



## NURSE FACULTY LOAN PROGRAM (NFLP) FACT SHEET

### Summary of Nurse Faculty Loan Program

The Nurse Faculty Loan Program was created by the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to increase the number of qualified nurse faculty in the field.

**NFLP Application Contact:** [NFLP@una.edu](mailto:NFLP@una.edu)

**NFLP Project Director:** Dr. Stephanie Clark [sbarger1@una.edu](mailto:sbarger1@una.edu)

**Financial Aid Email for NFLP Recipients:** [sfins@una.edu](mailto:sfins@una.edu)

**Student Accounts Email for Students in Repayment:** [studentaccounts@una.edu](mailto:studentaccounts@una.edu)

**Loan Servicer:** Heartland ECSI, 1.888.549.3274, or <https://heartland.ecsi.net/>

### NFLP Requirements at the University of North Alabama Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions

- Be an enrolled MSN-DNP student in the nurse education concentration who intends to teach at an accredited nursing school post-graduation, or enrolled in another DNP concentration and intend to precept nursing students full-time upon graduation
- Be a U.S. citizen, national of the U.S, or a lawful permanent resident of the U.S. or its territories
- Maintain good academic standing at the university
- Have no judgment liens entered against him/her based on the default on a federal debt, 28 U.S.C. 3201(e)
- Maintain full-time or part-time enrollment status for a minimum of 2 terms/semesters during an academic year while receiving the NFLP loan

### Interest Rate - 3% or the Prevailing Market Rate, Depending on Employment Status

Interest on your Nurse Faculty Loan will accrue at the rate of 3% per annum beginning three (3) months after you cease to be a student in the program. Interest will be payable at the end of your nine (9) month grace period. This 3% interest rate is contingent upon your completion of the MSN teaching/learning or DNP program and verification of your employment as a nurse faculty member once you graduate. **Nurse Faculty Loan borrowers are limited to a 12-month time frame to establish employment as full-time nurse faculty at an accredited school of nursing following graduation. Your employment verification must also be submitted within this 12-month period; otherwise, you will not be eligible for the Nurse Faculty loan cancellation provision.**

After completing Exit Counseling, you must submit a properly completed form certifying your employment to Heartland ECSI. If you fail to complete the advanced nurse education program or fail to serve as a full-time nurse faculty member upon graduation, interest on this loan will accrue on the outstanding balance at the prevailing market rate. The prevailing market rate is determined by the Treasury Department and is published quarterly.

### Program Guidelines

NFLP Loans can be used to cover the following expenses: Tuition and Fees. Books may be covered, depending on funding availability.

You must complete an annual FAFSA form and paperwork annually with the Office of Financial Aid in order to remain enrolled in the NFLP program so long as the program continues to be funded. Financial Aid will contact you via email to complete this paperwork that is in addition to your FAFSA form.

NFLP funds cannot pay for the same course twice, so if you fail or withdraw from a course that you will need to take to graduate, you will need to find alternative funding to pay for the course on your second attempt.

Your NFLP loan amount may be changed to match actual enrollment, which requires your emailed permission from your UNA email account. To remain enrolled in the NFLP program, you must be proactive in contacting Financial Aid regarding any changes in enrollment, as this will change your tuition amount. Failure to do this may bar you from future NFLP funding.

### Exit Counseling

Prior to graduation, you will meet with the NFLP program director for an exit interview. After graduation, withdrawal from UNA, or failure to enroll in courses after a length of time, you will be contacted by Financial Aid to create an account with Heartland ECSI (UNA's loan servicer) and complete mandatory Exit Counseling. HRSA regulations require that all borrowers complete exit counseling for loans received through the Nurse Faculty Loan Program.

## **Cancellation of your NFLP Loan**

You are eligible to have up to 85% of your loan canceled (forgiven) if you meet the required employment criteria for four consecutive years.

The graduated student from the advanced nursing education program will need to obtain full-time employment as nurse faculty within 12 months following graduation.

Full-time employment refers to the status of a student borrower who has graduated and is employed and serving in a nurse faculty capacity that qualifies for loan cancellation. The institution which provided NFLP support to a borrower makes the determination about meeting the full-time employment requirement.

