Procedures
- Disbursement Policy

## **Timeline**

- April 1** Applications due.
- April 15** Family-Centered Nursing Science Scholars Selection Committee reviews all completed applications submitted by the stated deadline then selects candidates for the Award.
- All applicants are advised of funding decisions as soon as feasible.
- August 1** Award program officially begins.

## **Questions?**

If you need further clarification or have additional questions, please contact the Sponsored Program Specialist in the PhD Program Office ([jenny-droscher@ouhsc.edu](mailto:jenny-droscher@ouhsc.edu) or 405-271-1491 x49176).