

AtlantiCare Nursing Fellowship Program Frequently Asked Questions 2009

What is a Nursing fellowship?

A fellowship is a specified sum of money which is used to cover college tuition for Nursing School. It may cover 100% of your tuition, books, and college fees or it may cover a smaller amount; based on where you go to school.

In return you will apply for a RN position the semester you are scheduled to graduate. A written agreement between the student and AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center (ARMC) will be completed at the time you begin your fellowship. It will outline your responsibilities as a fellowship recipient.

The Nursing fellowship program is for completion of a Registered Nurse program only.

What are the eligibility requirements?

Eligibility requirements are defined below-

- **AtlantiCare benefited employees**, who have been employed for a minimum of one year and have been accepted or are waiting confirmation of acceptance into an AD or BSN nursing program, are eligible to apply. (If you are an employee and are currently enrolled in pre-nursing courses continue to use the tuition reimbursement benefit for those courses). *You must submit documentation of acceptance or application for admission to a Nursing program.*
- **AtlantiCare non-benefited employees** who have worked a minimum of 1000 hours over the course of the previous 2 years (January – December) and worked 4 Holidays (if your department is open on holidays) during that time are eligible to apply for a nursing fellowship. You may apply during your pre-requisite coursework. Each year you will be required to provide evidence that you have worked a minimum of 480 hours and a minimum of 2 Holidays (as required).

(All AtlantiCare employees must be in “good standing” within the organization. This will include compliance with EWR and a satisfactory employee evaluation.)

- **Dependents of Employees**, Dependents of employees who wish to pursue a career in nursing and are graduating in the Spring of 2009 are eligible to apply as well as an employee’s spouse and children already graduated from high school (must have applied/been accepted to a BSN program or be enrolled/registered in a Community College)..
- **Community fellowships**
These fellowships are being offered in an effort to encourage a broad field of applicants that will reflect the diverse community served by AtlantiCare. Students who are graduating High School in Spring 2009 and/or second career students living within a 50 mile radius may also apply (all community applicants must have applied/been accepted to a BSN program or be enrolled/registered in a community college).

We are proud to continue our work in collaboration with several community affiliates who provide leadership and guidance to our fellowship candidates. These Atlantic County affiliates include:

- The Hispanic Alliance
- The NAACP
- The Philippine Nurses Association

When are fellowship applications available, and where can I obtain one?

Fellowship applications are posted on an annual basis during the 1st Quarter of each year. You can obtain them:

- AtlantiCare Internet, Intranet Nursing websites or visit our Nursing Recruitment and Retention office
- Local High School / Guidance Counselors
- The Atlantic City NAACP, Hispanic Alliance offices or Philippine Nurses Association Members

Follow the directions in the application, check for eligibility requirements as listed in the application, and submit with all required paperwork by the date listed. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

I am an AtlantiCare employee. If I have applied to a RN program but have not been accepted prior to the application deadline can I still apply for a fellowship?

Yes, complete the application and submit all the required information including the name of the program you have applied to. A final decision for a fellowship award will be based on acceptance into the RN program.

If I have a degree outside of nursing and have been accepted into an accelerated RN program am I eligible to apply for a fellowship.

Yes, complete the application process. Be sure to list the nursing program you have been accepted into and the length of anticipated time it will take to complete.

What type of community service will I perform as a nursing fellow?

Each semester, Nursing fellows will be expected to attend 2 community events to help promote nursing as a career and health literacy. ARMC nurse advisors will assist you with selecting events.

What is the length of service I will be required to give to ARMC after I pass my nursing boards?

This will be based on the amount of your fellowship award. Generally, service obligations extend for 2-4 years.

I am not currently employed by ARMC, if I receive a fellowship will I be able to become an ARMC employee?

You will be able to apply for positions that are available throughout AtlantiCare.

As a fellowship recipient will I need to attend special classes or programs other than my college courses?

Yes, all fellowship recipients will attend an initial orientation program. Annually, you will be required to review a Roles and Responsibilities self-study packet which will provide guidelines to assist you in maintaining your “good standing” status as a

fellow. Updates will be communicated via email or regular mail. Subsequently, additional educational preparation classes may be required based on your personal academic development. As part of the ARMC nursing family you will also be invited to attend ARMC nursing educational programs and celebration events.

What is a professional development plan?

After you receive notification of your fellowship award you will make an appointment to discuss with an ARMC nurse advisor your career goals, current grades, experiences and other information which can impact your educational success. You will then begin to design a plan that will help you to succeed with your goals. This will be reviewed at a minimum of each semester or more frequently based on your needs and to follow your advancement.

What is the NET, and do all nursing schools require that you take this test?

The NET (Nurse Entrance Test) the NET is a test that identifies strengths and weaknesses that can be useful in academic and career planning. Sections covered the NET include: Math, Reading Rate, Scientific Reading Comprehension, Written Expression, Social Interaction, Stress Situations, Learning Styles, Test Taking Skills. Not all nursing programs utilize this exam. Atlantic Cape Community College utilizes this as part of the RN program application process, other nursing programs may use a different entrance exam such as the TEASE or NLN exams.

Interview Process

- Once your application has been received it will be reviewed for completeness.
- If you meet the criteria you will be contacted for an interview date, time, and place
- Everyone will be asked the same set of questions in the interview – to really shine we suggest:
 - Be prompt
 - Dress professionally
 - Be able to speak to your application

ARMC Support System to Promote Success

- Access to a friendly and professional fellowship team
- Personal meetings, phone conversations, email contact to discuss your goals and needs
- Assistance in applying to Nursing Schools
- Tutors and/or resources for tutoring will be available upon request.

**If you are considering a career in Nursing please contact us.
We look forward to hearing from you.**

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Or visit us on the web

www.atlanticare.org