This must include one of the following criteria:

- Employment as a full-time faculty member at an accredited school of nursing
- Employment as a part-time faculty member at an accredited school of nursing in combination with another part-time faculty position or part-time clinical preceptor/educator position affiliated with an accredited school of nursing that together equates to full-time employment
- Clinical supervisor position(s) that equate to a minimum of 15 contact hours per week through the academic year
- Designation of nurse faculty in a joint nurse faculty appointment serving as full-time advanced practice registered nurse preceptor for an accredited school of nursing within an academic-practice partnership framework and precepting at least 30 hours/month during the academic year

During a period of cancellation, principal and interest will be canceled, and you will not have a monthly payment due. If eligible, you may receive the following cancellations:

- 20% for the first year of full-time employment
- 20% for the second year of full-time employment
- 20% for the third year of full-time employment
- 25% for the fourth year of full-time employment

Two forms are required for each year of eligible employment--a postponement request should be submitted 30 days before your original nine (9) month grace period expires and annually thereafter; and you must complete and submit a request for cancellation for that same year's service upon completion of each year of employment as faculty at an accredited school of nursing. You may download these forms at <https://heartland.ecsi.net/>.

The cancellation percentages are calculated on the amount of the unpaid balance on the first day of employment (or your first date of cancellation). To receive the cancellation, your employment must be consecutive. Once you receive the maximum portion (up to 85%) of the principal amount of the loan and interest canceled, the remaining amount (15% or more depending upon years of employment) of the unpaid balance is repayable. Paid leave such as vacation or sick leave is not considered a break in service for your 12 consecutive months of employment.

## **Repayment**

Repayment of your Nurse Faculty loan is repayable in equal monthly installments over a 10-year repayment period that begins 9 months after graduation from your advanced nurse education program. After graduation or withdrawal from your program, you may also pay any amount without penalty toward the principal and accrued interest on the loan after your grace period is complete. For information on submitting payments on your loan, please contact Heartland ECSI directly.

You have the right to pay more than the amount that is due on your loan. This process will shorten the time that your loan is in repayment and reduce the overall interest that you will pay over the life of the loan.

## **Loan Discharge**

In the event of your permanent total disability or death, your loan obligation has the option to be discharged. In both cases, documentation must be sent to the institution that granted your loan. Loan discharge due to disability requires certification from a physician and is subject to approval by your lending institution. The Department of Health and Human Services will make the final determination of a disability discharge.

## **Default**

If you fail to make an installment payment when due or fail to comply with any other term of your promissory note, your loan will be considered in default. Your school has the right to report any delinquency or default to credit bureaus. The school may also accelerate the loan, which means the entire loan balance will be due and payable immediately and legal action could be taken against you. If you have difficulty making your loan payments, contact your Heartland ECSI immediately. Late fees of will be assessed to your account through Heartland ECSI if you do not make required payments.

**Deferment**

Deferment benefits are available to borrowers for up to three (3) years if:

- you are ordered to active duty as a member of the uniformed service of the US (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Corps (NOAA), or Public Health Service), or
- you service as a volunteer under the Peace Corps Act.

Deferments are also available to borrowers for up to ten (10) years if:

- you graduate, are employed, and decide to return to a graduate nursing education program to pursue a doctoral degree, enroll half-time or more at another post-doctoral program at an accredited college or university, or are otherwise pursuing advanced professional training in Nursing (e.g. post-doctoral program/fellowship).

**Forbearance**

Forbearance is an alternative option for up to 6 months at a time if you do not qualify for deferment and you are having difficulty making your loan payment. Your Heartland ECSI may grant a forbearance for a limited and specified period or an extension of the time to repay your loans. You may qualify if you request it and provide documentation to support the request. During periods of forbearance, interest continues to accrue. However, the interest is not payable until the forbearance ends.

You may download a form for forbearance at <https://heartland.ecsi.net/>. Remember to make your student loan payments until you hear that your forbearance request has been granted. If you do not make payments while your request is being processed, your loan may become delinquent and late fees may possibly be assessed.

**Contact Information**

It is your responsibility to update your contact information with both UNA and with Heartland ECSI. Please make sure to review your contact information with both entities for accuracy to ensure that you are receiving notifications.

All contact from UNA's Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions regarding a NFLP loan when you are a student will be sent to your UNA email address.